



An HHC soldier heads across a street as the assault began to reach its climax.

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initial assault on Zussman Hotel to be a tall task. Enemy snipers on the roof made finding cover a priority in the opening minutes of the battle. After fierce firefighting with the paintball guns and some trouble with a ladder to the roof of the hotel, HHC soldiers were able to capture the hotel, but not without heavy ‘casualties’. Soldiers who were hit with paintballs during the battle had to sit out of the action for a brief period before being put back into action by Boyd.

After taking the hotel, HHC regrouped and had to fight building to building with the opposing force, much like they might have to do in an actual urban battle. Soldiers of the HHC soon realized that this difficult and draining form of fighting is a challenging task. Boyd echoed the thoughts of the soldiers who gained an insight into what our soldiers are facing in Iraq, where real bullets are being fired instead of paintballs.

“It gave us all a great appreciation for what our soldiers are facing in Baghdad every single day,” said Boyd.

After ridding Zussman of most of its ‘rebel’ force, a final charge was led on the city’s walled embassy compound. HHC soldiers encircled the building and eventually used textbook Army techniques to fight their way into the compound and



OpFor gives up after a gallant fight but could not overcome the tenacity of the highly trained 100th Div paintball fighters.

take the building in the face of heavy ‘rebel’ resistance.

Sweaty BDU’s and paintball-stained protective gear were the rule rather than the exception in the aftermath of the battle that took place under the hot August sun. HHC’s first field training exercise of the new century proved to be a fun experience for all, as well as an educational lesson in the challenges of urban warfare. According to Boyd, all participants in the day’s battle should have walked away with a greater appreciation for what the Army does, as well as with a smile on their faces.

“There’s something to be said for getting out into the field and getting some dynamic leadership experience. We took 60-70 people to this mission ... and that speaks volumes about HHC. When there’s a real war going on and everybody has missions going on ... it was great to see that many people make an effort to get out and participate in the training,” said Boyd. “I think it was a real positive experience for everybody involved.”