



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2004

## 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY SOLDIERS CREDITED WITH DESTROYING 1.5 MILLION TONS OF ENEMY AMMO IN IRAQ

By Capt. L. Paula Sydenstricker  
196<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**LATIFIYAH, Iraq** – The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division have perhaps, one of the most dangerous assignments in northern Iraq.

The unit is responsible for hauling captured enemy ammunition and weapons throughout the region to Ammo Supply Point



CAPT L. PAULA SYDENSTRICKER

*Ammunition collected from Iraqi insurgents in Iraq by Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division is stored at Ammunition Supply Point Arlington prior to destruction.*

Arlington here. The weapons and ammunitions are stored here and later destroyed, said Staff Sgt. Adam Bolton of the battalion's Battery C.

Up to 100,000 pounds of ammunition are transported daily, and the mission takes place six days a week. Since taking on the assignment in February, the unit has destroyed about 1.5 million tons of ammunition, Bolton said.

Charlie Battery uses Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks and Palletized Loading System vehicles to move the ammunition. Bolton said the convoys that carry these potentially lethal loads face not only natural dangers, but also the high-risk process of loading and unloading their explosive cargo.

Destroying enemy weapons and ammunition is an important mission because it decreases the amount of damage insurgents can inflict on coalition forces, he said.

“What we’re hauling could be an asset to the enemy,” Bolton said.

The battalion has captured and destroyed a wide range of munitions, including mortars, land mines, surface-to-air missiles, AK-47 rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, Bolton said.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Ken Boehme added that his Soldiers have a number of other duties as well. They are assigned to target acquisition teams; escort and fire-and-effect missions; force protection; quick reaction forces and harassment interdiction, Boehme said.

Most of the Soldiers in the regiment are cross-trained to do several of the jobs that the unit takes on, and Boehme attributes his Soldiers’ versatility and their missions’ success to the support they receive from the maintenance, communication and security protection sections.

The battalion also supports the community surrounding the base by providing people with clean water, repairing their vehicles, and helping in a myriad of other ways. In

the process, Boehme said, they are winning the citizens' trust, and the Iraqis have helped the troops locate weapons and ammunition.

