

# Operation Iraqi Freedom



**3<sup>rd</sup> MP Company**  
in support of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division

March 2003



**LTC John M. Huey**  
*Commander,*

*3d Military Police BN (Provisional)*



**CSM Charles D. Medley**  
*Command Sergeant Major,*

*3d Military Police BN (Provisional)*

As reported  
By Hilda Perez  
of the  
Orlando Sentinel





Pvt. Amber Ott, 19, keeps watch from the turret of a Humvee while training in the Kuwait desert near the Iraq border recently.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 17, 2003





Lt. Steve Kane, 24, from Ocala, and with the Third MP Company, shows off his white-gold wedding ring he finally got in the mail sent thru an Army Post Office and delivered to him in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert. He was married in December to his wife Marissa, 23, but had to use a loaner ring since the diamond company he bought it from did not have his size. After 3 months the company finally sent it to him and he now hopes to have the Army chaplain bless it.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 17, 2003





Spc. 1st Class Terry Ford, from Lakeland, poses with a 15-piece toy sand bucket his sister, Jodi, sent him to give him a laugh. "It broke up the monotony and mundaness of the day. Wish I could take this back to my daughter (Briana, 9) and hit the Florida beaches. " he said.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 17, 2003





Sgt. Dawn Conigy, 23, of Ebensburg, Pa., prepares to head out on a mission in the desert of Kuwait.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 17, 2003





Sgt. Dawn Conigy says that once you prove yourself, 'the guys are really good about accepting you.'  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 17, 2003





A unit from the Army's 3rd Military Police Company runs a mission in Kuwait. A row of tanks lines the horizon.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 17, 2003





Using an empty sandbag and a marker, Sgt. Dawn Conigy designed a welcome mat for the tent she shares with Spc. Shawn Alsteen.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 17, 2003







Master Sgt. Tony McGee poses with the sledgehammer he attempted to use when trying to kill a persistent desert rat.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 17, 2003





Sgt. Steven Desch from Lake Worth, serving with the 3rd Military Police Company, supervises the burning of waste material before the soldiers broke camp in the Kuwait desert.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 19, 2003





Troops with the 3rd Military Police Company walk in the Kuwait desert. Since 9-11, members of this unit have served in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, the Pentagon and Guantanamo Bay.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 19, 2003





After this meeting on Thursday, the 3rd  
Military Police Company joined a convoy  
headed toward Iraq.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 21, 2003





About 300 enemy prisoners of war are rounded up and held at a forward collection point in Iraq Sunday at Tallil Air Base.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





Enemy prisoners of war are rounded up and searched by the 3rd Military Police Company after one of several attempted ambushes against American soldiers at Tallil Air Base in Iraq Sunday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





Enemy prisoners of war are rounded up and searched after one of several attempted ambushes at Tallil Air Base in Iraq Sunday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





Enemy prisoners of war are rounded up as their collected weapons and ammunition sit by the roadside after one of several attempted ambushes at Tallil Air Base in Iraq Sunday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003







Members of the 3rd Military Police Company with the 3rd Infantry Division secure the area at Tallil Air Base Sunday. (HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





About 300 enemy prisoners of war are rounded up and held at a forward collection point in Iraq Sunday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





Members of the 3rd Military Police  
Company with the 3rd Infantry  
Division secure the area at Tallil  
Air Base Sunday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO  
SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





The 546th Area Support Medical Company assists an enemy prisoner of war's injuries of a gunshot wound to the stomach Sunday at Tallil Air Base in Iraq. The unit is to assist primarily the EPW's but on Sunday they treated three American soldiers with severe injuries.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, part of the 3rd Infantry Division, takes over Tallil Air Base in Northern Iraq Saturday, as the 3rd Military Police Company sets up the American flag atop the operations center at the base Sunday. Three buildings with several rooms each were found to contain various weapons, ammo, chemical protective gear and troop overlays.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





Artillery rounds are set off by the 3rd Brigade  
Combat Team as they take over Tallil Air Base  
in Northern Iraq Saturday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





As the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and 3rd MP Police troops head out into the berm, the border between Iraq and Kuwait, Kuwaiti Army soldiers cheer and wave.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





Two of the first five enemy prisoners of war  
taken care of by the 3rd Military Police  
Company.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003







The 274th Forward Surgical Team works on the gunshot wound on the foot of an Iraqi prisoner of war. He was one of the first five prisoners of war taken care of by the 3rd Military Police Company.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 23, 2003





A severe sandstorm on Tuesday and Wednesday, which turned everything in sight red, made it hard for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division to operate at a suspected chemical weapons bunker.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 27, 2003





Surrenders come quickly once the fighting starts. MPs search the prisoners, give them water and blankets and then tag them.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 28, 2003





A soldier with the 3rd Military Police Company questions an enemy prisoner of war Sunday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 31, 2003





Nearly 200 enemy prisoners of war are lined up  
at a collection point Sunday in central Iraq  
before being transported to a 2nd collection  
point farther south.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Mar. 31, 2003





Accompanied by her daughters, the wife of an Iraqi deserter weeps upon learning that her family will be separated from her husband, being held as an enemy prisoner of war.  
(HILDA M PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 31, 2003





With a little creativity by U.S. soldiers, a latex glove becomes a child's toy, much to the delight of 2 Iraqi girls.  
(HILDA M PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

March 31, 2003





Third Military Police Co SGM John Guertin, 45, from Fitchburg, Mass., offers a can of ham to a puppy he calls "Baby." The dog was rescued from a suspected chemical weapons facility about five days ago.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 2, 2003





With Apache helicopters flying overhead, 3rd Military Police Co SFC Andy Bower, 41, of Carson City, Nevada, finds time for some golf at the end of his night shift in the Iraqi desert. (HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 2, 2003





Operations Sargeant James Gillis, 40, from Southbend, Indiana, organizes, briefs and monitors missions.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 2, 2003





The 566th Army Medical  
Company helps the 3rd  
Military Police Company with  
a wounded enemy prisoner  
of war last week.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO  
SENTINEL)

Apr. 5, 2003





The 3rd Military Police Company,  
attached to the 3rd Infantry  
Division, and the 566th Army  
Medical Company, tended to  
wounded enemy prisoners of war  
after fierce fighting last week in  
Najaf.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO  
SENTINEL)

Apr. 5, 2003





The 566th Army Medical Company helps the 3rd Military Police Company with displaced Iraqi civilians, such as this family. The child was slightly wounded during fighting.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Apr. 5, 2003





A convoy of soldiers from the U.S. Army's  
101st Airborne Division head east toward  
Baghdad on Friday.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 7, 2003





Spc. Erin Gibson, 22, of the 3rd Military Police Company of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division on Saturday sets up concertina wire that will pen in enemy prisoners of war in an area about 10 miles outside of Baghdad.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 7, 2003





Sgt. 1st Class Ellie Tolbert, 44, says she  
loves her country.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 8, 2003







Sgt. Peter Domoracki, 40, of Lake Worth has an ad showing 1 of his favorite meals taped to the ceiling of his Humvee. 'Man, that's what I want: A hot cheeseburger, fries and a Coke. And as I stared at it, I said, 'That all-American meal, it is going right up there.'  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 8, 2003





Staff Sgt. Scott Benedict, 31, of Grantsburg, Wis., deals with the 100-degree heat.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 8, 2003





Arheim Saed waits outside the surgery Monday,  
his son's blood still on his shoulders after he  
carried him 3 miles hoping to run into American  
forces.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 8, 2003





Ahmed Saed, 13, lies under anesthesia after surgeons removed shrapnel from his body. Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Moline monitors his progress.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 8, 2003





Like many civilians around Baghdad, this man waves a white flag as convoys of U.S. troops pass by. He does not want the coalition troops to confuse him with suicide bombers or think he is trying to lure them into an ambush.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Apr. 10, 2003





Spc. Mark Matekovic, 20, of Houston watches for Iraqi fighters at Baghdad International Airport on Wednesday.

Troops are using hangars at the airport for sleeping quarters and have set up offices in the terminal.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 10, 2003





A 3rd MP Company of the 3rd Infantry Division platoon leader stands guard along Highway 1 on the outside perimeter of Saddam International Airport., now renamed Baghdad International Airport.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 10, 2003





Sgt. 1st Class Todd Johnson, 39, of Gainesville, Ga., gathers his bags as he heads home. He got word that his mother, Carolyn Witherspoon, 59, died of natural causes.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 14, 2003







Sgt. James Westfall, 23, of Ft. Stewart, Ga., looks at photos of his wife and a copy of an ultrasound showing his baby girl.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 14, 2003





Enemy prisoners of war, also called EPWs, are processed by Army soldiers in the courtyard of a small prison camp.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Apr. 15, 2003





As the number of prisoners  
dwindles, Command Sgt. Maj. Chuck  
Medley prepares his troops for other  
assignments.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO  
SENTINEL)

Apr. 15, 2003





At the makeshift airport prison, soldiers with the 3rd Military Police Company fulfill their tasks as they deal with an influx of enemy prisoners of war, among the last that they will handle.  
(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Apr. 15, 2003





Soldiers with the Army's 3rd Military Police Company of the 3rd Infantry Division keep watchful eyes on enemy prisoners of war held at the prison facility at Baghdad International Airport.

(HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Apr. 15, 2003





In the last of her diaries from Iraq, *Sentinel* photographer Hilda M. Perez (above) follows troops as they explore one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces





The view from a bedroom with its own indoor pool in one of Saddam's palaces near the Baghdad International Airport. Complete with a man-made lake, a nature preserve, a petting zoo and putt-putt golf on the roof.

(HILDA M PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 16, 2003





A giant replica of the Iraqi military emblem with the Iraqi flag colors in marble greets visitors at the entrance to one of Saddam's palaces near the Baghdad International Airport.  
(HILDA M PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 16, 2003







CSM Chuck Medley from Huntsville, Ala.,  
(right) and SPC Sandy Rivera of  
Canovanas, Puerto Rico.  
(HILDA M PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 16, 2003





One of the many hand-carved giant murals on the exterior of one of Saddam's palaces near the Baghdad International Airport. The carving translates to "never surrender and fight to keep the flag up and make the enemy raise the white flag."  
(HILDA M PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

April 16, 2003

