

IRON STRONG DAILY



PAGE 1

SEP. 17, 2008

Operation Viper Pursuit

**Story and photos by
10th Mountain Division**

In a desolate region of northern Iraq, where cultures collide, is an area named the Sulyman Bak triangle, in which pockets of insurgent cells still actively operated.

Recently, “the Blacksheep” of Company B, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry teamed up with 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division’s Military Transition Team, Viper, and elements of the Iraqi Army, and conducted Operation

Viper Pursuit in order to disrupt local insurgent cells within the Sulyman Bak area. By focusing operations and surging their tempo into this Sulyman Bak Triangle, they were able to target insurgent cells that had been using the area as a safe haven. The operation combined air and ground assaults to cordon and search specific parts of local villages.

With constant pressure by proficient Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces, many insurgent leaders fled or were captured. The combined efforts of the Iraqi Army’s 4th Division Quick

Reaction Force and the 3rd Battalion of the 15th IA Brigade along with Company B, 1-87 Infantry were able to detain more than 30 insurgents.

“We really took them by surprise by establishing an extended presence in Sulyman Bak,” said Spc. Sean Bizarrez, a radio telephone operation with Headquarters Platoon, Co. B. “That’s something we’ve never tried before,” he continued.

The joint effort has helped in paving a way for the Iraqi Security Forces to eventually take over operation in the area. Company B has worked especially close with the 4th Division QRF, under the command of Captain Hashim. Together, they have conducted numerous joint operations in the area ranging from cache searches, cordon and searches of urban areas, air assaults and raids.

“They are the best group of Iraqi Soldiers I’ve worked with during my two deployments to Iraq,” said Sgt. Jeremy Walker, a squad leader in 3rd Platoon, Company B.

During the three-week-long operation, Viper MiTT and Co B. also conducted a reconciliation screening, which allowed local Iraqis an opportunity to clear their name of being involved with insurgent activity. The reconcilers who came in were required to reject insurgent ideals and proclaim that they would no longer involve themselves in insurgent activity. In return, Coalition Forces will no longer target them.

At the conclusion of Operation Viper Pursuit, the Provincial Governor, Hamad



Soldiers from Company B, 1-87 Infantry, “The Blacksheep,” conduct perimeter security of the village of Sulyman Bak, Iraq, as part of Operation Viper Pursuit held in 1-10th Mountain Division’s area of operations. During the operation, the Blacksheep, in conjunction with 3rd Battalion, 15th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, captured more than 30 insurgents.

See *Viper* on Page 3



Turning over PCABS

**Story and photos by
Spc. Cynthia Teears
11th Public Affairs Detachment**

The Provincial Contracting and Budgeting Software, developed by two Soldiers from Company A, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion of the Salah ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team, was turned over to the Salah ad Din governor and his assistant for technical affairs in Tikrit, Iraq.

The two Soldiers primarily responsible for developing the PCABS were Sgt. 1st Class John Merckling and

Sgt. David Socha of Company A, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Qahtan Hamada Saleh, the governor assistant for technical affairs, thanked the Soldiers and every single person that participated in finishing the program, to include the interpreters and other support resources, during the presentation and exchange.

The need for the software was discovered this past year when the spread sheet for 2008 was submitted for funding for a new year's worth of projects, said Socha.

"There were a couple of formulas that I didn't understand," Socha said. "So, I

took all the columns and laid them out on the wall and it took that entire wall space there," Socha continued, pointing to the back office wall.

The spread sheet program in use was great for covering the information needed from prior years, but the amount of projects being done quickly out grew a spread sheet format and needed to be turned into a database program, said Socha.

This new database program once in use should increase the province's ability to communicate the need for a project

See **PCABS** on Page 3

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling
Public Affairs Officer: Maj. Margaret Kageleiry
Public Affairs NCOIC: Master Sgt. Nancy Morrison

Contributing Writers: 10th Mountain Div., Spc. Cynthia Teears
Layout and Design: Spc. Karla P. RodriguezMaciel, 14th PAD
Editor: Staff Sgt. Mark Albright, 14th Public Affairs Detachment

Contact the *Iron Strong* at VOIP: 242-1190, DSN: 318-849-0089 or email mark.albright@iraq.centcom.mil

The "Iron Strong" is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the "Iron Strong" are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the Task Force Iron. All editorial content of this publication is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Iron Public Affairs Office.



Capt. Casey Dalrymple, Co. B, 1-87 Infantry, interacts with several local children as he and fellow Soldiers visit the local market in Sulyman Bak, Iraq, at the conclusion of Operation Viper Pursuit.

Viper from Page 1

Hammoud Shekti, visited the town to meet with local leaders and the town's members to demonstrate the strength of the security in Sulyman Bak. He visited several sites in the town, checking on road projects, the progress being made on the new mayor's compound, and stopped by the market to speak to local businessmen.

Though his visit was brief, it represented the dawn of a new opportunity for Sulyman Bak as Iraqi Government Officials demonstrated their care for the residents and progress of the village.

The combined effects of Operation Viper Pursuit, through joint Coalition and Iraqi Army operations, and the reconciliation process, are producing an environment which will allow the Iraqi Army and government to successfully take control of the security in the region.

PCABS from Page 2

and the ongoing progress of a project as well.

"We were able to build in a lot of transparency," said Scott Headlund, chief of governance for Salah ad Din Province, referring to the programs capabilities. "So that we would be able to ensure that the process was being fair and would be able to track all the funding coming into the province."

The program should make it easier for the contractors' to monitor their current projects progress and help ensure the fair distribution of projects by the government.

"The software package is in English and in Arabic and they did a fantastic job setting it up so that it is very user friendly," said Headlund.

"The government was very excited about getting it and has been asking over last month continually to get it," said Headlund. "We wanted to ensure it was a good product when we gave it to them. So we will be doing a month of data testing checking it out and making any refinements that are needed."

PCABS was developed by A Company, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion and this is the first site where the project is being implemented, said Headlund. Headlund added that he knew of no other capital based planning software anywhere in Iraq.

The program will track what projects



The representatives of the Salah ad Din Province government recognized the Soldiers and everyone involved in the Provincial Contracting and Budgeting Software project during the presentation and exchange of the software in Tikrit, Iraq.

are being done, which contractor was awarded the project and how the money is being spent by the contractor for the project, Headlund said.

The main driving focus for developing the PCABS was organization, said Socha. The information outgrew the spread sheet and will in time outgrow this program. The way the program has been organized is more structured

and any programmer that looks at this information in the future should be able to understand how it is organized and be able to pour the information into a newer system fairly easily.

"In that respect we've done a great service to the province and the people of Salah ad Din," said Socha. "Setting them up for the future and setting them up with something that can really help them out."

TECHNOLOGY

(AP) When Hewlett-Packard Co. announced five months ago it was acquiring technology-services firm Electronic Data Systems Corp., Wall Street expected big layoffs from the combined company.

But the size of the job cuts — 24,600 jobs over the next three years, nearly 8 percent of HP's 320,000-employee work force — came as a shock when HP laid out its plans Monday for integrating EDS.

The surprise could provide a lift for Palo Alto-based HP's stock price Tuesday because of the potential cost savings from the dramatic reduction in staff and HP Chief Executive Mark Hurd's track record for wringing more profits out of lean operations.

"Today's story is kind of an eyebrow-raiser — I was surprised at the magnitude of the cuts," said analyst Bob Djurdjevic with Annex Research.

Djurdjevic added that EDS had been cutting jobs before HP bought it, and some investors were concerned those cutbacks weren't addressing a key problem for EDS in the need to ink more profitable deals. That challenge now falls to HP.

The cuts represent HP's most aggressive cost-cutting move yet under Hurd, who engineered the \$13.9 billion acquisition to challenge IBM Corp. for more of the lucrative, long-term business of helping companies manage their computing infrastructure.

Most of the cuts will come from within EDS's ranks, and nearly half will be jobs in the U.S., HP announced Monday after the stock market closed. HP said it plans to eventually add about half the positions back as different jobs in different departments within the company.

Some of the areas expected to get hit include the finance, human resources and legal departments, areas where there are traditionally overlapping duties within combined companies.

HP had not previously detailed how many employees of the combined company would lose their jobs. Before the acquisition, HP had 178,000 people and EDS had 142,000.



HP expects to save \$1.8 billion per year from the cuts once the restructuring is complete. The company will incur a \$1.7 billion charge in the current three-month period, its fiscal fourth quarter, for a goodwill adjustment and other costs connected to the restructuring.

At a conference with financial analysts Monday, HP Chief Financial Officer Cathie Lesjak said the EDS deal is expected to add to HP's net profit in the 2010 fiscal year.

Until then, HP is planning for the acquisition to reduce net income by 17 cents to 19 cents a share in the current quarter, which ends Oct. 31, and 6 cents to 11 cents per share in the 2009 fiscal year, Lesjak said at the conference in San Francisco.

As huge as the reductions are, they're not the biggest in tech history.

In the early 1990s, Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM shed more than 150,000 workers over a five-year stretch as it racked up nearly \$16 billion in losses and faced questions about its survival.

With the addition of EDS, HP hopes to challenge IBM's core services business in a bigger way.

HP and EDS had a combined \$38.8 billion in services revenue last year. The combined sales eclipsed HP's revenues from its personal-computer division, HP's biggest business unit for that period. HP is the world's No. 1 seller of PCs worldwide.

IBM had \$51.4 billion in total technology and business-services revenue in 2007.

Competition for services contracts is intensifying as businesses look for ways to offload some of their information-technology chores. Rising energy prices and demand for more computing power has made deploying new technology more costly and complicated, a combination that makes outsourcing those duties increasingly attractive for companies looking to cut costs.

The turmoil on Wall Street has actually increased demand for those services in some sectors because it's often viewed as an investment that can help companies save money over the long term.

One of the biggest challenges facing Hurd has been finding new ways to improve sales at a company that last year cracked \$100 billion in revenue for the first time while keeping Wall Street happy with improving profit margins.

Hurd has been aggressive about cutting costs since he was hired in 2005. His first big act was a major restructuring that eliminated nearly 15,000 jobs.

Hurd's changes have helped HP wring more profits from its businesses even as the personal-computer industry as a whole grapples with shrinking profit margins, and HP's crown-jewel business — printer ink — faces intensifying competition from lower-cost competitors.

HP shares fell \$1.64, or 3.5 percent, to \$45.33 in regular-session trading. In after-hours trading, the stock gained 37 cents to \$45.70.

HEALTH



(AFP) Superstar couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have donated two million dollars to help children affected by AIDS and tuberculosis in Ethiopia, announced the nonprofit group Global Health Committee (GHC) announced Monday.

"The money will be used to create a center for AIDS and tuberculosis-affected children in the capital city of Addis Ababa, and to help establish a program to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis," said the GHC in a statement.

The clinic will be named after the couple's three-year-old Ethiopian adopted daughter Zahara. It will be modeled after a similar health center in Cambodia, also funded by Pitt and Jolie.

"It is our hope when Zahara is older she will take responsibility of the clinic and continue its mission," said Pitt.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that almost a million children have been orphaned by AIDS in Ethiopia.

"Our goal is to transfer the success we have had in Cambodia to Ethiopia where people are needlessly dying of tuberculosis, a curable disease, and HIV/AIDS, a treatable disease," said Jolie, an Oscar-winning actress and goodwill ambassador for United Nations Children's Fund.

"The Jolie-Pitt gift will allow us to deliver care and ease the great suffering caused by TB and AIDS," said Anne Goldfeld, co-founder of GHC and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are raising six children together, twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline, born in France this year, Shiloh, aged two, and adopted children Zahara, Pax from Vietnam and Maddox from Cambodia.

Ethiopia has the seventh-highest rate of tuberculosis disease in the world and an estimated 1.7 million people in the country are infected with HIV, according to the World Health Organization.

FOOTBALL



(AP) Terrell Owens caught the long pass in stride, cruised into the end zone and began showing off. With a shimmy in the direction of the Philadelphia Eagles, then some arm-flapping like he used to do when he scored for them, the final Monday night game at Texas Stadium was off to a wild start.

And it kept going from there. After seven lead changes, the game fittingly came to a close with a pass that included two laterals. Dallas stopped it, then walked away with a memorable 41-37 victory.

"We kept believing in each other," Cowboys coach Wade Phillips said. "Everyone said 'Hey, hang in there, we're going to come out on top,' and we did!"

The wackiness included Tony Romo following one flub with another, leading to Philadelphia touchdowns 14 seconds apart; Eagles receiver DeSean Jackson losing an apparent touchdown because he flicked the ball away in celebration before he actually scored; and, ultimately, there was Donovan McNabb and Brian Westbrook wasting great performances by fumbling a fourth-quarter handoff exchange.

The game was decided cleanly after that turnover — a crisp Romo-led drive capped by Marion Barber's 1-yard touchdown run, lifting the Cowboys to a victory that certainly will be remembered by anyone who saw it.

For anyone who didn't, think back to Romo's big comeback in Buffalo on a Monday night last year, or to Romo's playoff goof in Seattle two years ago, or McNabb's great escape on a scramble three years ago or even Leon Lett's premature touchdown celebration in the January 1993 Super Bowl. This game had plays reminiscent of all those, most in the first half.

Philadelphia led 30-24 at halftime, then Dallas moved in front on a 17-yard touchdown catch by Barber midway through the third quarter. The Eagles came right back, with McNabb overcoming a second-and-21 by scooting out

of two near collisions, avoiding an ankle tackle and zipping the football like a fast-pitch softball to Westbrook. The drive ended with Westbrook churning into the end zone for his third touchdown and a 37-31 lead.

Dallas got close with a 47-yard field goal from Nick Folk. Philadelphia was driving for a lead-padding score when McNabb put the ball on Westbrook's hip instead of in his belly. The Cowboys recovered at the 33 and Romo moved them to the go-ahead score, the big play being a 32-yard pass to Jason Witten.

The Eagles hardly threatened on their final two tries. Its final two-lateral play was shoved out of bounds.

Romo was 21-of-30 for 312 yards with three touchdowns, plus a lost fumble and an interception. Owens had 89 yards on three catches, two going for touchdowns. He had the early 72-yarder and a 4-yarder, although he didn't catch a pass in the second half. His first TD moved him into second place on the NFL's career receiving touchdown list; he finished at 132, well behind Jerry Rice's record of 197.

"It doesn't matter what they say about me now," Owens said. "The Lord has obviously blessed me with a lot of talent."

McNabb was 25-of-37 for 281 yards with a touchdown and four sacks, two on the final series. He also matched Ron Jaworski's club mark of 175 career TD passes.

Jackson caught six passes for 110 yards, becoming only the second player in NFL history to open his career with consecutive 100-yard games. The other was Don Looney, also for Philadelphia, in 1940.

Westbrook ran 18 times for 58 yards for two touchdowns, and caught six passes for 45 yards and another score.

The first half had a month's worth of big plays and momentum swings.

The first clue of the wackiness came on the opening kickoff, when Folk sent the ball out of bounds between the 1-yard line and the pylon.

Starting at their 40, the Eagles only needed a couple of first downs to kick a 34-yard field goal. Then Dallas answered with the 72-yard touchdown to Owens, the longest pass of Romo's career.

Philadelphia got another field goal to get within 7-6, but Dallas stretched the lead with a 98-yard kickoff return by rookie Felix Jones. When fellow rookie Mike Jenkins broke up a long pass, the old stadium was rocking.

Then it got quiet real fast.

Romo avoided a sack, then made the kind of "impulse play" former coach Bill Parcells hated, resulting in an interception. Westbrook scored on a short screen, cutting Dallas' lead to one.

The Cowboys fumbled the kickoff, recovered at the 5, then got pushed back by a false start. Then Romo lost the ball three times on the next snap. Philadelphia's Chris Gocong landed on it for a touchdown and the lead. Dallas came right back with another long kickoff return by Jones and another TD by Owens.

All this, and there were still 10 minutes left in the second quarter.

Next came Jackson flicking the ball behind him as he reached the end zone. The Cowboys challenged and, with all the extra cameras for a Monday night game, officials easily found an angle that showed him letting go too soon. Using similar logic to the controversial fumble-whistled-dead in the Broncos-Chargers game Sunday, the ball was put at the 1 and Westbrook scored on the next play.

The head-slapping part of Jackson's goof: He did it before. In a 2005 high school all-star game, Jackson spread his arms for a swan dive into the end zone, only to land at the 1.

McNabb kept the next drive alive by somehow breaking free from linebacker Greg Ellis and running for 10 yards. The play should end any doubts about his health and leg strength; McNabb was so thrilled, he came up smiling and dancing in front of some Cowboys fans. After another run that took five defenders to drop him, Philadelphia kicked a 22-yard field goal to go up 30-21 with 45 seconds left until halftime.

Plenty of time, in other words, for Romo to hit Witten for 42 yards and Folk to kick a 51-yard field goal.

WEEK TWO

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

FINAL	1	2	3	4	SCORE
CHICAGO	7	3	7	0	17
CAROLINA<<	0	3	10	7	20
TENNESSEE<<	0	14	3	7	24
CINCINNATI	0	7	0	0	7
GREEN BAY<<	7	14	3	24	48
DETROIT	0	3	6	16	25
BUFFALO<<	7	3	0	10	20
JACKSONVILLE	0	3	10	3	16
OAKLAND<<	6	0	7	10	23
KANSAS CITY	0	0	0	8	8
INDIANAPOLIS<<	0	0	7	11	18
MINNESOTA	6	3	6	0	15
NY GIANTS<<	7	6	7	21	41
ST. LOUIS	0	6	0	7	13
NEW ORLEANS	0	10	14	0	24
WASHINGTON<<	3	6	6	14	29
SAN FRANCISCO<<	3	10	14	3	OT 3/33
SEATTLE	14	6	0	10	OT 0/30
ATLANTA	0	3	3	3	9
TAMPA BAY<<	7	10	0	7	24
MIAMI	0	0	3	7	10
ARIZONA<<	14	3	14	0	31
SAN DIEGO	3	14	10	11	38
DENVER<<	7	24	0	8	39
NEW ENGLAND<<	3	3	10	3	19
NY JETS	0	3	0	7	10
PITTSBURGH<<	0	7	3	0	10
CLEVELAND	0	0	3	3	6

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

FINAL	1	2	3	4	SCORE
PHILADELPHIA	6	24	0	7	37
DALLAS<<	14	10	7	10	41
BALTIMORE					W-L 1-0
HOUSTON					W-L 0-1

MEXICO

(AP) Mexican police and soldiers on Monday quelled a riot at a Tijuana prison that left three inmates dead and at least 31 prisoners and officials injured.

Baja California state police spokesman Agustin Perez said one inmate was beaten to death by other prisoners and his body set on fire. The other two inmates were shot to death and authorities were investigating who killed them, he said.

At least 31 people were injured in the violence, six police officers among them, Perez said.

About 60 percent of La Mesa prison in Tijuana was burned in the melee, said firefighter Capt. Rafael Carrillo.

Columns of smoke rose from the prison as inmates gathered on the roof and hung banners protesting alleged abuse by guards at the state penitentiary in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego. Several of the banners said that prison guards had killed at least two prisoners, beating one man to death on Saturday.

"No more dead," one banner read. "The guards are assassins."

Perez confirmed 19-year-old inmate Israel Marquez was killed Saturday during a confrontation with three guards who searched his cell and found drugs and cell phones.

He said one of the guards was arrested and that the other two are being sought.

Baja California's Public Safety Secretary said the riot started Sunday afternoon while guards were searching cells for drugs and arms.

Early Monday, state and federal police aided by soldiers retook control of the penitentiary, said a city police spokesman, who was not authorized to give his name.

Heavily armed police ringed the penitentiary Monday afternoon, along with inmates' relatives seeking information about their loved ones.



RWANDA

(AFP) Rwandan President Paul Kagame was confident of victory as voters went to the polls Monday for parliamentary elections contested only by movements allied to the ruling party.

"I have no reason not to be confident," he told reporters as he cast his ballot in the central African nation's second legislative poll since the 1994 genocide.

Hundreds of voters turned up to cast their ballots in the polls that opened at 6:00 am (0400 GMT) and closed 3:00 pm (1300 GMT) without disruptions.

Electoral Commission chief Chrysologue Karangwa said initial results of the polls, whose outcome are a foregone conclusion as no opposition party challenged Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), would begin trickling in Tuesday.

Only one independent candidate entered the fray, while the two other parties to field candidates in the polls which end Thursday are the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party.

Both backed Kagame in the 2003 presidential poll, which saw him re-elected with 95 percent of the vote.

The opposition in the small central African country is made up of about a dozen parties which have been in exile since the end of the genocide and did not field candidates.

Rwanda has been praised for its economic reforms since the genocide of minority Tutsis by majority Hutus ended in Kagame, a Tutsi, taking power and is attracting growing foreign investment.

"I think those achievements will be speaking by themselves," Kagame said after casting his ballot in the central Kigali district of Nyarugenge.

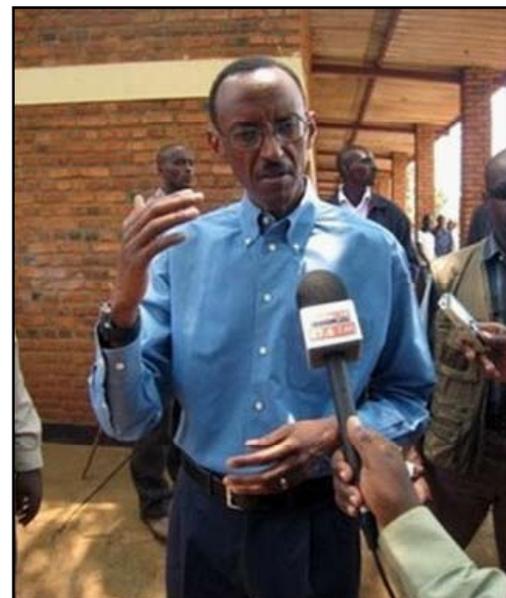
"The Rwandese and parties should work together, I think they have a common goal. In the end, they have to work together for national development," he added.

In 2003, for the first parliamentary elections held in Rwanda since the genocide in which 800,000 people were massacred, the RPF secured 74 percent of the vote.

Scepticism towards the ruling elite and the entire political arena remains rife nevertheless.

"As voters, today is our day, but just wait until they are ensconced in their parliamentary seats because they will soon forget about us," said Gerard, a young moto-taxi driver in Kigali.

The United Democratic Forces, a coalition of Brussels-based opposition movements, lambasted the poll.



"The UDF are of the view that so long as one political party, the RPF, monopolises all the state machinery, decides which party or individual can contest elections, seals off all the country during the electoral process, elections will amount to a smoke screen," it said in a statement last month.

The Rwandan legislative ballot consists of several separate stages.

It kicked off on Monday with the direct election of 53 lawmakers.

The 27 remaining parliament seats will be allocated through indirect elections Tuesday through Thursday, with 24 seats reserved for women, two for youth representatives and one for a representative of the disabled.

This hybrid electoral system makes Rwanda one of the few countries in the world with a gender equal parliament. In the outgoing house, 48 percent of the members are women.

The proportion of women in politics is also a result of the imbalance in the country's population, so many men having been killed in the genocide and others having fled.

According to the electoral commission, women account for 55 percent of the 4.7 million registered voters.

No incidents were reported during the first hours of voting and Johan Van Hecke, a member of the European Union's observation mission, gave a thumbs-up to what he described as a "very organised" election.

Provisional results are expected on September 22 and final results three days later, the electoral commission said. Provisional results from the first day of voting could be released as early as Tuesday.