3rd Brigade
4th Infantry Division
Operation Iraqi Freedom
December 2007 – March 2009
Agenda

- Background
- Area of Operations
- Organization for Combat Capabilities
- Sadr City Operations
- Lessons Learned
- Challenges
Brigade’s Background

• Third deployment to Iraq

• Stabilized unit

• Deployed in Dec 07. Redeployed in Feb 09

• 50% of the Brigade deployed to other parts of Iraq = Mosul, W. Baghdad, and the Green Zone. Picked up other units once in theater.
3rd Brigade Area of Operations

North East Baghdad

- Civilian population: 4 million
- Congested urban setting
- Rural farmland
- Shia/Sunni mixed
- Sadr City = densely populated - 2.5 million.
3rd Brigade Organization In Iraq

“Plug and Fight”

- Very Diverse
- Stryker, Airborne, and Mechanized Units
- About 4000 Soldiers

Task Organization in Theater
The Battle For Sadr City
(March to May 2008)

Background

• **August 2007**: Muqtada al-Sadr issues freeze Order/Cease fire

• **December 2007**: Sadr City restricted to Most Coalition operations

• **23 to 31 March**: Criminal militias fire 86 Rockets at the Green Zone

• **25 March**: Sadr Lifts Freeze; Militias Attack US and Iraqi Army across Baghdad

• **25 March to 15 May**: Two month battle in Sadr City to defeat rocket teams and Shia Militia.
Sadr City Operations

**Operation Striker Denial 26 March-14 April**
- Defeat militia rocket teams in Sadr City
- Seize key terrain at rocket points of origin
- Enemy in prepared positions
- City became a minefield/ House to house fighting ensued

**Operation Gold Wall 15 April to 15 May**
- Block enemy from using South Sadr City to launch rockets
- 2.5 mile Concrete TWall to deny the Enemy key terrain
- Fired 818 Tank rounds and 12,091 25mm rounds
Lessons Learned  
(Sadr City)

- Three dimensional maps
- Iraqi Army in the lead
- Wheeled based to heavy force in less than 48 hours
- Joint/Combined Arms effort: Tanks, Brads, Apaches, UAVs, fixed wing, snipers, and engineers
- Dedicated “Scouts” in the Ops Center (TOC).
- Tank/Bradley armament saved lives
- Paladins fired terrain denial in our support zones to protect flanks

Bottom line: The enemy could not compete with overwhelming firepower and continuous ops
Challenges

• In the beginning, Seeing the Enemy
• Task organization
  – Air space deconfliction
  – TOC/OP center multiple competing missions
  – Legacy battalion versus digitized
• Rules of Engagement.
  – Shoot/ Don’t shoot scenarios
  – Maintaining precision in our fire power
  – “you don’t need my permission to pull the trigger”
Questions?