



POLAR BEAR TRACKS

NEWS ON THE FRONT, OF THE FRONT, FOR THE FRONT

Edition 1, November 2006

Patrol Base Yusufiyah, Iraq

Welcome readers

Hello dear reader, here for your entertainment and edification is the first edition of our newsletter. We hope that you find it at least mildly entertaining and if not at least a bit informative. We will try our best to make it worth your while. If you would like to see something in the next issue, send it to us on stick or e-mail. Please tell us what you think. Polar Bears! CPT Chris Sanchez

Current Events

Saddam Hussein Found Guilty

The former leader of Iraq, Saddam Hussein was found guilty on November 5th of crimes against humanity. The charges included ordering the deaths of thousands of his citizens by various means including Weapons of Mass Destruction. He was sentenced to death by hanging. The sentence comes with an automatic appeal to a nine judge appellate panel. The sentence could be carried out as quickly as December 5th (CNN News).



Scouts Light it Up

By: CPT Chris Sanchez and SGT Joe Caron

The TF 4-31 Scouts are renowned for their sneaky ways and sharp shooting abilities. To maintain these skills, routine battle focused training is necessary. On Friday 13 October, the scouts confirmed and re-zeroed



their weapons at the FOB Mahmudiyah Range. SSG Michael Jester, Scout Squad Leader explained: "Marksmanship is a life-line for these guys. It's important to get out here and train whenever there is time available." Training has always been important to the scouts, SPC Okino Leiba explained: "Anytime I get the chance to fire my weapon, it's a great honor because I can improve on my marksmanship." Overall, the training was successful and ensured that the scouts were prepared for future combat operations.

ONE BAR TO TWO: "KIRK" GETS PROMOTED!



CPT "Kirk" with the Battalion Commander, LTC Infanti

A/4-31 Firefighters

By: CPT Chris Sanchez

The men of First Platoon, A/4-31 Infantry care a great deal about the people of Yusufiyah. On 03 November, Soldiers in Patrol Base Yusufiyah reported that they saw large black plumes

of smoke rising above a house in the town. Within seconds of seeing the smoke rising into the sky, the Iraqi Army contacted the Fire Department of Mahmudiyah Qada. The Iraqi Army sent a detachment to investigate along with the men of A/4-31 IN with a fire fighting truck. When they arrived to the location, the area was obscured with gray smoke. The residents were outside of the house and were very happy to see the patrol entering the area. The house owner explained that he was burning some excess reeds and grass. He noted that the fire burned with a greater intensity than expected. The large amount of fuel caused the flames to leap (*continued on page 2*)

(firefighters continued from page 1) high into the air. The owner of the house spoke to the leader of the patrol and appreciated the quick response that the Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces had to the fire. He said that the town of Yusufiyah is much safer than it was before. The interpreter working alongside the Iraq Army explained that the Polar Bears had done a great deal for the people of the area and that he had never seen such quick response. The owner of the house also commented that the streets were getting safer due to the increased amounts of patrols in the area. He also said that the IA Soldiers, the CF and the people of Yusufiyah were all friends because they all worked together for the common good. The patrol completed over watching the fire to ensure that it did not spread to other areas. The local people watched, smiled and waved as the trucks departed; they knew that they had friends with the Soldiers of First Platoon.

School Begins in Rushdi Mullah

By: 1LT Jonathan Lord

Several weeks ago, the leaders of the town of Rushdi Mullah wanted to reopen their school so they started gathering the necessary resources to make school in their small town a reality. They contacted the Ministry of Education who provided the books and provided the teachers. The Iraqi Government is taking the lead in ensuring that its youth receive educational opportunities. The people of the town asked the Soldiers people of the town asked the Soldiers of 4/4/6 Iraqi Army and B/4-31 IN to provide security around the school to ensure the safety of the young students. On the

morning of November 5th, children in the town of Rushdi Mullah prepared for their first day of the school year. The students were greeted as they arrived at the school on their first day by the Soldiers who welcomed them



with small presents of candy and balloons the Soldiers had received in care packages from home. To ensure a safe learning environment B/4-31 IN will continue to provide unobtrusive security around the school for the children of Rushdi Mullah throughout the school year. Education is important to creating a more educated youth, ensuring that Iraq is strong and prosperous. The terrorists cannot provide this opportunity; only the Iraqi Government can provide education to its people.

Charlie Company News

By: 2LT Ip

It is already November - almost three months into the current OIF rotation, and Charlie Company has just found a place to call home. After arriving in Iraq, Charlie Company has moved their forward operations six times. They had a stint at Gator Swamp, two stints at Camp Striker, a stint at Mahmudiyah, Yusufiyah and now at Al Taraq. Due to changes in atmospheric and threats, Charlie Company's mission has changed a few times. While operations will ultimately dictate whether Charlie Company will move again in the future, Al-Taraq has been the longest operations center occupied so far.

Delta Company News

By: 2LT Jon Rhodes

Along the Euphrates River, the soldiers of Delta Company, 4-31 IN have acclimated to their riverfront patrol



Sunset at JSB

base, JSB. Soldiers are constantly working to make improvements to their new base. In between patrols and building up battle positions a new mobile kitchen serves hot chow twice a day and internet is now available for soldiers to communicate with family and friends.

Bravo Company News

By: SGT August Dombrow

On the second of October, B Company left the potato factory we had been calling home since arriving in Iraq, and executed a pre-dawn air assault on a small farming village largely left alone by U.S. forces since the beginning of the War. Although we began to build our base from scratch, our focus was outward, concentrating on the basic needs of the local population of Rushdi Mullah.

When we first arrived, the townspeople lived in fear of the insurgents. No children played in the streets, women were forced to keep themselves covered and indoors, and little freedoms, like smoking, were completely banned. The insurgent presence had also ceased many basic human services, medical treatment was nearly nonexistent and school had been out of session since the war began. Through our Polar Bear work ethic, and an enduring B Company emphasis on our humanitarian mission, the town of Rushdi Mullah has undergone a 180° transformation since our arrival. Women talk to our soldiers about local concerns and invite us in to sit down to dinner with their families. Men and women now openly walk the streets and gather at night to converse with neighbors, and children often swarm our patrols in the hopes of being handed candy or shaking a soldier's hand.

The care we demonstrate has helped to win over many of our neighbors as well. After being here only a doctors in years, who were able to prescribe medicine everything from ear aches to diabetes. We have

emergency medical assets to help the townspeople, calling in helicopters for the emergency evacuation of 4 very sick children, all of whom are alive and well today because of B Company's efforts, and the care they received at American hospitals in Baghdad. Continued American presence has also allowed the local schoolteachers to feel safe enough to bring school back into session.

We built our base here ourselves, from the ground up. Although we lack many of the luxuries enjoyed by soldiers at the super-FOBs in Baghdad, we are proud of what we have accomplished and enjoy the changes we see in town everyday. The months ahead should bring continued improvements to Rushdi Mulla, as B Company's efforts pave the way for the future of Iraq.



Local children react to seeing their images on a digital camera



B Company soldiers move through a field

Comics & Funny Pictures



Pictures from the Front



HHC 4/31 IN Medics assist in treating local children in Rushdi Mullah.



First Platoon, A/4-31 IN conducts combat patrol with their Iraqi brothers.



Soldiers of B/4-31 IN Co lend First Aid to a little girl in Rushdi Mullah who was injured by shrapnel from an exploding AIF mortar round.



F/4-31 Distro Platoon, conducts combat resupply of PB Yusufiyah.



SSG Alan Ecle of B/4-31 IN and his shadow.



First Platoon, D/4-31 IN Prepares for a dismounted patrol in Yusufiyah.

This Month in Military History

- 630- Mohammed captures Mecca
- 1904 - Army War College opens, including Capt. John J. Pershing
- 1931- Mao Tse-Tung proclaims the Chinese People's Republic
- 1936- Mussolini coins the phrase "The Axis"
- 1939- First jet plane demonstrated, a Heinkel He 178
- 1939- Hitler escapes assassination at the Burgerbraukeller, Munich
- 1942- Hitler proclaims that fall of Stalingrad, prematurely
- 1951- First atomic explosion with troops present, NM
- 1995- Islamist terrorists bomb the US embassy in Riyadh, 7 die
- 2001- The Taliban abandons Kabul, Afghanistan, as Northern Alliance forces approach

Iraqi Cultural Fact

“Muslims do not believe that Jesus was crucified nor that the Romans killed him in Jerusalem. Muslims hold that God answered Jesus’ prayer and removed him from the physical world to await the end-times and a triumphant return to earth”

- Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Islam

Sudoku

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Iraqi Phases of the Month

How are you= Shlownk
 What is your name= Shassmak
 Is there insurgent= Akomosalhin

Edited by: CPT Sanchez, 1LT Lord, and SGT Caron