



Ironhorse Desert News



Saddam is gone; work goes on

Story by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer

TIKRIT, Iraq – “Why do you guys only speak English when we are trying to arrest you?” a Soldier from G Troop, 10th Cavalry Regiment asked an Iraqi man while scrambling for his Arabic language handbook.

After the language barrier had been broken, the Iraqi man presented the troops with his AK-47 assault rifle while his house was being searched during a daytime raid.

After hunting specific targets during a two-month stint of operations in Bayji and Tharthar, the scouts of G Troop, 10th Cavalry Regiment, which is part of 1st Brigade Combat Team, moved back to Tikrit in January – the same city they had previously operated in for eight months.

Before returning permanently, the unit also played a significant role in Operation Red Dawn, which resulted in the capture of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein Dec. 13.

The troop’s mission in Tikrit is to protect the 4th



Photo by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer

Soldiers from G Troop, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team rush down the stairs of an Iraqi building during a daytime raid in Tikrit, Iraq Jan. 5, 2004.

Infantry Division headquarters at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse by conducting raids and patrols in eastern Tikrit. The division’s headquarters palace, which overlooks the city of Tikrit, has been the target

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Weapons, explosives mark IED ring



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bennett

Soldiers from 5th Engineer Battalion search an orange grove Jan 12, 2004, after Coalition forces discovered a bounty of weapons and bomb making material buried in a rural village in Taji, Iraq.

Story by Staff Sgt. David Bennett

TAJI, Iraq – A tip from an Iraqi informer led Coalition forces Jan. 12, to a large bounty of weapons and explosives hidden in an orange grove located a few miles from Forward Operating Base Gunner.

Teaming with Macedonian Special Forces troops, members of 5th Engineer Battalion unearthed rockets, mortar rounds and plastic explosives from shallow holes in the rural village. The discovery struck a large blow to insurgents who have waged numerous attacks against Coalition forces in the agricultural community, said Lt. Col. Anthony Funkhouser, battalion

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64th CSG receives combat patch

Story by Sgt. Christopher Carney
 CAMP SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq
 — Soldiers from the 64th Corps

Support Group, which is assigned to the Task Force Ironhorse, stood under cloudy skies and light rain to

receive the right shoulder patch of the 4th Infantry Division Jan. 9.

Despite the dreary weather at the Camp Speicher stadium, the Soldiers from Fort Hood and various Guard and Reserve units were all smiles after the ceremony recognizing their support of Task Force Ironhorse during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Nearly 400 Soldiers – representing about 3,600 total – were present for the ceremony. All could not attend because of ongoing missions.

The 64th's mission is to provide direct support to 4th ID, which began even before either unit was mobilized from Fort Hood,



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Carney

Member of the 64th Corps Support Group display the colors during the ceremony Jan. 9, 2004, in which the support group received the 4th Infantry Division combat patch.

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Soldiers with a SIPRnet connection and valid user ID and log-on can access the Ironhorse Desert News.

Most SIPRnet computers have the 4th ID splash-page set as their homepage. From there, soldiers can select the **digital dashboard** link.

After entering their user-name and password, soldiers are presented with different section selections.

Click on the link, "**Division Staff**" and then "**PAO**".

From there, a heading labeled "**News-paper**" will appear. By right clicking the link and opening the link in a new window, soldiers can read the latest edition.

Steadfast and Loyal



Photo by Sgt. Troy Chatwin

After hours of early morning raids Jan. 1, 2004, Staff Sgt. Charles Jackson, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, rests behind his .50-caliber machine gun.



Steel rain washes away fear

Story by Sgt. Troy Chatwin

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, BAQUBAH, Iraq – It was not too long ago when Soldiers of Task Force Ironhorse's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, occupying Forward Operating Base Warhorse, visited the chow hall or the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building with a heightened sense of awareness.

It was common for anti-Coalition forces to fire mortar round after mortar round at the bases in the area once daylight dissipated. Some of the troops began referring to the base as "Mortar Horse."

When the brigade brought the big guns of B Battery 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment to the fight however, things changed.

"Whenever insurgents fire mortars, we are able to put steel rain back on top of them," said Staff Sgt. David Friedrich, chief of the Paladin section of B Battery.

Now, Soldiers walk across the base with a new sense of security.

More importantly, in a base camp that has had 74 mortar attacks in the last few months, that frequency is reducing.

"They used to shoot 10 to 15 rounds at us and nobody fired back," said Spc. Carl Batson, an artilleryman working in the battalion's fire direction

control center and a native of Easton, Md. "Now we shoot back and they can only get one or two rounds off. It feels good being in the camp during an attack and hearing these guns shooting back."

As with individual fighting positions and crew-served weapons, the batteries of 3-16 FA are placed on various camps to provide converging sectors of fire.

"These guns can't fire if the enemy position is too close to the camp," said Friedrich. "That's why we have overlapping coverage and sectors of fire."

Typically, a subordinate unit or the brigade will request fire support from the battalion. Once approved and the target is identified, the fire direction control center will verify the location again.

"We don't want to shoot friendlies or innocent people," said Batson. "The main thing is safety – to make sure we are shooting safe."

After verifying the targeting data, the FDC sends the guns to be fired a message containing items such as the type of round, the type of fuse, and the size of charge to use in order to hit the desired objective.

"We load the 100 pound round, orient on the target, and – big guns go boom!" said Friedrich.

Although the modern weapon system is capable of hitting its target with round



Photo by Sgt. Troy Chatwin

In the battalion fire direction control center for 2nd BCT, Spc. Carl Batson from Easton, Md., and Spc. Jonathan Keel from Trenton, N.J. receive call for fire missions and pass along firing details to guns in the battery, Jan. 1, 2004.



Photo by Sgt. Troy Chatwin

Participating in a crew drill, Cpl. Jason Young, a first cannoneer with B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, rehearses placing a 155mm projectile through the breech of a M109 Paladin, Jan. 1, 2004.

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of mortar fire.

Scouring the streets of Hussein's hometown, the scouts hunt insurgents and illegal weapons in an effort to safeguard Soldiers and Iraqi residents under their charge.

"We try to take pride in our division and make sure that everyone is safe," said Sgt. Roderick Middlebrooks, a native of Lake Providence, La., and a truck commander with G Troop.

Lacking tanks or Bradley Fighting Vehicles, G troop uses their highly mobile Humvees do their missions.

Always on the ready, the scouts can be geared up and at the front gate within five minutes of receiving a mission, said Staff Sgt. Thomas Darden, senior scout for Second Platoon, nicknamed the Black Sheep.

At night, G Troop watches the headquarters complex, known as Division Main, while also patrolling surrounding areas, said Darden, a native of Knoxville, Tenn.

During the day, the unit pursues priority targets and searches homes that look suspicious – including backyards and orchards where weapons might be buried or otherwise hidden.

Darden said he hopes these ongoing efforts will discourage insurgents from hiding weapons.

"If we're not watching at night, then during the day we are actively searching out weapons," Darden said. "We're just letting them know that we're here and we're aggressive."

Trampling through large orchards, searching trees and loosely packed soil for weapon caches, the work can be tedious.

"It is really a shot in the dark," Darden said. "Half the time it pays off, and we'll find something."

Usually the family that lives and works in the orchard does not own the orchard. Family members



Photo by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer

Staff Sgt. Thomas Darden, a senior scout of G Troop, 10th Cavalry Regiment 1st, Brigade Combat Team, searches for weapons in an orchard in Tikrit, Iraq Jan 5, 2004.

are sometimes strong armed or bribed into the illegal acts.

"What are they going to do?" Darden asked. "They are just a poor family."

Recently, scouts have found stashes of weapons hidden in holes, under long grass, and even tied to trees.

G Troop is a light and quick force, and the scouts' Humvees, which are without any form of armor, offer minimal protection to them in the heart of the Sunni Triangle.

The Soldiers have been ambushed eight or nine times since taking control of the area. Insurgents target the non-armored vehicles instead of heavily armored convoys.

The insurgents' tactics are also evolving and becoming more of a threat to troops operating in the area.

"It seems like the better we get, the smarter they get," said the scout. "The guys that are conducting these attacks are precise, patient, and worst of all, when they do strike, they strike hard blows."

Despite the threat, the scouts continue with their mission that, because of the seriousness involved, requires awareness, patience and persistence.

"It is unforgiving," said Darden. "There is no second chance."



Photo by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer

A scout from G Troop, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, guards two Iraqis as Soldiers search their house in Tikrit, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2004.



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said Command Sgt. Maj. Shirley A. Pharris, 64th sergeant major.

The 64th CSG is made up of transportation, maintenance, quartermaster and support units.

“This group knows this mission. We have been a part of the task force since before the war started,” said Col. Thomas J. Richardson, group commander.

“Before you stands a dedicated, disciplined and motivated group of Soldiers that comes from all walks of life and from a cross section of America – active, Reserve, and National Guard,” Richardson told the guests at the ceremony.

“Of the 23 companies represented today, only six belong to Fort Hood,” Richardson said.

All have joined together to perform their mission,

he said.

During the course of operations, the 64th has delivered 16 million meals, 15.2 million bottles of water, and 23 million gallons of fuel. They have produced over 32 million gallons of water. Including operations all throughout Iraq, the unit has accounted for millions of miles driven.

Working in this dangerous environment the group has sustained more than 60 enemy attacks, mostly improvised explosive devices and small arms fire, Richardson said.

“Twenty-six Soldiers were wounded but thankfully there have been no fatalities,” he said.

The group’s Soldiers “live up to the groups motto: ‘Provide Forward,’” he said. “They are truly steadfast and loyal to the combat Soldiers they support.”

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commander.

Two Iraqis were arrested on suspicion of making IEDs.

During the first day, Soldiers

“There is no doubt in my mind that this was the place in Taji that they were making IEDs.”

--Sgt. 1st Class Keith Kempke

recovered 418 C5M rockets, 260 rocket propelled grenades, 250 82 mm mortar rounds, 65 120 mm mortar rounds, nine 155 mm artillery rounds, a handful of AK-47 assault rifles, and 2,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

The haul also included 16 cases containing almost 1,700 sticks of plastic explosives. Funkhouser said just one stick is enough to make three standard IEDs.

The significant amount of explosive material found marks the rural neighborhood as a hot spot for bomb-making activity in the

area, said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Kempke, operations noncommissioned officer of the 754th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company from Grayling, Mich.

He said the amount indicates a well-organized supply and production system for the fabrication of IEDs.

“There is no doubt in my mind that this was the place in Taji that they were making IEDs,” Kempke said.

Searchers at the site also recovered a sophisticated timing device that has rarely been seen in theater thus far, Kempke said. The timer can be used with a remote control, and can be rigged with a collapsible circuit that detonates the bomb if someone tries to defuse it.

Working from information provided by a former regime insider, Macedonian Special Forces soldiers scoured the area.

“Our first target was only the house, (but) we know that terrorists want to put stuff in backyards,” said 1st Sgt. Aleksandar Angelovski, a member of the Macedonian team that discovered the buried weap-

onry.

After reconnoitering in and around the house, the Macedonian troops called in members of the engineer battalion to scour the grounds.

“Once they realized the size of the cache, we were called to provide security and the mine detector team on the ground,” said 1st Lt. Donovan Peterson, a platoon leader with 5th Engineer Battalion.

“It’s an orchard area, so you have to have an idea what you’re looking for,” added Funkhouser.

Subsequent digging revealed various items hidden in the orange grove. The engineers needed large trucks to carry all of the weapons and explosives.

“Except for the rifles, everything else will be destroyed,” Funkhouser said.

The chance of eliminating one IED off a roadway is important. Scoring such a big blow is a triumph indeed, said Kempke, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio.

“We took out some key supplies to the bomb makers,” he said.



Restored tank recaptures glory

Story by Spc. Samuel A. Soza

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RAIDER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Standing at the main gate of Forward Operating Base Raider, a World War II Sherman tank, captured and restored by Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, keeps a constant vigil.

The tank was found along a main highway at the beginning of the war, at an abandoned Iraqi armored vehicle school near Forward Operating Base Speicher.

By the order of Col. James Hickey, commanding officer for 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division, the vintage Sherman tank was loaded onto a heavy equipment transport trailer and taken to FOB Raider, where it was restored by mechanics from the 4th Forward Support Battalion.

“To the Iraqis, it was a symbol of superiority over our armor based on what they thought America had,” said Capt. Andy Sanchez, commander for 1st Brigade Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 4th Infantry Division.

To have a piece of American equipment proved their dominance, added the Corpus Christi, Texas, native.

The Sherman tank was in good condition when it was found. The most notable damage was in the tracks. According to Sanchez, the mechanics welded a steel plate to the corroded tracks to compensate for the damage.

The M4-A3HVSS Sherman tank was one of the most widely produced in its time, said Sanchez, who has a mechanized infantry background.

Its present weapon systems consist of a 105 mm cannon, two .30-caliber machine-guns and a U.S.-made, .50-caliber machine-gun, which was captured separately from the Iraqi Army, and



Photo by Spc. Samuel A. Soza

Staff Sgt. Gary E. Barnhart, a noncommissioned officer in charge of the 610th Engineer Detachment's terrain team, 1st Brigade Combat Team, poses in front of the M4-A3HVSS Sherman tank, which 1st BCT captured and restored at Camp Raider, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2004.

later mounted atop the turret.

When the 4th Infantry Division redeploys later this year, the tank will most likely be taken back to be displayed at a museum at Fort Hood, said Sanchez.

With its pristine hull, original engine and full compliment of weapons, the vintage Sherman is an eloquent symbol of pride for the Soldiers of the 1st BCT.

“To us it symbolizes taking back what rightly belongs to us – repatriating our equipment, if you will,” Sanchez said.

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after round up to 30 kilometers away, the howitzer, which can provide illumination and suppressive fire, has not changed much over the past century.

“We are loading and firing this howitzer the same way it has been for the last 100 years,” said Friedrich. “It is the well-trained crew that gets the rounds out fast and safe.”

The battalion is adept at crater analysis to determine where the incoming round came from and what type of round was fired, so that information can be sent up the chain of command.

“The wings in the crater will determine the direction of fire and the crater will tell us the angle of descent,”

said the senior-enlisted artilleryman in the battalion, wishing not to be identified further. “Once I know the type of round fired, I can determine the time of flight and tell just where it came from.”

These techniques are used by experienced artillerymen across the Task Force Ironhorse area of operations to neutralize indirect fire threats.

Col. David R. Hogg, the brigade commander from Omaha, Neb., said the “king of battle” is performing on a live stage as it was meant.

“It’s good to be able to shoot the big boom when you need it,” said Hogg. “When we receive incoming fire and you hear our guns return fire, you know the bad guys are going away.”



Local News

FOB Ironhorse Religious Services

Sunday:
0930 -- Protestant
1100 -- Gospel
1300 -- Catholic
1800 -- Praise and Worship
1800 -- LDS

Wednesday:
1900 -- Bible Study
1900 -- Family Home Evening
(LDS in CMOC)

Friday:
1230 -- Muslim
1900 -- Bible Study (124th
Signal Battalion
palace)

Sports Bar Happenings

Mondays: Country and Western
Tuesdays: Football
Wednesdays: Oldies but Goodies
Thursdays: Variety Night
Fridays: R&B
Saturdays: Latin Night
Sundays: Live Football

FREE hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and fries at Desert Cafe, every night, 1930-2330

*Open Sun. - Thurs.: 2000-2400
Fri. - Sat.: 2000-0100*

Reunion/Suicide Prevention Briefs

Briefs will now be held once a week, Wednesday at 1000 in the Chapel/Movie Theater at the Task Force Ironhorse Resort.

Briefs must be given before a soldier goes on mid-tour leave.

Emergency individual briefings can be arranged through the chaplain's office.

Weather Forecast

Monday: High: 58F
Low: 39F
Partly Cloudy

Tuesday: High: 61F
Low: 39F
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday: High: 65F
Low: 44F
Increasing Clouds

Thursday: High: 65F
Low: 44F
Mostly Cloudy

Friday: High: 59F
Low: 48F
Mostly Cloudy

Freedom Radio

Armed Forces Radio and Television Service can now be heard on 93.3 FM, playing the hits of yesterday and today.

Movie Schedule

Movies at the Task Force Ironhorse Resort are shown at 1100, 1400 and 2000.

Movies listed below are for the 2000 showing only.

19 Jan.: Finding Nemo
20 Jan.: The Others
21 Jan.: Once Upon a Time in Mexico
22 Jan.: Underworld
23 Jan.: S.W.A.T.
24 Jan.: The Core
25 Jan.: Pirates of the Caribbean*

**Sunday's movies are shown at 1400 and 2000 only.*

Aerobics Classes

Aerobics classes are offered at the Ironhorse Resort Sports Bar.

Classes take place Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat., 0600-0730.

For more information, contact 1st Lt. Richardson at 534-9865.

Sick Call Hours

Sick call is held every Monday through Friday, 0800-1000 and Saturday, 0800-1200 at the aid station.

The aid station is closed Saturday afternoon and Sunday, except for emergencies.

Dental appointments can be made during sick call on Mondays.

For emergencies, call 534-0161.

Update DEERS info

Reservists and members of the National Guard who were deployed or extended in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, should update their information for their family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

As many as 55,000 soldiers and more than 95,000 family members will be affected when current identification cards expire. Along with renewing ID cards, members should update DEERS information to reflect service extensions.

Families can confirm eligibility by calling 1-800-538-9552; or 1-800-334-4162 in California; or 1-800-527-5602 in Alaska and Hawaii.

Families can find card issuing facilities at the Rapids Site locator web page:

<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>.



World News

-SAN FRANCISCO - If you run into trouble in this city, look to a woman for help. Mayor Gavin Newsom named Assistant Police Chief Heather Fong as his pick for interim police chief Sunday, two days after he swore in Joanne Hayes-White as the city's first woman fire chief.

If the city's Police Commission confirms the 26-year veteran's appointment this week as expected, San Francisco will have the rare distinction of having women lead its two key public safety departments.

-PASADENA, Calif. - The California Institute of Technology is making a little green off the red planet. Caltech, which runs the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA, patented the twin rovers it sent to investigate

the surface of Mars, and is licensing their images for commercial use.

Models of the six-wheeled Spirit rover are already on store shelves. Caltech has inked three deals so far and expects perhaps three more.

-LONDON - A huge British archive of World War II aerial reconnaissance photos, including pictures of the D-Day landings in Normandy, is to go on the Internet on Monday.

Under the digitalization project announced Saturday, some 5 million Royal Air Force photos of Western Europe will be available to the public on the Web site www.evidenceincamera.co.uk, archivists said. The site did not appear to be accessible on Saturday.

Sports

NFL Playoffs

New England 24, Indianapolis 14
Carolina 14, Philadelphia 3

Sunday, Feb. 1

Super Bowl XXXVIII, 6:25 p.m. (ET)

NHL Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W-L-T-OTL, Pts
Philadelphia	22-10-10-5, 59
New Jersey	22-11-10-1, 55
NY Islanders	21-19-4-1, 47
NY Rangers	18-16-7-4, 47
Pittsburgh	11-27-5-3, 30
Northeast	
Toronto	24-12-8-3, 59
Ottawa	24-11-7-3, 58
Montreal	23-16-6-2, 54
Boston	20-12-10-4, 54
Buffalo	18-23-5-1, 42

Southeast

Tampa Bay	21-16-6-1, 49
Atlanta	19-21-4-2, 44
Florida	15-19-10-2, 42
Carolina	15-19-9-2, 41
Washington	13-26-5-2, 33

Western Conference

Central	W-L-T-OTL, Pts
Detroit	27-13-5-2, 61
St. Louis	24-13-6-1, 55
Nashville	22-16-6-2, 52
Chicago	11-23-7-5, 34
Columbus	12-24-6-3, 33
Northwest	
Colorado	25-11-7-2, 59
Vancouver	25-13-7-2, 59
Calgary	22-15-4-3, 51
Minnesota	16-17-14-0, 46
Edmonton	18-20-7-1, 44
Pacific	
San Jose	20-11-11-4, 55
Dallas	20-19-8-0, 48
Los Angeles	16-14-10-5, 47
Phoenix	16-14-13-2, 47

Anaheim 14-20-7-5, 40

NHL Scores

Sunday, Jan. 18
Atlanta 5, Carolina 2
Washington 4, Pittsburgh 4
Los Angeles 2, Chicago 1
Edmonton 1, Columbus 1

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	
New Jersey	21-17
Boston	20-22
Philadelphia	18-22
New York	18-24
Miami	16-24
Washington	11-28
Orlando	10-31
Central	
Indiana	31-11
Detroit	28-13
New Orleans	23-17
Milwaukee	22-18
Toronto	20-18
Cleveland	13-27
Chicago	12-28
Atlanta	12-29

Western Conference

Midwest	
Minnesota	26-12
San Antonio	26-14
Dallas	24-16
Houston	23-16
Denver	23-18
Memphis	21-18
Utah	21-18
Pacific	
Sacramento	28-9
LA Lakers	25-12
Seattle	19-19
LA Clippers	16-21
Portland	16-22

Golden State 16-23
Phoenix 14-26

NBA Scores

Sunday, Jan. 18

San Antonio 109, Boston 92
Phoenix 96, Portland 92
Denver 88, Miami 80

Panthers advance to Super Bowl ...

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Carolina Panthers celebrated as if they've done this before.

The Philadelphia Eagles dressed in stunned silence, something they've certainly done before.

The upstart Panthers became the latest team to torment the Eagles, winning a 14-3 shocker that ended with an injured Donovan McNabb watching helplessly from the sideline.

"We have a bunch of strong-willed guys, and they keep swinging their sword until they get it done," said Panthers coach John Fox, who engineered the remarkable turnaround from a 1-15 record two years ago.

In two weeks, on Feb. 1, the Panthers will face New England for the NFL title.

"They aren't going to be denied," Fox said.

For the third straight year, the Eagles were denied their first trip to the Super Bowl since 1981. This one was particularly hurtful.

"It's going to be hard to swallow again," McNabb said, "To think about this all of the off-season again and try to get over this hurdle. ...

"For us to get here three times

and not be able to go further, it hurts."

Rookie Ricky Manning Jr. hurt the Eagles most, getting three interceptions against McNabb, who suffered separated rib cartilage on a second-quarter sack.

... to face the Patriots

FOXBORO, Mass (AP) — On a cold day in New England, Ty Law and the Patriots put Peyton Manning on ice.

Law intercepted the previously flawless Colts quarterback three times, Rodney Harrison added another, and the Patriots beat Indianapolis 24-14 to advance to their second Super Bowl in three seasons. Jarvis Green had three of New England's four sacks as the constant pressure made the NFL's co-MVP look very average.

Had New England been able to score down close, it would have been no contest. The Patriots had only one TD, settled for five field goals by Adam Vinatieri and lost the ball at the Indy 5 early in the fourth quarter when Tom Brady threw his first interception in 10 home games this season.

"To go out and pick, pick, pick a guy that everybody was building up. It was huge for us," Harrison said, referring to Manning, who threw eight touchdowns with no interceptions in playoff wins over Denver and Kansas City.

The Colts never really got going Sunday until it was too late to do anything against a defense that held Marvin Harrison, one of the game's leading receivers, to three catches for 19 yards.

