

THE MULESKINNER

Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09
"No Task Too Large"



14 Feb 08
Issue 7

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S2 Section Uses Intelligence to Analyze the Enemy

By Lt. Col. David Lowe

You may have previously heard the phrase, "Hey, what's the G2," or words to that effect and wondered, "What does that mean?" G2, though technically the intelligence section of an Army Division, is a military term which generically refers to intelligence and plays a vital role in helping the 35th Engineer Brigade gain a much better understanding of the enemy.

The 35th Engineer Brigade's S2 (intelligence section) is responsible for tracking enemy activity, emerging trends in enemy tactics, and providing predictive analysis to disrupt the insurgent activity. The S2 section is located in the brigade's Tactical Operations Center where they prepare intelligence briefs as a part of their daily operations. These briefs are provided to the brigade commander and staff for the battle update briefings, intelligence mission briefs, and to assist with targeting insurgent Improvised Explosive Device (IED) emplacements in an effort to counter and defeat them. Additionally, the section produces a daily graphic intelligence summary which is distributed to the brigade's subordinate units and other coalition partners upon request.

Lt. Col. Greg Mason from Jefferson City heads the section as the brigade's Intel Officer and brings over 20 years of service to the fight as both enlisted and a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. Lt. Col. Mason is currently employed as a lieutenant in the Missouri State Highway Patrol with 28 years of experience, but has been on military leave of absence for the past three years working with the Missouri Counter Drug Task Force. He has previously been deployed to Bosnia as a part of the NATO-led stabilization force and has observed improvements in the security situation since arriving in Iraq. "The overall security situation in Baghdad has improved since our arrival in theater. A combination of the troop surge and Iraqi citizens cooperating and supporting coalition forces has been a factor in the improved operating environment," said Lt. Col. Mason.

Sgt. 1st Class Shelby Morrow of Eugene is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the section with 11 years of experience and one prior deployment to Iraq as a Soldier in the Missouri National Guard. Back home in Missouri, he serves as a federal technician at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop at the Ike Skelton Training Site performing electronic repair. "We have a small section and that means we have to give up a lot of personal time occasionally in order to meet our requirements," said Sgt. 1st Class Morrow. "Our section has a good balance in our work and personal values, we understand the importance of what we do and how it can affect the mission. We have a great boss in Lt. Col. Mason. He really enjoys his job and lets the section members do their job."

Sgt. Barbara White from Richland works as a quality engineer at Modine Manufacturing in Camdenton. She brings five years of experience in the Missouri National Guard to her position as an intelligence analyst. Realizing the sacrifices that her fellow citizen-Soldiers



make, Sgt. White remarked, "I would like to say that I am very glad to have had the opportunity to work with some of the 'best' from Missouri on this deployment. It has been a great experience thus far, not only working with everyone in the S2, but in other sections as well. I feel very fortunate to have had the privilege of making so many new friends and acquaintances."

Sgt. Michael Hillenburg of Pleasant Hope works as the shop manager for his family-run full service gas station and also helps prepare personal income taxes with his father, who is an accountant.

Sgt. Hillenburg has been a member of the Missouri National Guard for three years and is a recent addition to the S2 section due to personnel shortages. In the intelligence section, he is learning to use the "Command Post of the Future" computer software and how to manage data, which is used to assimilate daily intelligence products. "I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve my country like many others in my family as we have a long history in the armed services and I am proud to continue the tradition," commented Sgt. Hillenburg. A talented vocalist, Sgt. Hillenburg added, "While here in Iraq I have been able to pass the time with a small singing group, learning how to play the guitar with friends, and singing in the chapel praise band."



Staff Sgt. Donna Underwood is from Marshfield where she teaches junior high language arts and Spanish. Staff Sgt. Underwood has served in the Missouri National Guard for eight years and has one prior deployment to Guatemala where she used her linguist skills to support the New Horizons mission. She works the night shift from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. analyzing intelligence data, which is used to produce the various briefs required in the section's daily operations.

The S2 section and the information they process is often referred to as "secret squirrel stuff." Staff Sgt. Underwood has worked hard to be accepted in her new environment and has maintained a sense of humor throughout the deployment. Staff Sgt. Underwood commented about her experience by saying, "I've been working hard to earn my 'Secret Squirrel' Badge. I joined the Guard to blow stuff up and travel. I've blown stuff up, but I'm still not sure this is the kind of travel I was looking for."

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The S2 section has come together with other citizen-Soldiers from Missouri to provide timely and crucial information for the Muleskinners' mission. "The level of commitment and dedication of our National Guard members, in their efforts no matter what state or MOS, never ceases to amaze me. They are top notch soldiers," concluded Lt. Col Mason. The Muleskinners also feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated intelligence section to support their operations in Iraq.

Furat Training Facility Opens for Iraqi Police

By Lt. Col. Lowe

The Furat Training Facility held a ribbon cutting ceremony February 9, 2008, to celebrate the opening of a permanent training center for Iraqi Police officers.

For the past year, the Baghdad Iraqi Police forces and Coalition Forces have been searching for the right location for a sizeable training area that could house and train Iraqi Police recruits. Iraq Police officers now have a place to establish operations, and train more than 2,000 recruits during a basic recruiting training cycle.

The Furat facility, which was originally a weather station, will facilitate thousands of recruits who will go through the Iraq Police Basic Recruit Training and advanced Iraq Police leadership courses.

The Furat Training Facility is an added initiative linked with the continued Iraqi Police expansion program. This program is aimed to train more than 12,000 new Iraqi Police recruits from surrounding provinces.

"Once this facility becomes fully operational, it will be the premier police training center in Iraq. It will provide the police commanders a centralized quality training program that can facilitate about 2,000 new police recruits per cycle," said Maj. Dave Goodwin, Assistant Plans Operations Officer, 35th Engineer Brigade, who worked in partnership with the 4th Infantry Division, 18th Military Police Brigade, and 769th Engineer Battalion for a month on the planning and development of the Furat facility.



Maj. Gen. Kadhem Sharhan, Provincial Director of Police commander, Baghdad, spoke to a crowd of more than 200 people about the motivation of joining the Iraqi people to bring about a better future for Iraq as a nation with a well-trained police force to secure their future.

“This training center will be for all Iraqis and the future of Iraq, police recruits will train here to become skilled policeman,” said Sharhan, through an interpreter. During Sharhan’s speech he also thanked Coalition Forces for their efforts in preparing the Furat facility to become operational.

The 35th Engineer Brigade and the 18th Military Police Brigade Police Transition Team worked for several weeks planning and executing the preparation of the Furat facility opening as part of a Multi-National Division – Baghdad strategy to support the Iraqi Police expansion program.

As part of this project to get Furat operational, the 769th Engineer Battalion of the 35th Engineer Brigade built permanent latrine facilities, built a small-arms range, leveled the exterior grounds, constructed an entry control point, constructed and emplaced guard towers.

Also known as the “Tigators” from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the 769th Engineer Battalion’s construction assets include a vertical engineer company, horizontal engineer company, survey and design team, and concrete team.

“I think it is going to be good to get the security of the country [Iraq] up after they train the IPs here,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Clowser who is a squad leader with the 821st Engineer Company from West Virginia and a part of the 769th Engineer Battalion. “It’s going to help out with the training of the IPs and give them some place secure to train.”

“There was a big slab of concrete here and we broke it up, and then shoved the berm up and some clean up around here,” said equipment operator Spec. Robert Hamilton from the 821st Engineer Company who helped build the weapons range where the Iraqi Police will train. Spec. Hamilton went on to say this deployment has been quite an experience for him and it has been an honor to help bring stability to the war-torn country of Iraq.

The combat engineers from the 35th Engineer Brigade and the 769th Engineer Battalion have worked hand-in-hand with Iraqi contractors to bring electricity, running water, and beds to house the Iraqi Police recruits. The Furat project is another example of the excellent construction work the 769th Engineer Battalion has done in the Baghdad area of operations.



Maj. Gen. Kadhem Sharhan, Provincial Director of Police Commander, Baghdad, spoke to a crowd of more than 200 people during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Furat Iraqi Police Training Facility near Furat, Baghdad, Feb 9.



Gen. Abod Qamber, Baghdad Operations Center Commander, cuts the ribbon symbolized the opening of the Furat Iraq Police Training Facility in Baghdad, Feb 9.



Staff Sgt. Alexander Zivic (foreground) and Spc. Pierre Larousini, both technical engineering specialists with the 231st Engineer Team, Mississippi National Guard, 769th Engineer Battalion, 35th Engineer Brigade survey elevation levels on the construction site of a small-arms range. The facility is designed to accommodate more than 1,500 Iraqi Police



Spec. Espe Clothier, of the 821st Horizontal Engineer Company, West Virginia National Guard, 769th Engineer Battalion, 35th Engineer Brigade breaks ground at the Iraqi Police Training Facility in Furat, Baghdad.



Iraqi Police officers wait to assist in clean up as Coalition Forces and Iraqi Police forces prepare the facility.



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary D. Gilmore

Anticipation and excitement continues to build among our Soldiers as we think about coming home to our loved ones! Morale jumped higher on New Year's Day as we turned the calendar page and mentally projected ourselves forward in 2008! I laugh at the way Soldiers tell me they are counting backwards as they track how many days until we are home! It will be a great day for us all!

One of the interesting features of a Long-Distance Relationship is that the "baseline" we use to measure how we are doing is the type and quality of relationship we had before we left. So one of the things we should think about before we are reunited is, "*What were the strengths we enjoyed before deployment?*" and "*In what areas did we struggle and desire to grow?*" The truth is that what was strong before will likely remain strong, and what bugged us before will likely bug us again-- unless we choose to do something about it!

The experts tell us that there are many different types of marriages and families. We are the products of the families we came from and the choices and events of our shared experiences. There is not one type of family that is inherently right (although we like our own the best!), but successful relationships are often measured by two factors.

The first is called "Cohesiveness" and is an indicator of how close we feel to others. Some people are comfortable with a "loose" attachment and appreciate distance, while others are so close they are co-dependent or enmeshed with their partner or parent. Ideally, a spot in the middle between these two extremes is best.

Similarly, the second measure of a relationship is also a type of continuum regarding "Change." Some people resist change and do not deal well with it, while others thrive on constant change... to the point of chaos! Again, somewhere in the middle between these poles is best. I think it's safe to say that everybody has flexed their "change muscles" during this time of deployment!

So the whole point of this article is to ask you to take five minutes to think about the relationship you have and to dream about the relationship you want. Celebrate the wonderful commitment to meeting each other's needs and sharing life together that you enjoy (and miss while we're

apart!). And make a mental note of the things you would like to improve and how to get there.

As we look toward being reunited and adjusting to the changes that have happened while deployed, what are some shared goals you can work toward to enrich your relationships? And here's a shocker-- those briefings we are made to sit through are actually intended to give you some information and ideas about how to make those goals happen! (Yes... hard to imagine... but it's true!) And if you have ALREADY discussed some concerns and goals with your Soldier and the kids, you will be more likely to pick up on the parts of those briefings that are just for you!

As we count down the days until reunion, keep up the great work you are doing at home and in Iraq... and do just a little preparation for entering a new and exciting phase of life. The first step towards a successful reintegration begins right now!



Photo obtained from http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2007/08/06/nyregion/06kiss.2_span.jpg

HHC Administration and Training Support Staff

By Capt. Kelly Parker

Facing new and difficult challenges in a deployed environment, the 35th Engineer Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) Administration and Training Support Staff have adapted and overcame to ensure successful completion of the HHC mission. From role reversals to administrative records difficulties in a combat zone, the HHC Support Staff have dealt with all challenges to excel in their support of the HHC and its Soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Gooch of St. Robert serves as the HHC Operations Sergeant. With over 20 years of military experience, Sgt. 1st Class Gooch has a diversity of duties within the HHC. Some of his duties include ensuring all Soldiers receive all required training, scheduling Soldiers for military schools, managing the unit manning roster, and managing the unit ammunition. Sgt 1st Class Gooch also serves as the Unit Alcohol and Drug Coordinator, Unit Employer Relations Representative, Family Support Group NCO, Unit Movement NCO, Alternate Physical Security Officer, and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Representative.

Sgt. 1st Class Gooch expressed his biggest challenge has been “working with the staff” and dealing with the necessary role reversal caused by operating in a deployed environment. In his full-time Active-Guard Reserve position in Missouri he sets the calendar and schedules the training that will be conducted during weekend drills and the staff officers ensure that training is executed. While deployed, the calendar and Brigade mission are controlled by the staff and Sgt. 1st Class Gooch serves in a support role.

Serving as the HHC Human Resources Specialist is Sgt. Sherryl Burrus of Edgar Springs. Sgt. Burrus brings over 11 years of military experience to the mission. Taking care of all HHC administrative and personnel issues as well as assisting the HHC command group are her primary duties. Sgt. Burrus stated of her duties, “I help take care of our Soldiers.” According to Sgt. Burrus, this includes helping with pay issues, picking up the daily mail, getting Soldiers to the airport so they can go home on leave, preparing reenlistment packets, and “taking care of any other type of personnel issues.” The biggest challenge encountered



by Sgt. Burrus is accomplishing her mission without the benefit of having any personnel files which are required to remain at home station on Ft. Leonard Wood where she serves full time as an AGR Soldier.

Sgt. Burrus, originally from the Philippines, has enjoyed the opportunity to meet many other Filipinos who are here in Iraq working for civilian contractors supporting the military mission. “I’ve met some really wonderful people whom I will never forget,” commented Sgt. Burrus. “I even ran into an old friend I knew when I lived in California that I haven’t seen in almost 20 years. This has been a very interesting experience, one I’m sure to never forget.”

The 35th Engineer Brigade thanks the HHC Support Staff for their ability to overcome deployment challenges so they are able to take care of the Soldiers of the HHC. The positive attitude of these two dedicated Soldiers was reflected by Sgt. 1st Class Gooch when he exclaimed, “Don’t sweat the small stuff.”



Supply Section: Providing Logistical Support

By Capt. Kelly Parker

From pens and paper to weapons and vehicles, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 35th Engineer Brigade Supply Section provides the logistical support necessary for overall mission accomplishment. At Camp Liberty, Iraq, the team of three in the Supply Section is responsible for maintaining accountability for over three million dollars worth of military property.

Staff Sgt. Patti Parton of Waynesville is the Supply Sergeant in charge of the Supply Section. Staff Sgt. Parton has 10 years of military experience and has served one prior deployment in Iraq. "Our mission is to accommodate all logistical support to Soldiers for accomplishment of their mission to include making them as comfortable as possible to help boost morale," stated Staff Sgt. Parton. "As the section leader, I provide guidance to the other Soldiers in my section and assist and advise the company commander in supply actions."

The Supply Section has faced its share of challenges throughout this deployment. Receiving supplies that have been ordered in a timely manner has proven difficult here in Iraq. However, Staff Sgt. Parton said, "I think the kinks are worked out now and things are going pretty smooth. Supplies are much easier to get when you're in the states."

Spc. Jonathan McNeil of St. Robert stated in agreement, "the system is working better now so things run a lot smoother." As a Supply Clerk and Armorer for the Supply Section, Spc. McNeil has four years of military experience and is serving his first deployment. "My job is to provide logistical support to the Soldiers and take some of the pressure off the Supply Sergeant," stated Spc. McNeil. "Our mission is to get the Soldiers what they need to get their mission accomplished. As the Armorer I take care of any problems that might arise with any of our weapons."

Spc. Bobby Everett of Rolla serves as a Supply Clerk and Assistant Armorer for the Supply Section. In his three years of military service Spc. Everett has been deployed three times. In addition to his current deployment he was previously been deployed to Korea and Iraq. Spc. Everett said his job is to "issue, and maintain accountability control over HHC supplies, make sure that we have enough supplies to go around, coordinate to pick up supplies, and make sure they are properly issued to the Soldiers."

"We have a great team and work well together," stated Staff Sgt. Parton. "I couldn't ask for better Soldiers and am very proud to work with each of them. We are a tight-knit group and take care of each other and always strive for improvement."

"It was rough learning the deployment process for logistics," Staff Sgt. Parton expressed. "This experience would have been so much more difficult without the support of my leaders and troops."

The 35th Engineer Brigade Supply Section has successfully supported the logistical needs of the Soldiers within the HHC. Without the great effort by these three dedicated Soldiers, all other sections would lack the supplies, tools, and equipment to successfully accomplish their missions. We thank the Supply Section for the role they play in overall mission accomplishment.



Muleskinner Reenlistments



Upon his reenlistment, Spec. William Van Housen was sworn in by Maj. Matthew Bacon



Sgt. Michael Hillenburg has reenlisted and was sworn in by Lt. Gen. Jeffery Sorenson



Lt. Col. John Akers swears in Staff Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman who has reenlisted



Col. Mitchell Passini congratulates Staff Sgt. Dennis Chambers following his reenlistment

Muleskinner Promotions, Awards, and Accolades



On February 8, 2008, Sgt. Barbara White received a Commander's Coin and the "Player of the Day" award from the 4th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond, for her outstanding work as an Intelligence Analyst and support to the counter-IED fight



On February 6, 2008, Spec. Brandon Radford received a Commander's Coin and the "Player of the Day" award from the 4th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Hammond, for his outstanding work in the Design Management Section



1st Lts. Maureen Wells (Photo on Left) and Seth Nelson (Photo on Right) were promoted to Capt. by Brig. Gen. Michael Pace



1st Lt. Hardwick (Left) recently received the "Sapper Officer Award" for his outstanding service as an engineer officer. 1st Lt. Hardwick continues to serve as a platoon leader with the 237th Engineer Company (Sapper) at Camp Taji, Iraq



Brig. Gen. Michael Pace presents Spec. Dustin Patrick the Army Achievement Medal for placing first in the 35th Engineer Brigade "Soldier of the Quarter" Board



Staff Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman proudly shows the poker set he won by coming in first in the "just for fun" Texas Hold'em Tournament. 1st Sgt. Kyle Stephens donated the poker set for the event

Muleskinner Valentine's Day Messages

Happy Valentine's Day, Laura!!! I love you!!! SNOX!



Darlana, I am looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with you when I get home.



Baby, even though we are not together this Valentines Day, I will be with you wherever I go. True love doesn't have a happy ending, because true love never ends. Love, Jim



God is good. Without HIM, we would not love each other this much. It is a blessing to have a Proverbs 31 wife. Even though we are oceans apart our Father has increased our love for one another, which cannot be unraveled.

Hey Baby, Happy Valentine's Day. I love you and miss you so much!



Love You Carla!



Muleskinners Enjoy Sapper Call On January 25, 2008



Muleskinners Enjoy Mardi Gras Celebration



The 769th Engineer Battalion from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, hosted a Marti Gras celebration on February 6, 2008. The Muleskinners were able to enjoy a variety of tasty Cajun food to include spicy gumbo, jambalaya, white/red beans and rice, as well as good ole Southern hospitality!!

Soldiers Give to Iraqi Children

By Capt. Kelly Parker



On February 11, 2008, Soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade, led by Command Sgt. Maj. Chad Lynch of the 769th Engineer Battalion, traveled to the proposed site of the Village of Hope for a humanitarian mission focused on local children. The Village of Hope is a project in the planning stages to assist local Iraqis with the construction of housing units for the local population. Intended as an economic stimulus and societal integration project for a very needy community, the Village of Hope will benefit the local Iraqi population on many levels.

The Soldiers who participated in the humanitarian mission had a very rewarding experience passing out school supplies, small toys, Beanie Babies, necklaces, and other items to approximately 75 Iraqi school-aged children. "This was truly a rewarding experience," commented Lt. Col. David Lowe. "Thanks to donations from back home, we were able to extend our good will by giving gifts to these needy children." The excited children smiled and laughed as our Soldiers worked to ensure each child received ample school supplies and other gifts.



The Prophet Muhammad: The Founder of Islam

In our continuing efforts to provide our readers with a better understanding of the Arabic culture and the Islamic faith, this is our humble attempt to provide a brief summary of information about The Prophet Muhammad. Though we obtained the information from knowledgeable sources we apologize in advance for any inaccuracies or unintended cultural insensitivities that may be perceived by referencing The Prophet Muhammad and describing his life and role in the Islamic faith.

The Prophet Muhammad was the founder of Islam, and is considered by the Islamic faith as the last true prophet of God. Although many people mistake him as the center of the Islamic faith he is not their God, he was a prophet. He was not thought of as starting a new religion so much as restoring the original monotheistic faith of Adam and Abraham.

Muhammad was born circa 570 AD in Mecca, Arabia (now known as Saudi Arabia). He was orphaned early in his life and was raised by his uncle. Later in life Muhammad worked as a merchant and was married. In his adult years, he became dissatisfied with his life in Mecca and retreated to a cave to reflect and meditate. According to Islamic faith, it was during this time of discontent that Muhammad received his first revelation from God. This occurred during the month of Ramadan, which is why the Muslim people fast during that month. Some time after this revelation he began preaching to those who would listen. Muhammad was able to gain followers but they were met with persecution from the tribes that inhabited the area of Mecca.

To escape this persecution, Muhammad and his followers traveled to Medina, Arabia. There he united the conflicting tribes of Medina and was able to amass many more followers and return to Mecca. Upon returning to Mecca, The Prophet Muhammad was able to establish a firm religious base, from which Islam spread rapidly throughout the Arabic world. Even though Muhammad died in 632 AD, well before Islam became widely popular throughout the Arabic world, he left behind a strong legacy that was carried on for many centuries to the present.¹

¹For more information please reference <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad>

Iraqi Army Engineers Graduate from Task Force Iron Claw Academy

By Lt. Col. David Lowe



On January 29, 2008, 25 Iraqi Army Engineers became the first Iraqi Army Soldiers to graduate from the Task Force Iron Claw Academy run by the 35th Engineer Brigade. "This is a historic date in the grand scheme of transferring operations from coalition forces to the Iraqi security forces," said Capt. Brian Sayer of the 35th Engineer Brigade. "Their four days of training included learning about improvised explosive device (IED) identification, route clearance vehicle formations, and generally how to detect and recover IEDs for exploitation or dispose of the ones that cannot be recovered. They also spent a good deal of time learning advanced first aid techniques," added Capt. Sayer who is the officer in charge of the academy.

Plans are being made to incorporate these newly trained Iraqi engineers into coalition route clearance operations. According to Capt Sayer, the Iraqi Army engineers are expected to receive their own route clearance vehicles in the spring of 2008. They will then begin conducting route clearance operations, which will assist in providing safety and security for coalition forces, as well as the citizens of Iraq.

On January 29, 2008, 25 Iraqi Army Engineers became the first Iraqi Army Soldiers to graduate from the Task Force Iron Claw Academy run by the 35th Engineer Brigade. "This is a historic date in the grand scheme of transferring operations from coalition forces to the Iraqi security forces," said Capt. Brian Sayer of the 35th Engineer Brigade. "Their four days of training included learning about improvised explosive device (IED) identification, route clearance vehicle formations, and generally how to detect and recover IEDs for exploitation or dispose of the ones that cannot be recovered. They also





SGT Matthew F Straughter

February 1, 1980—

January 31, 2008

Hometown: Belleville, Illinois



**In Honor and
Memory of Our
Fallen Heroes**



Staff Sgt. Bradley J.

Skelton

July 29, 1967—

February 6, 2008

Hometown: Gordonville,
Missouri

Sgt. Matthew Francis Straughter was born in St. Louis, Missouri on February 1, 1980. Matthew attended Francis Howell North High School and then furthered his education at Coastal Carolina Community College.

Sgt. Matthew Straughter joined the Missouri National Guard on December 15, 2005 and became a member of the 1138th Engineer Company which operates out of the Farmington, Missouri Armory. Upon completing his training, Matthew immediately volunteered for the Border Security Mission in Arizona. After returning from the border, he was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as a member of a route clearance team in the 107th Engineer Battalion. He always accepted the missions that he was given with a smile and will always be remembered by his fellow Soldiers, friends, and family.

Sgt. Straughter is survived by his wife, Thelma; step-daughter, Tavia; three sons, Donte, Matthew, and Justice; Mother Elizabeth; and stepfather, Perry.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Joe Skelton was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on July 29, 1967. He attended Jackson High School in Jackson, Missouri.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Skelton joined the 1140th Engineer Battalion on October 10, 1984. In 2004 he was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 where he served as a Team Leader with Company B, 1140th Engineer Battalion. After his tour he was placed in the Retired Reserves. After a year of retirement he decided to come out of retirement to be a part of the Missouri National Guard once again. This time serving with FSC, 1140th Engineer Battalion. He volunteered to come on this rotation to Iraq with the 1138th Sapper Company, 107th Engineer Battalion, as a Combat Engineer Team Leader. Over the years Staff Sgt. Bradley Skelton served in many missions to include; New Horizons (Panama), Midwest Flood Duty, Alaskan Highway Project, and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Utah. He will always be remembered for his service by his fellow Soldiers, friends, and family.

Staff Sgt. Skelton is survived by his sister Carmen; uncle, Charles; aunts, Carrie and Evelyn; and three very close friends; Brian, Kent, and Mark.

Your Families Are in Our Prayers... You Both Will be Missed

2007 NFL Challenge Final Standings

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	WC	Div	ConF	SB	Running total
Pierce	12	10	12	10	9	10	11	8	10	5	12	11	10	13	11	11	12	2	1	1	1	182
Oberkirsch	9	11	10	8	12	9	10	10	11	6	12	11	13	13	10	11	9	2	2	2	0	181
Lowe	11	10	10	5	12	6	10	10	9	6	14	11	10	14	10	10	11	3	2	1	0	175
Craft	11	9	12	5	14	8	9	9	9	6	9	9	9	13	9	12	12	2	2	2	0	171
Roth	7	8	11	6	10	9	9	8	10	6	13	9	9	15	10	10	12	2	2	1	0	167
Passini	9	9	13	7	9	8	9	7	10	6	13	11	7	12	11	9	11	2	1	0	0	164
Harding	13	10	8	6	8	8	10	6	7	6	11	9	10	9	10	10	11	3	2	1	0	158
Zimmerman	10	7	8	5	8	8	9	6	7	6	11	7	11	13	9	13	12	3	2	0	0	155

Congratulations to Sgt. Maj. Pierce for winning the Senior Muleskinner "just for fun" 2007 NFL Challenge! The above standings reflect the final results from every game this season.



The Soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade extend our most heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has supported us during our deployment. Your thoughts, prayers, gifts, cards, letters, homemade treats, care packages, and other support are a tremendous encouragement!!!

35th Engineer Brigade

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(Who cares about
Copyright in Baghdad ☺)

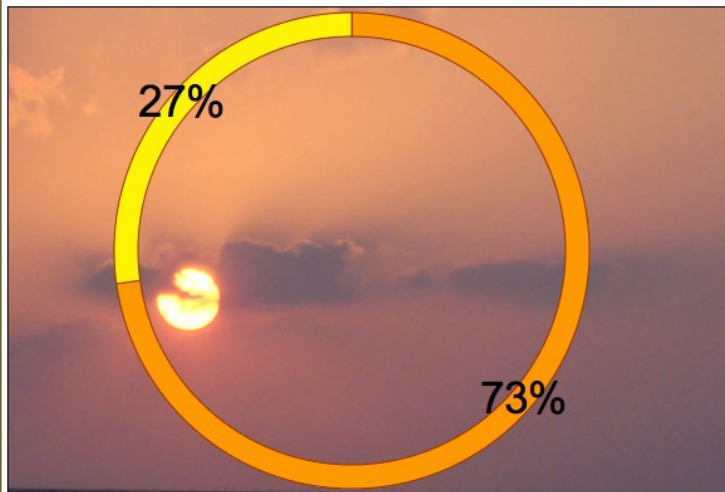
"THE MULESKINNER" is a publication focused on the Soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade (a.k.a. Muleskinners) and its engineer mission while deployed to Iraq in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The purpose of this publication is to keep our loved ones and friends at home informed about the Muleskinners in a combat environment. THE MULESKINNER will be produced exclusively by Muleskinner Soldiers to ensure accurate reporting and authentic information.

"THE MULESKINNER" is organized and edited by the Muleskinner's Command Judge Advocate, LTC David Lowe, and his cohort in crime, fellow Judge Advocate, CPT Kelly Parker. Paralegal SGT Jake Boswell provides technical assistance by overseeing the layout and design. It is our genuine desire to provide timely, insightful, and entertaining information to our readers.

Baghdad Weather for the Week of February 18, 2008

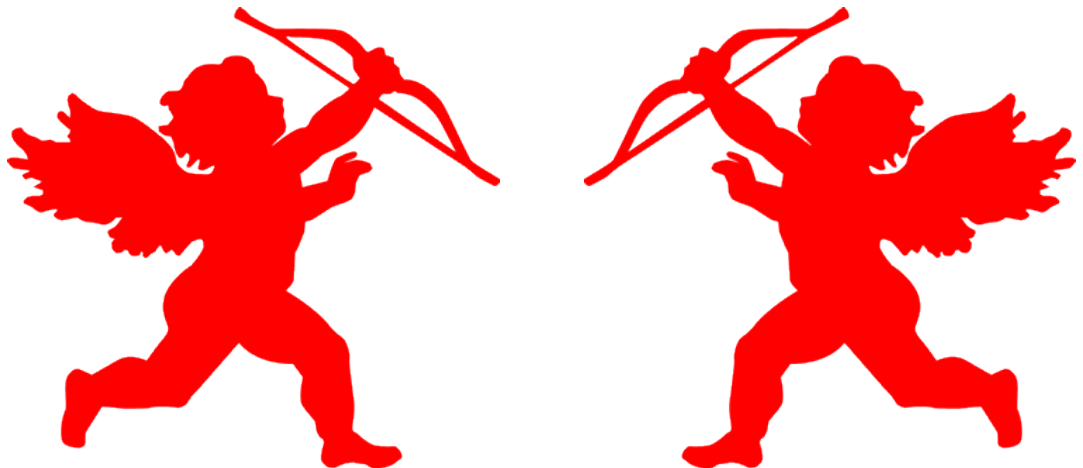
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						
Hi: 68 Low: 44	Hi: 53 Low: 35	Hi: 57 Low: 35	Hi: 61 Low: 35	Hi: 63 Low: 42	Hi: 67 Low: 44	Hi: 65 Low: 43

Deployment Countdown



The Muleskinners have completed almost three-fourths of their deployment. Hang in there — we'll be home before you know it!!!

The Muleskinner Staff Wishes You a Happy Valentine's Day!!



"FREEDOM ISN'T FREE"