

Soldiers from 2-3 Field Artillery are back on the ‘big guns’

By Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO
 AN NAJAF, Iraq – Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment is back on its “big guns” in An Najaf, Iraq.

The Task Force 1st Armored Division artillery unit was recently attached to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The unit conducts counter-fire operations and well as direct support fire.

Capt. Gregory Vinciguerra, the battery commander, called the “BC” by his Soldiers, said that after a year in Baghdad, conducting operations not normally attributed to “red legs,” the change of mission was welcome change for his Soldiers.

“With the extension (of the task force’s deployment in Iraq) the transition to a traditional field artillery mission did a lot for their morale,” he said.

In the Adhamiyah district of Baghdad, the artillerymen conducted raids, cordon and search operations and even used their Paladins – self-propelled tracked howitzers that some people describe as “tanks on steroids” – to conduct mounted patrols.

The battery is ready to fire 155 mm high explosive rounds, illumination and smoke rounds. Other live-fire rounds (for special purpose) include the RAP, rocket assisted propulsion – for the extra kick to go a little farther – and the Copperhead, a laser-guided round.

“I liked doing those (operations in Baghdad); but I like this better, because it’s my job,” said Sgt. Esqeyel Cortez a “number one man” for one of the battery’s guns.

A Paladin has a four-man crew: the driver; the gunner, who loads the round; the “number one” man, who loads powdered firing charges; and the crew, or section, chief.

Though the majority of 2-3 FA only recently moved south, the majority of Alpha Battery has been in the area for about four weeks. Until the rest of the battalion arrived, the



Photos by Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

Gunner Spc. Willard Clark demonstrates how to load a round in a Paladin Howitzer while (from left) Paladin driver, Pfc. Preston Hummel; section chief, Staff Sgt. John Tricoche; and number one man, Sgt. Esqeyel Cortez look on. The four men, assigned to Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, make up a Paladin crew.

battery was staged in the vast desert, far from any city, town or village.

“It was nice and peaceful,” Vinciguerra said. “We had a five-gallon water jug for a shower, we ate MREs and we had to fight the flies, but the guys were happy because they got to shoot their guns.”

Vinciguerra said they usually try to fire at least once a day.

Field artillery is a multipurpose tool in the Army, he said.

His battery can shoot live fires; conduct illumination missions to light

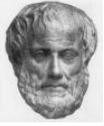
up an area for observation; and conduct smoke mission to provide a smoke screen for other units wanting to break or avoid contact with the enemy.

With two other firing batteries in the battalion, how did Alpha get the honors for manning the hot guns?

Consistently being awarded with the battalion’s Top Gun title, it’s obvious, Vinciguerra joked, “We’re the best firing battery in (division artillery.)”



A Paladin Howitzer sits ready for a fire mission in An Najaf, Iraq. Artillery Soldiers use the tracked vehicle for a variety of missions.



Quote of the Day...

Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

Aristotle (BC 384 – BC 322)

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Adjustment

Life is a continuous process of getting used to things we hadn't expected.

Oddly Enough...

Bald is Hair Color in Montana

HELENA, Mont. (AP) -- Bald is a hair color in Montana. Montana's Web site lists "bald" as an option when applying online for a fishing license.

"It's always been there, but before when you applied for a license at a sporting goods store, the person filling out the license just checked the appropriate box," said Rich Olsen, general manager of the state's site, Discovering Montana.

You also can choose to declare your shiny pate on your driver's license.

"It's a newer option, along with other hair colors, such as sandy," said Patrick McJannet, manager of field operations for the state Motor Vehicle Division.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks doesn't keep track of how many people admit to being folliclely challenged, said Neal Whitney, one of the agency's computer specialists.



Combat engineers with the 153rd Engineer Battalion, attached to 1st Armored Division's Engineer Brigade, prepare detonation cord for a controlled explosion on a damaged bridge. The engineers needed to destroy the damaged portion of the bridge in order to build a new one that will link two major Main Supply Routes in central Iraq. (Photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1AD PAO)

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

452

Attila the Hun invades Italy.

632

Mohammed, the founder of Islam and unifier of Arabia, dies.

793

The Vikings raid the Northumbrian coast of England.

1861

Tennessee votes to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.

1862

The Army of the Potomac defeats Confederate forces at the Battle of Cross Keys, Virginia.

1866

Prussia annexes the region of Holstein.

1904

U.S. Marines land in Tangiers, Morocco to protect U.S. citizen.

1915

William Jennings Bryan quits as Secretary of State under President Wilson.

1953

The Supreme Court forbids segregated lunch counters in Washington D.C.

1965

President Johnson authorizes commanders in Vietnam to commit U.S. ground forces to combat.

1967

Israel airplanes attack the USS *Liberty*, a surveillance ship, in the Mediterranean, killing 34 Navy crewmen.

1968

James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., is captured at the London airport.

1995

U.S. Air Force pilot Captain Scott O'Grady is rescued by U.S. Marines in Bosnia.



For your Information...

Division AER drive continues through June

1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Task Force 1st Armored Division is running an Army Emergency Relief campaign through June 25 to heighten Soldiers' awareness of the program.

Through the donations this private nonprofit organization provides assistance to active duty Soldiers, retirees and family members.

"This is the Army's own organization that's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents," said Capt. Allison Morgan, TF 1AD AER campaign manager. "It provides assistance ... in emergency or hardship situations."

AER provides assistance for food, rent or utilities; emergency transportation and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; medical and dental expenses; and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen; as well as gives undergraduate-level education scholarships, based primarily on financial need, to children of soldiers.

Though units around the Army only hold one campaign a year, Soldiers can make donations at any time, noted Morgan.

The goal with the task force's campaign is 100 percent contact – meaning every soldier is given the opportunity to donate. This is done through unit and section campaign representatives. Soldiers can donate via cash check or allotment and 97 cents out of every dollar goes to the funds.

"You don't have to be a contributor to take advantage of the assistance," Morgan said, adding, "(But) even if you never need it you're still helping other Soldiers."

For more information on AER, Soldiers can contact their unit representatives, reference the program's Army Regulation 930-4, or go to www.aerhq.org.



FATHERS WANTED!



One 1st Armored Division Soldier will be featured on a Father's Day Special airing on NBC'S Today Show.

Anyone interested needs to contact CPT Doug Duecker at douglas.duecker@1adtacm.1ad.army.mil.

Please provide full name, rank, unit, contact number, and a brief description of what makes you, or a soldier you want to nominate, a unique father (became a father while deployed, you're a single parent, a foster parent, etc.)

DEADLINE: Tuesday, 2200, June 8, 2004.



FOB IRON'S RELIGIOUS SERVICES



Iron Chapel

SATURDAY

0930: SDA Prayer Mtg

Iron Chapel

SUNDAY

0930: Catholic Confession

1000: Catholic Mass

1115: General Protestant

1300: Gospel Service

DMAIN Small Conf. Room

SUNDAY

1000: General Protestant

1930: Catholic Mass



myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, JUNE 08, 2004		As of: Monday, June 07, 2004 5:58:51 PM				
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	0:00
0:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	0:30
1:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - NBA FINALS SPECIAL	THE HOT LIST	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DEAR DIARY	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	1:00
1:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	SPORTSCENTER	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - WORMY/PATTY HYPE		CBS EVENING NEWS	1:30
2:00	MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER - DC UNITED @ CHICAGO FIRE	NHL - STANLEY CUP FINALS GM 7: CALGARY FLAMES @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER AND APU	NHL - STANLEY CUP FINALS GM 7: CALGARY FLAMES @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	2:00
2:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - FONZIE DROPS IN			2:30
3:00			MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK MEETS THE PLAYBOY		HANNITY & COLMES	3:00
4:00	CHAMP CAR WORLD SERIES - THE TIME WARNER CABLE ROADRUNNER 250		ER (TVPG): - WALK LIKE A MAN		THE NEWSHOUR	4:00
5:00		HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - JOHN GOODMAN	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	5:00
5:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	5:30
6:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE HURRICANE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	6:00
6:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		6:25
6:30	RIP CURL PRESENTS - THE SINKING ISLANDS	HEADLINE NEWS				6:30
7:00	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	SESAME STREET			NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	7:00
7:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		7:13
7:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					7:30
8:00	SPORTSCENTER	SAGWA		ARTHUR (TVY): - SLEEP NO MORE/PET PEEVED	PAULA ZAHN NOW	8:00
8:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - DOUG GETS RIGHT BACK ON		8:30
9:00	NFL EUROPE - FRANKFURT GALAXY @ BERLIN THUNDER	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DEAR DIARY	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - BETWEEN A ROCK AND A BRA PLACE	NIGHTLINE	9:00
9:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - WORMY/PATTY HYPE	ALL THAT!	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	9:30
9:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				9:46
10:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER AND APU	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - FONZIE DROPS IN	HEADLINE NEWS		10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK MEETS THE PLAYBOY	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT		11:30
12:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	ER (TVPG): - WALK LIKE A MAN	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - BAGGAGE	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				12:30
13:00	NHL - STANLEY CUP FINALS GM 7: CALGARY FLAMES @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	TODAY	INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - JOHN GOODMAN	JOHN Q	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	13:00
14:00			THE HURRICANE			14:00
15:00		ARTHUR (TVY): - SLEEP NO MORE/PET PEEVED			HEADLINE NEWS	15:00
15:15				PACIFIC REPORT		15:15
15:30		DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - DOUG GETS RIGHT BACK ON			ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	15:30
15:45				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		15:45
16:00	BALLROOM BOXING	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - BETWEEN A ROCK AND A BRA PLACE			THE EARLY SHOW	16:00
16:30		ALL THAT!	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):			16:30
16:45				THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:45
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - DEAR DIARY			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - WORMY/PATTY HYPE			17:30
17:45				ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		17:45
18:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - MBNA AMERICAN 400 "A SALUTE TO HEROES"	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER AND APU		FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00
18:15				ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES		18:15
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - FONZIE DROPS IN			18:30
19:00		7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - BAGGAGE	MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK MEETS THE PLAYBOY		FOX NEWS LIVE	19:00
20:00		JOHN Q	ER (TVPG): - WALK LIKE A MAN	SINGLE WHITE FEMALE	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:15						20:15
21:00			INSIDE THE ACTOR'S STUDIO (TVPG): - JOHN GOODMAN		HEADLINE NEWS	21:00
21:30					INSIDE POLITICS	21:30
22:00	SPORTSCENTER		THE HURRICANE	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:15		HEADLINE NEWS				22:15
22:30				HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	22:30
22:45		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):				22:45
23:00	AROUND THE HORN			TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION					23:30
23:45		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:45