

# WARHORSE

*Serving the Soldiers, Civilians and Families of 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.*



# RIDER

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## *Warhorse Brigade moves to Basra*



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## On the Cover:

A stream of Warhorse Soldiers exit an Air Force C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft at COB Basra April 25.  
photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

# Warhorse Sends: Warhorse Brigade Relocation to Basra



The Warhorse Brigade minus 1-67 Armor and 3-16 Field Artillery Battalions have completed its relocation to Combat Operating Base Basra. The 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery will remain at Convoy Support Center Scania and the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment will remain in Mosul. As always, our Soldiers did a remarkable job getting their equipment and personnel relocated without loss or injury.

CSM Thompson and I appreciate the team's hard work and focus during this very busy and changing time in Iraq. We also greatly appreciate the support of our Warhorse Families during this transition to a new mission set in support of the people of Basra.

The Warhorse Brigade was selected to replace the United Kingdom Soldiers in Basra to replicate the outstanding work we did in Diwaniyah and Najaf with the Iraqi Security Forces. This mission is an exciting new challenge for our brigade. While our physical location has changed, our mission will remain the same. The Brigade will continue to provide training, mentorship and resources through partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces in order to continue their progress as they provide security to the Iraqi population in the Basra province.

Combat Operating Base Basra is much larger than FOB Echo or Kalsu. Many of the life support systems that were set-up at our last locations are in

their infancy state here.

While the quality of life for our Soldiers has decreased at COB Basra, we will continue to focus on making significant improvements for our Warhorse Soldiers in Iraq. Each Battalion is located on their own self-sustaining camp within the COB.

Many of the soldiers are further located in patrol bases all around the Basra Province. These patrol bases are closer to, or located with the Iraqi Security Forces that we partner with. We will continue to strive to improve their quality of life every day. All the patrol bases will be rebuilt over the next 45 days to ensure environmentally controlled locations to eat and sleep, shower facilities, gym equipment, and access to internet and phones.

This week SPAWARS was opened on each camp. This should facilitate our Soldiers ability to maintain contact with their Families. Mail is now arriving to COB Basra; please ensure to use the new Basra mailing addresses to include the unit number when you are sending mail to your Soldiers. Ensuring that we continue every day to improve the Warhorse Soldier's quality of life is one of my top priorities.

I appreciate your continued support to all our Soldiers and Families. You make a difference every day for your Soldiers who are winning the war that a year ago; the Nation, though could never be won. As we enter the final stages of our deployment here, please ensure that you do not get caught up in rumors. I believe we have demonstrated throughout this deployment that we tell you the truth and we do not hide information. Remember if you do not hear the information through the chain of command, then it is just a rumor.

I appreciate your participation in the last monthly Town Hall when I was home on EML. I encourage you to attend our next Town Hall currently scheduled for May 19, 2009 at 1800 in the McMahon Theater. If you have questions that you would like for me to answer, please e-mail them to [connie.kallerson@conus.army.mil](mailto:connie.kallerson@conus.army.mil). Please continue to visit the Warhorse vFRG website to get the latest information.

We are Warhorse!

HENRY A. KIEVENAAR, III  
COL, AR  
Commander

# WARHORSE



# RIDER

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Do you have a story to share? The *Warhorse Rider* welcomes articles, commentary, and photos from readers.

The *Warhorse Rider* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

Submissions and requests for further information should be emailed to the editor: [carlos.burger@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:carlos.burger@iraq.centcom.mil).



Col. Butch Kievenaar, commander, 2nd BCT and Brig. Gen. Tom Beckett, commander 20th Armd. Bde. salute the 2nd BCT colors during a transfer of authority ceremony between the 2nd BCT and 20th Armd. Bde, April 30. The 20th Armd. Bde. transferred authority of the Basra operations area to the 2nd BCT.

# Warhorse Brigade assumes command of Basra

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore  
MND-S PAO

The British 20th Armoured Brigade transferred authority of the Basra area of operations to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, April 30.

The transfer of authority ceremony marks the end of the 20th Armd. Bde.'s combat mission in support of the Government of Iraq.

The ceremony kicked off with the playing of the bagpipes followed by the entrance of the official party which include Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, Multi-National Division – South commander, Col. Butch Kievenaar, 2nd BCT commander, Brig. Gen. Tom Beckett, 20th Armd. Bde. commander, Abdul Qadir, Iraqi Minister of Defense and John Hutton, British Secretary of Defense.

The 2nd BCT will pick up where the 20th Armd. Bde. left off in training the Iraqi Security Forces, building relationships and supporting the provincial government here.

"The Iraqi Security Forces have demonstrated repeatedly in the last six months that they are an effective force, providing the necessary security to allow economic development in Basra," said Kievenaar to a mixed audience of British, American and Iraqi dignitaries and military attendees.

The 2nd BCT successfully trained and supported the ISF in the Diwaniyah, Najaf and Babil provinces for eight months prior to taking command of the Basra area of operations.


The "Warhorse" Brigade intends to see the same success while in command of the Basra operational area.

The Warhorse Brigade will continue

to support the Iraqi Security forces with enablers and training so they can continue to grow while maintaining the safe and secure environment that the citizens of Basra enjoy today, added Kievenaar.

"This smooth transition will enable us to continue to move forward without any loss of momentum," he continued.

Although the 20th Armd. Bde. has completed its mission in Basra, they intend to continue to contribute to the Coalition's ongoing mission in Iraq, said Beckett.

During the 20th Armd Bde.'s tour, there have been two critical changes for the people in this area; the Iraqi security forces have taken the lead for security in Iraq and new provincial councils have been seated throughout the country. 



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano, Combat Camera


An Iraqi soldier from 1st Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, hands out food to a woman during a humanitarian aid mission in the Al Intisar neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq.

# 1-67 AR, 2nd IA conduct aid drop

By Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provided security for Iraqi soldiers from 1st Bn., 7th Bde., 2nd IA Div., conducting a humanitarian aid mission in the Al Intisar neighborhood of Mosul..

During the patrol, the Soldiers and handed out food and supplies to the local populace.

The unit has been attached to the Multi-National Division - North for the past eight months and operate in the Kirkuk Province. 



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano, Combat Camera

Pfc. Jontae Greer, 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provides security for Iraqi soldiers from 1st Bn., 7th Bde, 2nd IA Div., conducting a humanitarian aid mission in the Al Intisar neighborhood of Mosul.



"Warhorse" Soldiers from the 204th BSB work out at the newly restored and fully functional gym at Camp Bravo, May 5. The battalion recently brought in more than \$70,000 worth of new equipment to meet the fitness needs of the Soldiers here.

## 204th Gym fully restored, open for business

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore  
MND-S PAO

The 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, gymnasium at Camp Bravo is now fully functional and ready to meet the fitness needs of the "Warhorse" Soldiers.

With more than \$70,000 worth of new equipment, the gym is complete with several different cardio and muscle-building machines to provide much-needed recreational activities for the Soldiers here.

"All the machines here are brand new," said Sgt. Armand Rodriguez, San Antonio native and petroleum supply specialist with the 204th BSB. Rodriguez also serves as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the

204th gym.

When the 204th BSB took over the gym from the British Security Forces, they had to completely restore it.

"There was dust and dirt everywhere," said Rodriguez. "The machines weren't working too well and we had to build rooms to house the cardio equipment," said Rodriguez. "We had to completely clean it out."

In less than a month, Soldiers from the 204th BSB completely cleaned out the gym, brought in brand new equipment and connected tents to create fitness rooms to house all the equipment.


The gym is made up of four rooms, the first, and largest room contains brand new bench press and other muscle-building machines, the next room contains mostly free weights, the third has stationary bikes, elliptical and stair

climbing machines, and the fourth room houses the treadmills.

With all the new equipment the gym is now fully functional and ready for use by Warhorse Soldiers.

The Camp Bravo gym meets the fitness needs of Soldiers in the brigade, said Spc. Robert Reina, power generation specialist, Company B, 204th BSB.

"Just about all of the equipment in the gym came in recently, and for the most part [the gym] works pretty well," added Reina.

The Camp Bravo gym leadership is currently working to start fitness challenges, such as weight-lifting contests, in the gym. 



Several high-explosive, armor-piercing rounds await final detonation in Basra province April 27. More than 1,000 rounds were identified, inventoried and detonated by the IA and U.S. EOD teams.

# 2-8IN, IA EOD detonate weapons cache in Basra

By Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

**U**.S and Iraqi forces conducted a joint controlled detonation April 27.

Soldiers from Echo Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, along with elements from the 521st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 trained the 14th Iraqi Army Division EOD team on how to properly dispose of a cache of

ammunition, said Navy Lt. j.g. Joe Morgan, assistant platoon commander for the 521st platoon, EOD Mobile Unit 5.

Before the two teams could detonate the ammunition, they had the daunting task to identify and inventory every round.

All together, the EOD teams cataloged more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, with the majority of them classifying as high-explosive, armor-piercing rounds, said Morgan.

1st Lt. Kyle Huss, platoon leader

with E co., 2nd CAB, 8th Inf. Regt., believes it's imperative to educate the IA EOD teams on how to dispose of ordnance before the Coalition forces depart the country.

"We have to be sure that the Iraqi Security Forces are capable of dealing with problems like this by themselves. There is a lot of unexploded ordnance in Iraq and much of it is unstable and dangerous," said the Friendswood, Texas native.

"It's really important to teach them how to not only find this stuff, but how



Members of the Iraqi and U.S. EOD teams prepare the discovered ordnance for detonation during a joint EOD controlled detonation April 27 in Basra province. The U.S. forces trained Iraqi Army on proper detonation procedures.

to safely inventory and dispose of it,” Huss added.

Morgan, who has worked with EOD operations for two years, thinks that each detonation contributes to the overall security of Iraq.

“The best part is seeing bad stuff go away and doesn’t fall into the wrong hands,” Morgan said.

Huss added that the IA seemed poised to perform their own EOD operations in the near future.

“They seem to be very capable of running unilateral missions. They probably could have done this mission themselves if they had the resources, which is something we’re working on,” Huss said. 🇮🇶



1st Lt. Kyle Huss, platoon leader, Echo Company, 2nd CAB, 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., instructs his Soldiers on the type of rounds found during a joint EOD controlled detonation in Basra province, April 27. Huss is from Friendswood, Texas.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

An Iraqi Army officer passes out school supplies to a group of students at a school in Basra, April 23. The school supplies, which included pens, pencils, notebooks and calculators, were handed out by the IP in an ongoing effort to build the relationship between the IPs and the populace.

## 793d Soldiers, IP drop school supplies in Basra

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore  
MND-S PAO

**I**raqi Security Forces passed out new school supplies to a group of enthusiastic and appreciative students at the Al Yakeen primary school in Basra, May 7.

The school supplies, which included pens, pencils, notebooks and Girl Scout cookies, were provided to the ISF by U.S. Forces in an effort to help build the relation-

ship between the ISF and the people of Basra.

“When we visit schools in the area we’re usually met with a lot of enthusiasm from the kids,” said 1st Lt. John Hinton, Newport News, Va. native and assistant police transition team chief with the Virginia National guard’s 266th Military Police Company, 793rd MP Battalion, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

“We’re here to help the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police help their own people,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Hawley, who serves as a sheriff’s deputy in his civilian career and is here with the Manassas, Va. based 266th MP Co.

This school drop is part of an ongoing mission to help the ISF build trust and confidence with the citizens of Basra.

The Iraqi Police also handed out wristbands embossed with the IP

values to students at Al Yakeen primary school. The Al Yakeen primary school is an age six through 12 all girls school, with a handful of males in the student body.

The primary objective of police transition teams like this one is to train and mentor the Iraqi police force, so the 266th Soldiers want to get the IPs into face to face meetings with their citizens, said Hawley.

In addition to the school drop, the 266th also met with Iraqi policemen at two IP stations in the area to discuss the option of holding town hall meetings with the people in their area in order to grow stronger community bonds

between the police and the people they serve and protect.

There are four more school drops planned for other schools in the area over the next few months.

“Part of the foundation for being a good police force is being proactive and being out in the community. This shows the community that the Iraqi government cares about them,” said Capt. Ryan Mallory, commander, 266th Military Police Company of the Virginia National Guard, attached to the 2nd BCT.

Mallory, who comes from Alexandria, Va., said the IP want to see their city continue to improve. As

the citizens see the dedication of the police force, he believes they will trust in their police force more and take an active part in reporting suspicious and terrorist activity.

“It’s a good feeling to be able to help the community. I am proud to be able to serve my people and help those in need,” said IP 1st Lt. Mathen through an interpreter. 🇮🇶



Photo by Sgt. Brandon LeFlore, MND-S PAO

**An Iraqi Army officer addresses a crowd of students from the Al Yakeen primary school in Basra before handing out school supplies May 7. Pens, pencils, notebooks and Girl Scout cookies, were provided to the Iraqi Security Forces for the students at this school.**



A stream of Warhorse Soldiers exit a CH-47 Chinook military transport helicopter at COB Basra April 20. The majority for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division completed it's move from Diwaniya to Basra province April 25.

# WARHORSE BRIGADE MOVES TO BASRA PROVINCE

**By Sgt. Rodney Foliente**  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

The bulk of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, completed its move to Basra April 25, as British forces prepare to complete their mission in May and depart from Iraq.

Approximately 2,200 Warhorse Soldiers from brigade headquarters; 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment; 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Inf. Regt.; 204th Bde. Support Bn.; and Special Troops Bn.,

began moving south in mid-March.

Multi-National Division – Center also moved to Basra, absorbing the area into its area of responsibility and reflagged as MND-South.

The BCT's former AOR, which also falls under MND-S and includes the Diwaniya, Babil and Najaf Provinces, was absorbed by the 172nd Inf. Bde., which also took control of 2nd BCT's 3rd Bn., 16th Field Artillery Regt.

"This mission is an exciting new challenge for our brigade. While our physical location has changed, our mission will remain the same.

The Brigade will continue to provide training, mentorship and resources through partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces in order to continue their progress as they provide security to the Iraqi population in the Basra province," said Col. Butch Kievenaar, 2nd BCT commander.

"The Warhorse Brigade was selected to replace the United Kingdom Soldiers in Basra to replicate the outstanding work we did in Diwaniyah and Najaf with the Iraqi Security Forces," continued Kievenaar.

"As always, our Soldiers did a

remarkable job getting their equipment and personnel relocated without loss or injury. Command Sgt. Maj. Thompson and I appreciate the team's hard work and focus during this very busy and changing time in Iraq," said Kievenaar.

The British 20th Armored Brigade is the last combat unit to depart Iraq, and transferred authority to the 2nd BCT in Basra May 1.

The 2nd BCT has completed approximately two-thirds of their year-long deployment. The brigade's 1st Combined Arms Bn., 67th Armored Regt., has been attached to MND-North since October and currently remains in Mosul. 🇬🇧



Warhorse Soldiers from 2nd Special Troops Battalion await transportation at Baghdad International Airport April 14. All battalions except 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment in Mosul and 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment in Scania relocated to the Basra Province.



Warhorse Brigade containers are taken off trucks at a container yard at COB Basra April 20.



Maj. Tanya Bradsher, 2nd BCT public affairs officer, gives the oath of enlistment to Sgt. Rodney Foliente, photojournalist with 2nd BCT, in a ceremony held at Camp Allenby on COB Basra April 24. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



A British officer plays with the Iraqi children during a school supply drop at the Al Yakeen primary school in Basra, May 7. Photo by Sgt. Brandon LeFlore, MND-S PAO.



(Left) Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sam Bennett, 2nd BCT aviation officer, gives instructions to Warhorse Soldiers departing Camp Echo April 16. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Below) Two Iraqi children wave at a passing patrol of Soldiers April 27. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.





Soldiers from 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 31st Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division set up a snap traffic control point in Babil province.

## Cracking Down: 3-16FA, IA fights smuggling in Babil

By Capt. Jonathan Holm  
3rd Bn, 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

**A**utomatic Battery, 3rd Bn, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has been conducting partnership operations with the Iraqi Security Forces in southern Babil province for several months.

During this time, U.S. forces and ISF have received reports that smuggling has been a problem in the area.

While the security situation in Hashimiyah remains excellent, leaders agreed that it is possible that smugglers could be taking advantage of the area's strategic location in the heart of south-central Iraq to move weapons to areas where insurgents are still active, possibly using

some of the rural roads that crisscross southern Babil.

After several weeks of preparation, ISF and U.S. leaders identified a route and time of day they believed would be most likely used by smugglers.

While key leaders from 'Automatic' Battery and 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 31st Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division conducted intelligence preparation, the Soldiers and NCOs of 1st Platoon, the "Black Knights," led the IA Soldiers through several blocks of instruction to prepare them to conduct a hasty or "snap" traffic control point.

During the training, the Black Knights trained the IA's 'Falcon' platoon on vehicle and personnel search procedures, tactical questioning, and the proper method for establishing a snap TCP at the IA compound in Khegan, Babil Province.

The "Falcons" showed tremendous improvement in both the speed and precision of their TCP set-up battle drill. The IA platoon sergeant led his platoon through two full rehearsals for setting up and operating a TCP.

As impressive as this was, Sgt. 1st Class William Jacobs, Black Knights platoon sergeant, was impressed by initiative set by the IA noncommissioned officer.

"It was great to see an NCO in the Iraqi Army feel empowered and take charge of the situation, even if it is just a training event. It shows me that when we go out to do this for real, there will be an IA NCO that will make this TCP happen and ensure it is done to standard," said Jacobs.

Once the 'Falcons' was trained and ready, they led the 'Black Knights' on a joint ground reconnaissance of the

route they identified for the TCP. The IA leaders identified a location that he thought would be the best spot for the TCP based on its location along the route and the relative security the terrain provided.

While the IA operated the TCP, key leaders from Battery A helped the IA leaders understand how this mission fits into the “big picture” of disrupting weapons smuggling in the area.

The leaders of the ‘Falcons’ expressed their gratitude in being able to train with the U.S. forces.

“I like doing operations with the Americans. It shows the people that

we are working together to keep them safe. My Soldiers and I learn a lot from the Americans,” said Lt. Mohamed, the IA Platoon Leader, with the help of an interpreter.

Although the no smugglers we found during the event, the experience was a great chance for the IA to showcase their growing tactical skills.

“Even though we didn’t catch any weapons smugglers today, I feel like this mission was successful. We trained and empowered Falcon Platoon and now that they have trained and executed a successful TCP, they will feel more confident if they have to

do one without our help in the future,” said 1st Lt. Brian Lucas, Battery A executive officer and 1st platoon leader.

“Any smugglers who are out there now feel a little less secure, knowing the IA could quickly execute a TCP anywhere and at any time,” he added. 🇮🇶



Staff Sgt. Michael Cordosi, section chief, 1st platoon, Automatic Battery, 3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., teach Iraqi Soldiers personnel searches.



**Pfc. April Gehle, chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear specialist, with the 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., inspects an M40 protective mask. Mask inspection is one of the many functions of a CBRN specialist.**

## Army training gives new future to 204th BSB Soldier

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore  
MND-S PAO

When you're fresh out of high school many paths lay ahead of you. There's college, trade school, you can pound the pavement in your hometown for a job, or you can join the armed forces. It's ultimately up to you to find the drive and ambition to realize your goals in life. In today's tough economic climate it can be difficult to start a career with no training or experience, but for a Multi-National Division – South Soldier a new opportunity practically landed in her lap.

Pfc. April Gehle, a Rockford, Ill., native and chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear specialist with the 204th Brigade Support

Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, chose to join the United States Army to meet her goals.

“When I joined the military I planned to accept a career field I could transfer to the civilian world,” said Gehle. “The military opened up a wide range of career fields that I would have never thought of fresh out of high school.”

Gehle's active enlistment period will end shortly after she completes her deployment in Basra and through a friend she met in the military, she already has a job offer as a hazardous materials certifier with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in New York City. Selecting the right career path in the military was important to Gehle, as she wanted to gain training and experience for a lifelong

career path.

“When employers see military service on your resume it shows that the applicant has training, discipline and respect for others,” said Gehle.

When Gehle enlisted she had just finished high school and didn't exactly know what she wanted to do for the rest of her life, but she was sure of one thing – she didn't want to look back at her life and say I wish I would have served in the military.

“I always wanted to see what the military would be like and I wanted to see the world,” said Gehle.

Although Gehle will soon leave active duty and join the individual ready reserve, she'll always be appreciative of the opportunities the military has offered her.


“I'll never regret joining the military,” said Gehle. “The military has helped me grow up, learn more about myself, meet a lot of different people and form lifelong friendships.”

Gehle has the support of friends she's met in the military who will miss her but hope to see her again someday.

“We met working nightshift in Kalsu,” said Pfc. Charlotte Hoover, communication specialist, 204th BSB. “It's awesome that she's able to use what she learned in the military as a civilian.”

Gehle believes the military has given her the extra push she needed to become an adult and for that she is very grateful, she said.

“Before joining the military, I was used to my parents giving me what I wanted and now I realize you get what you need,” added Gehle. “During this deployment to Iraq I've seen children who don't even own a pair of shoes, it really makes me appreciate what I have.”

The job in New York will employ both the skills she learned in her military occupational specialty school and the certifications required in her military career. Gehle is currently working on transferring her military certifications to their civilian counterpart through online courses before she redeployes in August. 



Pfc. Ryan Fones, Mahomet-Seymour, Ill., native, and calvary scout with 1-10 Cav., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division looks at wares from the local national shop located on Camp Alpha at COB Basra May 11. The Squadron will call Camp Alpha home for the rest of the deployment.

## Buffalo Soldiers settle in at Camp Alpha

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore  
MND-S PAO

The Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division have fully settled into their new living accommodations at Camp Alpha, located on COB Basra.

The Buffalo Soldiers returned to the 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. after eight months of being attached to other operational units in Multi-National Division – South. The battalion moved to COB Basra when 2nd BCT assumed command of the Basra area of operations. after a little more than a month, Camp Alpha was assigned as the home away from home for 1-10 Cav.

Since the battalion's mobilization in September, 1-10 Cav. Soldiers have moved around several times and have been based at Camp Summers, FOBs Kalsu and Endeavor, the Regional

Embassy Office in Babil, and Hillah. Some of the Soldiers feel that Camp Alpha is a step up from their previous homes.

"It's better than some of the other places we've been," said Sgt. Daniel Cox, a combat medic with 1-10 Cav. "Besides, it's always nice to be close to the [Post Exchange]."

"Camp Alpha is really not that bad," added Pfc. Ryan Fones, Mahomet-Seymour, Ill., native, and calvary scout with 1-10 Cav. "It could always be a lot worse."

Among the amenities at Camp Alpha are air-conditioned living quarters, an excellent Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center fully equipped with computers with internet and phones, and a good gym, said 1st Sgt. Michael Kelley, Camp Alpha mayor. The dining facility is conveniently located near the camp.


In addition to the MWR and gymnasium, the camp also has a local national shop on-camp and volleyball court.

"I think the Soldiers like it here overall," Kelley added.

Of all the resources on Camp Alpha, the gym and the volleyball court are probably the most popular. When not conducting missions, the Cav. hosts volleyball tournaments for the Soldiers here.

"Sgt. 1st Class [Manuel] Vinegas is a volleyball champ," said Kelley of the squadron's medical platoon noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"Just about everyone in the medical platoon lifts at the gym five or six days a week," said Cox.

The squadron anticipates working and residing at Camp Alpha until they redeploy to Fort Carson with the 2nd BCT in August. 

# Heat Can Kill!

## Prevention Works

### Drink:

- Drink enough water to replace your sweat losses.
- Don't wait to feel thirsty, your body may need water before you feel thirsty.
- Remind your buddy to drink. Refill your canteens at every opportunity.
- Look at your urine. If it is dark or if you have not urinated, you need to drink more.

### Eat:

- Eat meals to replace salts. Drinking too much water and not eating enough salt may be fatal.
- Do not follow low calorie diets while training in a hot environment.
- Do NOT take any dietary supplements containing ephedra (ma-huang) at ANY time.

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**Army Values:** Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity, & Personal Courage.

