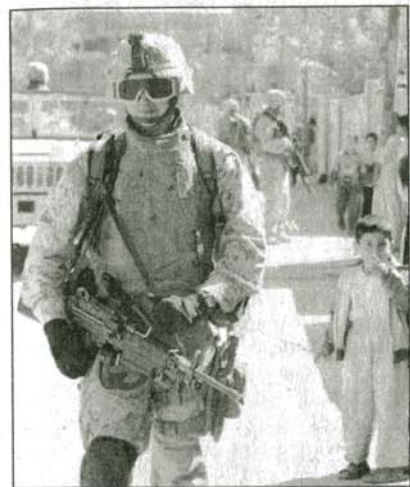


# Leathernecks keep Fallujah safe, one patrol at a time



Cpl. Mike Escobar

A Marine with 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, passes by a group of smiling Iraqi children as his squad patrols the city streets.

## CPL. MIKE ESCOBAR 2d Marine Division

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** — “It’s like the Super Bowl. You train so much to do it, and when you get there, you show everyone what you’ve got.”

That’s how Lance Cpl. Fermin Garcia views his unit’s deployment to Iraq. It’s his chance to put the security and stability operations training the Marine Corps gave him to the ultimate test: keeping insurgents and weapons out of Fallujah.

To accomplish this, the 19-year-old infantryman with the Camp Lejeune-based Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and his fellow Marines patrol the city streets every day, searching for terrorists, illegal arms and ammunition, and anti-Iraqi government propaganda.

The Orangeburg, N.Y., native’s unit recently replaced the California-based 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine



Cpl. Mike Escobar

A Marine with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and his field radio operator provide security at a street corner when their patrol stopped to rest for a few minutes. 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment is currently deployed to conduct security and stability operations.

