

# Munitions of the mind

Report: Matt Munro

A ferocious battle around the clock continues in Iraq. It is the “War of Information,” the battle for the minds of the local population. The combatants are members of a Bedfordshire based Psychological Operations team who operate a popular Arab language radio station and man the printing presses for innumerable handbills, posters and leaflets.

The role of Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) is to influence the perceptions, attitudes and behaviour of selected individuals or groups of individuals (target audience).

When employed properly in combat, PSYOPS can lower the morale of a target audience by creating doubts, dissidence and disaffection within their ranks.

In peace support operations PSYOPS provides the means for the commander to understand, communicate with, and influence the target audience in his area of operations.

The Iraqi population is currently hungry for any form of news and information. Radio Nahrain (96 FM) satisfies some of that demand. Messages are usually short and simple, and

complemented by both Western and Arabic music as well as a news service.

Some printed products have been air-dropped, however for the most part it is the fighting units on the ground that physically distribute the material.

Chicksands, Bedfordshire is normally home for the Army PSYOPS unit. It comprises a small cadre of both regular personnel and reservists.

The reservists typically contribute technical expertise gained from a civilian background in such disciplines as broadcasting, illustration or publishing.

As Operation Telic continues to make the transition from war fighting to peace support expect to see and hear more of the work of this small but invaluable team!

**Below: Corporal Simon Tate, a Royal Signals communications technician operating the Psychological Operations deployed radio station currently used to broadcast Radio Nahrain**



Above: Winning hearts LCpl Jim Wyatt with a finished cartoon on his computer screen

**Below: A PSYOPS leaflet used as part of the information operations effort**

**EVERYONE CAN HELP**  
**Keep danger off the streets**  
Don't carry weapons in public...

...and talk to us about those that threaten your security.  
Listen to radio Nahrain 96FM for important news and information