



Sp. Stephen E. Dorsey, 89th Military Police Brigade, unveils a plaque dedicating an apartment complex at Freedom Rest in the memory of Pfc. Rachel K. Bosveld March 21. Bosveld was mortally wounded when her vehicle came under attack by mortar fire during a patrol mission at Abu Ghraib last October.

## Task Force 1AD's fallen Soldiers memorialized

Story and photo by Sp. Andy Miller  
122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldiers know "Freedom Rest" as a place of rest and relaxation. With its large pool, big screen televisions and resort-like accommodations, the Rest and Relaxation site often gives visiting Soldiers memories of the luxuries of home.

On March 21 during memorial and dedication ceremonies Freedom Rest became distinguished for something more than an R&R stop: a site dedicated to honoring the Task Force's fallen Soldiers.

An apartment building on the former Republican Guard compound was renamed in the memory of Pfc. Rachel K. Bosveld. A plaque bearing her name is now a permanent part of the building's thoroughway.

Bosveld served with the Giessen-based 527th Military Police Company in Baghdad last year. She provided security for the Abu Ghraib district police station and worked to train the Iraqi Police Service officers.

Bosveld received her first Purple Heart when her vehicle was hit by enemy fire during a patrol mission in Abu Ghraib. Six weeks later Bosveld was mortally wounded when her HMWWV came under mortar fire. She was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and a second Purple Heart.

Following the dedication ceremony for Bosveld, a service of remembrance was held for all the Task Force's fallen Soldiers.

A memorial plaque bearing their names was unveiled in the main Freedom Rest building. The plaque lists the names of all Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldiers who died as of March 16, 2004, and is displayed inside the main entrance.

"A memorial ceremony is an opportunity to pay honor and respect to fallen comrades. And it's a traditional military event that gives the Soldiers an opportunity to bid farewell, express their emotional grief and convey

their love and support to other Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Alvin C. Sykes, division chaplain.

"This was a combined memorial service to recognize the total price paid by Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldiers during Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said.

"As 1st Armored Division prepares to redeploy back to their home station in Germany, it is appropriate for the division to pay homage to the Soldiers who paid the ultimate price for their country," he said.

"It's a tough ceremony. We are talking about the young lives that have been sacrificed willingly for a fight against terrorism — a fight to bring dignity to other people and a fight to protect many of the folks back home," said Brig. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, assistant division commander for support. "Every single one of these individuals was in the early part of his or her life."

Hertling said these Soldiers are fondly remembered by their units and comrades in arms.

"They are always the ones with the smiles on their faces — always the ones who are willing to give you anything," he said. "They are the ones who perk up a squad or a platoon. The loss of that to this world is just devastating; but they are doing it for a reason that's bigger than each one of them."

Though the individuals listed on the plaque at Freedom Rest will not be going home with their units, ceremonies such as the one held Sunday ensure they will not be forgotten, Hertling said. Soldiers who visit Freedom Rest for recreation have an opportunity to reflect on their commitment to the cause of Iraqi freedom and to their fellow Soldiers.

"While these Soldiers are in reflection, the plaque will help them to remember that we must go on," Sykes said. "It will help them remember that we must finish this fight because of those who paid the ultimate price."

# Gearing up to face IEDs and other challenges

## MPs use lessons learned to prepare for Iraqi mission

By David Ruderman  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Military Police heading for Iraq augmented their training with a long, hard look at dealing with Improvised Explosive Devices during briefings on Hanau's Fliegerhorst Kaserne March 16.

"It's the largest danger they're going to face," said 1st Lt. Clint Munding, intelligence officer with the 709th Military Police Battalion, which recently returned from a yearlong deployment to Baghdad.

"For the most part they are artillery shells rigged on the side of the road to explode as U.S. troops go by. They can be a large amount of explosives — up to a 155-mm artillery round and other explosives used in conjunction with it. They've gotten very good at camouflaging these devices. At first they were big, placed on piles of trash with more trash heaped over it. Now they're putting them on the backs of guard rails, embedding them in concrete. The better we get at finding them, the further they go to hide them," he said.

Along with other battalion officers, Munding addressed Soldiers and squad leaders of the 127th Military Police Company on a range of IED-related issues, among them recognition, stand-off distances, tactics and communications.

"It's a primary threat," said Capt. Kevin P. Hanrahan, 127th MP commander, as he shepherded his Soldiers through the final stages of their predeployment training.

What will Soldiers look for once they're on patrol in Iraq?

"Anything that looks out of the ordinary, that isn't supposed to be there," said Spc. Vena Tahkofper, a driver with 2nd Platoon.

"It could be any number of things: bags, boxes, anything that's big enough," said Spc. Dustin Wagner, a driver with 1st Platoon.



Members of the 127th Military Police Company take a breather from IED training at Fliegerhorst Kaserne.

"They're fired by remote control, and they attach it to a battery and set it off that way," said Tahkofper.

The Soldiers viewed slide presentations of IED attack aftermaths to get a sense of what they're likely to encounter. "The pictures of destroyed vehicles, the destruction that IEDs can do — it's probably nothing close to the real thing," said Pfc. Joshua Aurdorf.

"I feel confident we're head and tails above the Iraqis," said Pfc. Angelo Capatijoco.

"I think they understand they're going into a dangerous place," said Munding.

"They have a lot of questions, and the most difficult part is what they don't know that they don't know. It's going to be a disorienting first couple of days when they get there. I'm just trying to get across to them what they need to know."

However well they are trained in advance, the learning process will continue once Soldiers hit the streets of Baghdad. The collective experience gathered through nightly battle updates will flow down to Soldiers in the squads, he said.

"We had an after-action report program going where you'd get a private briefing from leaders of the battalion. We lived really close together, and Soldiers talk: They'd want to hear the story

of the Soldier that got struck," said Munding.

Lt. Col. John F. Garrity, 709th MP Battalion commander, sat in on the sessions, addressing Soldiers intermittently on issues they will face, including the fact that they will be targets for insurgents every moment of every day, whether on patrol or off.

"There's nothing they'd rather do than replicate Khobar Towers, and IEDs are the most effective way to do it," said Garrity, referring to the American barracks attacked by suicide bombers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in 1996 that killed 19 Soldiers and



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. John F. Garrity. The results of an Improvised Explosive Device attack in Iraq. Members of the 127th MP Company are training non-stop to prepare.

wounded hundreds more. "That's exactly what they do — whether it's the USS Cole or the World Trade Center — is create mass casualties and have it captured on CNN."

MPs on patrol in the streets of Baghdad routinely encounter IEDs in the course of their daily patrols. "Part of our mission in Baghdad is to train and support IPs [Iraqi Police]; that's why we're out there with them. We're much more mobile, out and about in the city, and not necessarily on the main routes," said Garrity.

"Bravery is not a problem for the majority of the IPs," said Munding. "If you get in a firefight, it's great to have them there shooting too."

"We immediately have air support and QRF [Quick Reaction Forces]," said Garrity.

"Word goes out very, very quickly over our networks," said Munding.

"We work hand in hand with combat arms," said Garrity.

"We're always talking with combat arms," said Munding. "Their problems are our problems."

Garrity spoke from experience, having had his own encounter with an IED on a convoy to Karbala. The explosive took out the third HMWWV in a six-vehicle convoy, wounding

three Soldiers and wasting their vehicle. "There is nothing routine about Baghdad," said Garrity.

The leadership role of NCOs is critical to being alert and staying safe in that environment, said Hanrahan. "It's a great time to be a squad leader in the MP Corps now. We put a lot of responsibility on our younger NCOs, E-5s and E-6s. They will operate independently. I think the most important thing is the discipline, to prevent complacency," he said.

"The NCO's job is keeping the Soldiers doing what they're supposed to do. They're on the front lines every day, and by doing those things they're going to keep themselves and their Soldiers alive," said Hanrahan. "You get hit and you do different things, but the number one thing you do is pull security and attempt to find, fix and destroy the assailant who was firing at you to ensure he is not there the next day doing the same thing."

"The key is to change your mindset from 'react to ambush' to 'movement to contact,'" said Munding.

"Every single day is a movement to contact," said Hanrahan.

Individuals attacking American Soldiers are not necessarily hard core Baathists or fundamentalists, said Munding. Some are simply

desperate men making a quick buck. "Don't feel bad for them. What you have to do is drive up the price of their activity. Drive up the cost of business by killing or capturing them," he said.

"Find them and kill them," said Hanrahan.

"The key is you stay in contact to destroy enemy forces. It's no different than what you do when you call in a routine traffic stop. Every MP patrol that operates is a radio call away from a QRF team," Garrity said.

"You are not in this alone. The next thing you know you're going to have a mech [mechanized infantry] company coming up to their door. This is what you have trained to do the whole time you've been in the Army, and as NCOs it's going to be largely on you to make it happen. This is the Super Bowl — for a whole year," he said.

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## Ready First Brigade helps Iraqi lifters train for Olympics

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As part of an ongoing effort to build a better Iraq, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, has given financial and engineering support to the renovation of the Iraqi Olympic Weightlifting Team's training facility.

Throughout Baghdad brigade commanders have been tasked to identify projects in their operating areas that would benefit from American or nongovernmental agency financial and engineering support. The Iraqi Olympic Team's training facilities fall within the Ready First Brigade's purview of the Rusafa and Aadhamiya districts of Baghdad.

"When we first got to the city, the Olympic facilities were in complete disarray. Buildings were destroyed, equipment had been looted and a good portion of the athletes had already

left the country," said Col. Peter R. Mansoor, 1st Brigade Combat Team commander.

According to published reports, Uday Hussein, son of former regime leader Saddam Hussein, decimated Iraq's Olympic training facilities and programs. Athletes who didn't win medals were killed, imprisoned, or tortured. Many left the country in hopes of competing elsewhere.

"We worked with Ahmed Al-Samori, the head of the interim Iraqi Olympic Committee and determined that Iraq's best chance for a medal at Athens, Greece, was the weightlifting team," Mansoor said. "In order for the team to be competitive, we needed to renovate the facility."

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, made the initial assessment of the existing facilities. After an appraisal of the facility was made, \$36,000 was

provided by the division under the Commander's Emergency Response Program.

Members of the Iraqi weightlifting team said they were pleased with the progress made so far and have been training hard in the renovated facility. The athletes are lifting upwards of 30-40 tons a day, said Tiras Odisho, Iraq's National Olympic Committee director.

Iraq's highest hope for a medal at Athens rests on the compact, powerhouse shoulders of a lifter known as Muhammad. He has already made the 2004 Olympic Team at a qualifying tournament in Vancouver, Canada, earlier this year.

The team travels first to Bulgaria then to Kazakhstan in a series of Olympic qualifying tournaments.

Harder, a member of the team, recently set a world record that didn't count. The lift was performed during a training session captured

on film by a Cable News Network television crew. During a progress review of the facilities conducted March 16, Harder lifted an impressive 205 kilograms (451 pounds).

"Having been in Iraq for almost a year now, it is very clear that sports have a great future," said Mansoor. All colleges in Iraq will begin implementing weightlifting programs at the freshman and sophomore level with the help of donations of 30 sets of weightlifting equipment also being provided by the division.

Plans are currently in the works to start a weightlifting program for the women's team which may compete in a series of meets to be held in Qatar in 2006.

"Nothing will make us prouder than to see you march into the stadium in Athens under the Iraqi flag," Mansoor told the athletes.



Harder, a member of the Iraqi Olympic Weightlifting Team, lifts 205 kilos (451 pounds) at the new training facility in the Mustinsiria area of Baghdad March 16.