

In parceling out Ramadi, the Marine Corps leadership gave Company E more than 10 square miles to control, far more than the battalion's other companies. Captain Royer said he had informally asked for an extra platoon, or 44 marines, and had been told the battalion was seeking an extra company. The battalion's operations officer, Maj. John D. Harrill, said the battalion had received sporadic assistance from the Army and had given Company E extra help. General Mattis says he could not pull marines from another part of Iraq because "there were tough fights going on everywhere."

Colonel Kennedy said Company E's area was less dense, but the pressure it put on the marines came to a boil on April 6, 2004, when the company had to empty its camp—leaving the cooks to guard the gates—to deal with three firefights.

Ten of its troops were killed that day, including eight who died when the Humvee they were riding in was ambushed en route to assist other marines under fire. That Humvee lacked even the improvised steel on the back where most of the marines sat, Company E leaders say.

"All I saw was sandbags, blood and dead bodies," Sergeant Valerio said. "There was no protection in the back."

Captain Royer said more armor would not have even helped. The insurgents had a .50-caliber machine gun that punched huge holes through its windshield. Only a heavier combat vehicle could have withstood the barrage, he said, but the unit had none. Defense Department officials have said they favored Humvees over tanks in Iraq because they were less imposing to civilians.

The Humvee that trailed behind that day, which did have improvised armor, was hit with less powerful munitions, and the marines riding in it survived by hunkering down. "The rounds were pinging," Sergeant Sheldon said. "Then in a lull they returned fire and got out."

Captain Royer said that he photographed the Humvees in which his men died to show to any official who asked about the condition of their armor, but that no one ever did.

Sergeant Valerio redoubled his effort to fortify the Humvees by begging other branches of the military for scraps. "How am I going to leave those kids out there in those Humvees," he recalled asking himself.

The company of 185 marines had only two Humvees and three trucks when it arrived, so just getting them into his shop was a logistical chore, Sergeant Valerio said. He also worried that the steel could come loose in a blast and become deadly shrapnel.

For the gunners who rode atop, Sergeant Valerio stitched together bulletproof shoulder pads into chaps to protect their legs.

"That guy was amazing," First Sgt. Bernard Coleman said. "He was under a vehicle when a mortar landed, and he caught some in the leg. When the mortar fire stopped, he went right back to work."

#### A CAPTAIN'S FATE

Lt. Sean J. Schickel remembers Captain Royer asking a high-ranking Marine Corps visitor whether the company would be getting more factory-armored Humvees. The official said they had not been requested and that there were production constraints, Lieutenant Schickel said.

Recalls Captain Royer: "I'm thinking we have our most precious resource engaged in combat, and certainly the wealth of our nation can provide young, selfless men with what they need to accomplish their mission. That's an erudite way of putting it. I have a much more guttural response that I won't give you."

Captain Royer was later relieved of command. General Mattis and Colonel Kennedy

declined to discuss the matter. His first fitness report, issued on May 31, 2004, after the company's deadliest firefights, concluded, "He has single-handedly reshaped a company in sore need of a leader; succeeded in forming a cohesive fighting force that is battle-tested and worthy."

The second, on Sept. 1, 2004, gave him opposite marks for leadership. "He has been described on numerous occasions as 'dictatorial,'" it said. "There is no morale or motivation in his marines." His defenders say he drove his troops as hard as he drove himself, but was wrongly blamed for problems like armor. "Captain Royer was a decent man that was used for a dirty job and thrown away by his chain of command," Sergeant Sheldon said.

Today, Captain Royer is at Camp Pendleton contesting his fitness report, which could force him to retire. Company E is awaiting deployment to Okinawa, Japan. Some members have moved to other units, or are leaving the Marines altogether.

"I'm checking out," Corporal Winn said. "When I started, I wanted to make it my career. I've had enough."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Ethics. The principles of honor and morality. The accepted rules of conduct. The moral principles of an individual.

Mr. Speaker, the 109th Congress recently passed its 100-day mark, and I would like to reflect on the progress we have made under the strong leadership of the Republican Party to create jobs, to strengthen the economy, support our troops, and to protect our borders. And we have done this with strong bipartisan support as wiser, calmer heads have prevailed on the other side of the aisle.

The energy bill, supported by 41 Democrats. This bill will create nearly half a million new jobs in the manufacturing, construction, agriculture and technology sectors by reducing our dependency on foreign oil while exploring domestic sources and alternative energy sources. This was opposed by the minority leader.

Class action reform, supported by 73 Democrats. This will unclog overused courts, end the harassment of local businesses by stopping predatory forum shopping by some trial attorneys and will protect consumers with a consumer class action bill of rights. Small businesses pay an average of \$88 billion each year on lawsuits and this cost is simply passed on to consumers. This money could be much better spent

growing businesses and creating jobs. This bill was opposed by the minority leader.

Permanent repeal of the death tax, supported by 42 Democrats. The death tax is the leading cause of dissolution for most small businesses. Seventy percent of businesses do not make it past the first generation because of death tax rates. According to one small business survey, more than 80 percent of small businesses spend \$25,000 annually on attorney-consultant fees and life insurance premiums in an attempt to avoid the crushing blow of the death tax. Again, this money could be much better spent growing businesses and creating jobs. This was opposed by the minority leader.

The Border Security Act, supported by 42 Democrats. This will implement a much-needed national standard for driver's license requirements and strengthen our borders so that those who intend to do us harm find it harder to enter our country. This was opposed by the minority leader.

Thank goodness for the moderates in the Democratic Party who are willing to put aside partisan bickering and work together to get things done for America. The minority leader's continued opposition tactics more closely resemble the pirates of the South Seas who hijacked commerce and progress and accomplished absolutely nothing in the long run.

What a shame.

#### DEFEAT CAFTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, proponents of the so-called free trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement, which I opposed, have long promised endless riches for U.S. workers, farmers, businesses and the economy. Of course, they have been wrong on all counts. But they are not to be deterred. They want another bite of the apple here. They think that the American people and Members of Congress who represent them, those who have lost their jobs, seen their jobs threatened, their standard of living diminished as we have gone into massive trade deficits and exported industries overseas in pursuit of cheaper labor and lower environmental standards, that they can fool us again.

The President finished secret negotiations a year ago the end of this month for what is called the Central American Free Trade Agreement. And they are promising all the same things. I went before the Committee on Ways and Means which reluctantly, begrudgingly, allowed some of us to testify in opposition to this pending agreement.

Now, there is no legislative process. They mark up what is called a mock bill or a pretend bill or a play bill in Ways and Means. They are not allowed