

# The Ivy Leaf

Established in 1917 to honor those who serve



VOL. 1, NO. 15

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

“STEADFAST AND LOYAL”

AUGUST 6, 2006

Fires Brigade Soldier awarded medal for saving life of British man

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Camp Taji hosts 5k Avon Walk for Breast Cancer to heighten awareness

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## A CLOSER LOOK

Iraqi, MND-B Soldiers launch combined medical operation, help hundreds in Tarmiya



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Maj. Michael Ellis, battalion surgeon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, examines an Iraqi girl July 10 during a medical operation at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic.

Story and photos by Spc. C. Terrell Turner  
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

**U**nder the watchful eyes of the Iraqi army and the local Iraqi police force, 743 Iraqi citizens lined-up around the Tarmiya Medical Clinic July 10 for a

combined medical operation.

Six Iraqi medics from the 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, with the support of Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, helped screen patients while a doctor and a physician's assistant from Multi-

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## NEWS FROM THE FRONT

### Airmen, MND-B Soldiers foil terrorists attempt to emplace IED

BAGHDAD – The combined efforts of U.S. Air Force Airmen and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers foiled the efforts of terrorists attempting to emplace an improvised-explosive device July 17 south of Baghdad.

Airmen from the 11th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron's Joint Terminal Attack Controller unit notified Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 67th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, of reports from their F-15E Eagle pilots of four men digging beside a road.

The Soldiers moved to investigate the report and, upon arrival, saw the four suspects flee the area in a van.

The F-15E pilots departed the area to refuel and handed the operation over to an F-16 Falcon aircrew, who followed the suspects' movements from the sky and spotted them abandoning their vehicle. The pilots continued to relay the information to the JTAC on the ground.

The JTAC was able to lead the Soldiers on the ground to the vehicle, where they discovered four 152mm rounds and detonation cord.

*(Courtesy of MND – B)*

### Iraqi, MND-B Soldiers uncover weapons cache in Baghdad

BAGHDAD – Iraqi soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, and Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, unearthed a weapons cache July 18.

The Soldiers were conducting a search of an area that had previously yielded a weapons cache when they located a new cache of weapons, containing 24 bayonets, an RPK machine gun, a G-3 assault rifle, five hand grenades,

two 30mm rounds, 300 7.62mm rounds, 200 rounds of assorted ammunition, four parachute flares, a mortar site, assorted military gear and 55,000 Iraqi Dinar. *(Courtesy of MND – B)*

### IA soldiers capture IED manufacturers

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division captured four terrorists in a small town south of Al Iskandariyah during an early morning raid July 21.

The captured terrorists were wanted for producing vehicle-borne improvised-explosive devices and ground secured improvised-explosive devices

and the murder of local citizens.

The terrorists have been detained by the Iraqi army.

*(Courtesy of MND – B)*

### MND-B Soldiers thwart terrorist attack

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers prevented a terrorist attack and detained one terrorist July 18 while he was emplacing an improvised-explosive device southwest of Baghdad.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, observed two terrorists digging on the side of the road; one terrorist fled cap-

ture and the other was taken into custody. MND-B Soldiers discovered a cache containing four IEDs, a 50mm mortar tube, 10 60mm mortars, two AK-47s, a camera with a night vision sight system attached and a drum of 7.62mm ammunition.

A search of the area also led to the seizure of a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and three RPG rounds. The area was cordoned off and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called to the scene.

*(Courtesy of MND – B)*

### MND-B Soldiers detain 4 at illegal checkpoint

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from

8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, investigating a tip on an illegal checkpoint, detained four suspected terrorists in west Baghdad July 22 at approximately 10:30 p.m.

MND-B Soldiers arrived in the area and located four men, each armed with AK-47s, who were manning the illegal checkpoint.

The suspects did not have permits and were detained. Upon further investigation of the area, Soldiers found another AK-47, two bolt-action rifles and an Iraqi police protective vest.

*(Courtesy of MND – B)*



Photo by 1st Lt. Georginia Bradshaw, 4th BCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.

### 506th hits 506th at historic monument

FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Col. Thomas Vail, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, administers the oath of reenlistment to Sgt. Joshua Wicker, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, near the historic cross sabers in Baghdad's International Zone July 19. The reenlistment is unique in that he is the 506th Soldier to reenlist in the 506th Infantry Regiment – and the 101st Soldier to reenlist in his squadron in the 101st Abn. Div. To date, the brigade has reenlisted more than 540 Soldiers during its deployment to Iraq and was the first brigade combat team in the 101st Abn. Div. to reach 100 percent of its reenlistment goals.

## The Ivy Leaf

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# Medic awarded Impact ARCOM

Story by Spc. Allison Churchill  
Fires Bde. PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq –  
A medic with 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, was awarded an Impact Army Commendation Medal here July 15 for saving the life of a British man injured in a rollover near Camp Liberty Entry Control Point 4 June 27.

Shortly after 3 a.m., Spc. Reginald Lockett was manning the ECP at the time of the incident, along with Staff Sgt. Barron Denmark, a nuclear, biological and chemical noncommissioned officer, also with 2-20 FA, Staff Sgt. Darrell Vetter,

sergeant of the guard, Company E, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, Minnesota National Guard, and Sgt. Damian Thielke, assistant sergeant of the guard, also of Co. E, 134th BSB.

“We were talking about the (mass casualty) drill we were going to have in a couple days,” said Lockett, of Cleveland. “Out of nowhere, a British Department of Defense member came up to the gate explaining to us they had a major rollover incident.”

Lockett told the individual he couldn't leave the gate in a non-armored vehicle, so the damaged vehicle and four patients were brought to the gate.

Two of the patients were believed to

have been seriously injured. Lockett discovered one had a possible spinal injury and had to be kept stable. The other was unconscious, not breathing and didn't have a pulse.

“I immediately started CPR and revived him,” said Lockett.

When an ambulance came in response to the nine-line medical evacuation call, the patient suffered cardiac arrest again after Lockett and the other guards loaded him into the vehicle.

Lockett again revived the patient, all the while checking on the three others. He started intravenous support on another patient.

It was the first time the four guards

had worked together. Lockett said he credits Denmark, Vetter and Thielke for making the operation run so smoothly.

“Without them, the whole mission would have been unsuccessful,” said Lockett.

When presenting the Impact ARCOM to Lockett, Col. Allen Batschelet, commander, Fires Bde., talked about the proud tradition of Army medics.

“We're all glad to have them around on our convoys,” said Batschelet. “They're absolutely critical to our success.”

1st Lt. Wesley Ket, medical platoon leader, 2-20 FA, said all four patients were treated and released within hours from the 602nd Troop Medical Clinic.

## Iraqi army, MND-B Soldiers search for information in Ayabachi



AYABACHI, Iraq – Sgt. William Hannah, native of Visalia, Calif., intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, attached to Company D, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – North, stands duty with his squad automatic weapon atop a schoolhouse in Ayabachi July 17.

Story and photo by Pfc. Paul Harris  
3rd HBCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

AYABACHI, Iraq –

Elements of the Iraqi army conducted a raid on the town of Ayabachi July 17 to root out insurgents and establish a presence in a town known to have insurgent activity.

This was a combined effort with the 3rd and 4th Battalions, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division; 9th Iraqi Army Division form Tikrit and 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attached to Multi-National Division – North.

Iraqi and U.S. forces inserted their troops via air and ground into this riverside town. Upon insertion, the two forces met little to no resistance and were able to secure the town quickly.

Iraqi and U.S. forces began going door-to-door to ask local residents if they knew of insurgents in the area. The Soldiers would take the information found and cross reference it with an intelligence compiled from previous missions and use the information to hunt down insurgents.

“The people of the town have been pretty much terrified by the terrorists,” said Capt. Johnny Evans, commander, Company D, 1-8 CAB. “It is like the old version of the ‘Wild West’ and what we have done is restore order to this town.”

It was the job of Sgt. Robert Pate, team leader, 2nd Platoon, Company B, attached to Company D, 1-8 CAB, to clear the route leading to Ayabachi of potential explosives, none were found and he was impressed with the way the Iraqi army conducted themselves during the operation in which temperatures during the day reached upward of 130 degrees.

By the actions of the Iraqi army and his fellow Soldiers, Pate said he was confident the insurgents would get the message.

“(This mission) lets these people know that we are still here and we are not going to tolerate the behavior of attacking Coalition Forces,” Pate said.

This was the first mission since the 4/1/4 IAD took over its new area of operation from Coalition Forces, a point that Col. Shaker Ferris Kadub, commander, 4/1/4 IAD, wanted to make to the local townspeople.

“Among the Iraqi people, there is a bad reaction to the terrorists and it is important to show the Iraqi people the Iraqi army is capable of saving its people from the bad guys,” Shaker said.

Shaker had the influential religious leaders of the mixed Sunni and Shia town, along with local council members, attend an impromptu meeting to discuss town issues and how to fight the insurgency.

“I want them to hear my voice to prove to them I am able to save them,” Shaker said. “Ask them ‘what can I do to

SEE AYABACHI, PG. 7

# Tactical operations center

4th Brigade Combat Team's command post serves as brigade's brain, brings expertise together

Story and photo by Pfc. Jason Dangel  
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div

BAGHDAD —

The brain, defined as a part of the spine and central nervous system, is responsible for controlling all functions in the human body. Just like the human brain, the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's Tactical Operation Center never stops running and operates 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

The TOC, or command post, manages all operations within the brigade combat team. It is where all brigade staff sections come together to bring their expertise to the "fight," said Sgt. Maj. Charles Geisewite, operations sergeant major, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT.

"This 'meeting of the minds' allows the brigade commander and senior staff to make informed decisions and then implement the plan from one location where all assets are available," Geisewite explained.

The TOC provides a facility for planning, communication and visualization where the brigade commander and his staff can access command and control resources, he said. "Inside the CP, the command group has access to real-time data, voice and imagery to make critical decisions rapidly," said Geisewite, a native of Austin, Texas.

Operations in the command post range from combat operations to peace enforcement, intelligence gathering, information operations, policing, essential services and a multitude of other operations requiring a variety of skills to accomplish the combat team's mission.

"The command post is not the 'heart,' that is always the Soldiers that make up the brigade," Geisewite explained. "Everyone must work together seamlessly in order to function successfully."

United States military personnel are not the only ones involved in the "Cobra" Brigade's TOC operations.

As described by Geisewite, the command post is joint and multi-national, meaning representatives from sister services and other Coalition Forces play key roles and vital assets to the Cobra team.

Servicemembers from the U.S. Air Force and Navy, the British army and liaison officers from the Georgian army are all key players in the mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The separate sections and individuals must work together and provide the command group with the information needed to accomplish the mission.

On any given day, the Soldiers operating in the TOC communicate with the brigade's different battalions and report all significant activity occurring in the area of



FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq — Cpl. John Peters and Pvt. Allen Patz, radio transmissions operators, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, talk to Soldiers at 4th Inf. Div. headquarters from the 4th BCT Tactical Operations Center.

operations to Multi-National Division — Baghdad headquarters.

Everyone working in the TOC has a part in the success of operations, said Capt. Nicholas Graham, fragmentary order coordinator, HHC, 4th BCT.

"The TOC basically consolidates all the information from all our different battalions," explained Graham. "If there is an event that happens out in our battle space, or out on a convoy or patrol, all the information is reported to us here in the TOC and we act accordingly depending on the situation."

"There is not one function that I can say is the TOC's bread and butter. There are so many moving pieces and everything must fall into place in order for us to be successful," said the native of Hanover, Ind.

Cpl. John Peters, a new member to the TOC team, who serves as command post of the future operator and radio transmissions operator, with HHC, 4th BCT, said the days can sometimes be very boring but things can

change in an instant.

The young noncommissioned officer from Fresno, Calif., reminisced about his time on the ground conducting patrols during his first deployment to Iraq in 2004 and said he felt his experience on the ground helps him successfully accomplish his job in the TOC.

"Sometimes when units on the ground are reporting some kind of an incident, I can visualize what is taking place because I've been there and it makes it easier for me to record the event and pass it on to (4th Infantry) Division," he said.

As the brigade carries on with its mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the TOC will continue to provide command and control assets to all the Soldiers of the 4th BCT.

From informing and guiding units on the ground to ensuring all the components of the facility are properly maintained and functional, the 4th BCT TOC Soldiers remain an important element in the fight for the brigade.

## Cavalry Soldiers react after IED detonation, vehicle rollover

Story by Pfc. Paul Ondik  
4th BCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.

FOB RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq — "I looked across the vehicle, which was now upside-down," recalled the Soldier. "My gunner was actually pinned between the gun and the roof from the dog tags up. My door was blown open."

It was a scene straight out of a Soldier's nightmare, but it is exactly what happened to the humvee 1st Sgt. James Westover, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, was riding in May 19 in Salman Pak.

On the way from an Iraqi council meeting to another objective, his three-vehicle convoy was hit by an improvised-explosive device made from high-caliber artillery rounds.

"It was in kind of slow-motion," said Westover. "There was smoke and glass flying everywhere. The driver's side window flew through the vehicle and hit the (communications) equipment and hit me in the shoulder. I looked and we were slowly gliding forward to go off of the embankment."

The concussion from the blast of the IED had knocked the driver unconscious. The vehicle overturned as it was blown off the road.

"We were up-side down," Westover said. With his driver unconscious and Sgt. Percell Phillips, his gunner, incapacitated, Westover scrambled to exit the vehicle and assessed the situation. "We thought the gunner was in the worst shape," said Westover. "It turns out that he didn't even have a scratch. Then we started looking at

the driver"

The blast of the IED had actually blown the door of the vehicle inside of its seams. The driver was trapped in his seat and injured.

Westover and Spc. Brian Stout, a combat medic, who had been sitting behind Westover in the vehicle, worked on the driver.

The other Soldier that had been in the vehicle, Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Meyers, mortar section sergeant, had no major injuries. New to the unit, he was riding along to familiarize himself with the unit and its area of operations.

Westover would find out later that his wrist had been broken in the attack.

"I don't think I paid any attention to the injury," said Westover. "When the adrenaline gets going, you don't really notice it

until later, but I did have a cast for a couple of weeks."

The situation was nothing new to Stout. "I've been in convoys that have been hit with IEDs a couple of times, but this was the first one to hit my vehicle," Stout said.

Westover, who received an Army Commendation Medal with Valor device for his actions, was very happy with the job his troops did.

"Everyone's reaction was just like a battle drill," said Westover. "From the medic on up to the rest of the crew, everyone just reacted — no one had to give them guidance. People were automatically going into search mode, security mode and recovery mode."

After the driver was evacuated, Westover stayed back to help recover the vehicle.

# Modularity an advantage for CAB

Story by Spc. Creighton Holub  
CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The modular structure of the 4th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade is making the camp's ammunition transfer holding point more efficient and safe.

With more trained ammo specialists assigned to the brigade, the unit has proven to be more proficient in ammunition distribution and control operations.

Prior to the brigade's transformation to modularity, the Soldiers were task organized to the brigades as missions required.

"In wartime, you have to have your bullets," said Warrant Officer I Mark Jackson, the brigade's ammo technician assigned to Headquarters Support Company, 404th Aviation Support Battalion. "Under modularity, a brigade can manage the bullets at this level. If they send us anywhere in the world, we can provide for ourselves."

Jackson deployed with the 101st Airborne Division during the Operation Iraqi Freedom kickoff and is back in Iraq with the Ivy Division.

He explained that the CAB's and the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div.'s ammunition personnel support more than just their units assigned here at Taji; they also support other Coalition Forces assigned to Camp Taji.

The transfer to modularity also replaced inexperienced Soldiers, who held other military occupational specialties but worked as ammunition specialists, with those trained specifically as ammo specialists, said Jackson. Because of this, the overall ATHP is structured with more experienced personnel.

In the new design, there are also multiple military personnel who are qualified to classify the physical condition of ammunition. In the past, one civilian worker was

only person qualified to support 10 of the division's FOBs.

Jackson also pointed out some of the ammo that is set for disposal dates back to the liberation of Baghdad. "We've been re-inspecting a lot of old ammo from previous deployments," said Spc. Victor Guzman, an ammunition specialist from Brownsville, Texas, assigned to Company A, 404th Aviation Support Battalion. "If the ammo doesn't pass the inspection, then it's given to explosive ordnance disposal personnel for disposal or it's sent to the United States for repair."

The ammunition that passes inspection is put into the unit's stock in the ATHP. The ammunition is arranged in the ATHP to ensure safe storage and operations.

"We're putting up more Hesco barriers so we can divide the ammo by net explosive weight," Guzman added.

There are berms and Hesco barriers that

were recently put up to store the ammo into separated areas based on the net explosive weight of the munitions. The munitions will be cataloged and mixed with the various weaponry stored in the sections. This is done to ensure that in case an accident should occur, the munitions do not literally go up in flames.

The unit has also instituted additional safety measures for its personnel.

"We wear road guard vests at night and use flashlights," said Sgt. Maria Solis, an ammo specialist assigned to Company A, 404th Aviation Support Battalion. "We give people working here from other military occupational specialties a safety briefing every morning."

While the mission is always placed first, the safety of the ammo specialists and their munitions is paramount since the missiles are needed to protect Soldiers on the ground.

## STB, 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div. donates equipment to Iraqi essential services departments

Story and photo by Pfc. Jason Dangel  
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD — The Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's Infrastructure Coordination Element, donated approximately \$2 million worth of excavating and clean-up equipment to essential services departments from the Rasheed and Karradah Districts in Baghdad July 23.

The equipment, purchased from funds seized from former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, will now be used to help restore quality of life for citizens in the Baghdad districts. Each district, or beladiya, received a backhoe/loader, a Mitsubishi pickup truck, and a Mitsubishi L200 Bongo truck, as well as various other supplies, to aid them in their work as they continue to clean up the streets of Baghdad. Compressors, diesel generators and welding machines were also included in the donation package provided by the STB ICE team.

"My main focus is building capacity and helping the people of Iraq," said Lt. Col. Joseph Gandara, commander, STB, 4th BCT. "It makes me feel good that we can actually go out and help people and improve their quality of life," Gandara said.

This is the second time the ICE cell and the STB have coordinated for an equipment donation of this size, said Gandara.

"Our job here is to help the Iraqi people," said Pfc. Christopher MacDonald, infantryman and ICE cell member, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, STB. "That is why we are giving away this equipment – so that they know we are behind them, and we are willing to help, whatever it takes."

Salas Mesal, director general, Rasheed Essential Services, said he and his men need all the support they can get and any donations made to them by the U.S.



**BAGHDAD – Excavating equipment stands ready to be received by Iraqi essential services employees at Forward Operating Base Prosperity July 23. The equipment was donated by the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's Special Troops Battalion Infrastructure Coordination Element. Departments in the Karradah and Rasheed districts in central and southern Baghdad received approximately \$2 million worth of equipment.**

Government are greatly appreciated.

"I'm very glad we received this equipment today," Mesal said. "This will help maximize our efforts in order to better serve our people throughout the city."

According to Gandara, this is the last large donation slated for the STB ICE. The unit will now focus on projects designed to increase the capacity of essential services

throughout the city. "We have many other projects we are undertaking right now. It may not be actually donating equipment, but we are building capacity and delivering capability to the Iraqi people."

To date, the ICE has managed 94 essential service projects valued at more than \$48 million within the brigade's area of operations.

## CLINIC

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

National Division – Baghdad provided medical assistance to local residents, who rely solely on the clinic for treatment.

"Our mission was to conduct a medical operation at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic and provide local citizens with free pharmaceuticals for the day," said Capt. John Bennett, civil affairs officer-in-charge from Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit attached to the 1st BCT.

"We supplied about \$5,000 worth of pharmaceuticals purchased from a local

pharmacy to put money back into the economy."

Bennett said his unit has worked in the area for about 2.5 months so far and the operation was planned mostly by the local citizens.

"This was an opportunity for the local council members to come in and be seen so the people would know they were responsible," said Bennett. "Doctor Hussein, the head doctor, the Iraqi army and the police were a big part of this."

The Iraqi citizens were pleased at the outcome of the day.

"The doctors told me that I have diabetes, and they gave me a prescription for

insulin," said Sayed, a local man who came in for treatment. "They were friendly and very helpful. We can't go to Baghdad even though we get sicker and sicker. I wish that God would bless the American and the Iraqi armies to make it safer here for us."

As the Iraqis become more able to sustain themselves, Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers are gradually taking a back seat.

"I've done half a dozen or so or these operations, but I'm just helping out today," said Maj. Michael Ellis, battalion surgeon, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st BCT. "This is a good facili-

ty. I would say they are doing good work here with what they have available."

The staff appreciated the assistance the local groups provided for the event.

"It's a good day. The Americans bring medicine that we run out of," said Abdellah, medical assistant. "I thank them for that. Baghdad is too far to go. The people appreciate the help because the medicine is free when the Americans come."

The medical operations conducted by the 1st BCT, in cooperation with the Iraqi army and local citizens, are scheduled to continue throughout the 4th Inf. Div.'s area of operations.

# Engineer brigade Soldiers continue to improve living conditions in Kalsu

Story and photo by Spc. Edgar Reyes  
2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FOB KALSU, Iraq – Soldiers from Company C, 62nd Engineer Battalion, 16th Engineer Brigade, currently working with Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, continue improving living conditions here with the construction of new, solid structures, which are scheduled for completion this fall.

The structures will include work offices, Soldier billets and a hangar, which will provide work space for more than 2,500 Soldiers moving here from Forward Operating Base Duke, located near Najaf, as well as units scheduled to replace the 2nd BCT this fall.

There are seven office buildings under construction,

including a brigade tactical operations center, two battalion headquarters and four buildings capable of holding four company command posts each, or a total of 16 companies. Each building has foam insulation and air-conditioning, to keep them cool during the summer months. Electrical systems and outlets are installed throughout the structures, which will help eliminate power surges common in the older tents and buildings.

The buildings are pre-wired with fiber optics and will provide Soldiers access to the tactical network without time-consuming installations.

“These new work spaces are pretty cost efficient compared to the tents and old buildings we have now,” said Capt. Gamble Monney, assistant engineer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT. “They use energy

efficiently, are easier to maintain and are cheaper in the long run.”

Several Soldier billets are under construction to replace old tents used for the transitioning of incoming and outgoing units. Each billet is composed of two rooms, which will hold between six to 12 Soldiers each. Between the rooms lies a lounging area for Soldiers to use during their downtime.

More than 130 Soldiers are expected to occupy the billets when construction is finished, said Capt. Derek Enslow, construction officer, Co. C, 62nd Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde.

The Soldiers will gradually transfer the trailers they are currently living in to the replacement units and Soldiers coming in and will move into the new billets while waiting to deploy back to the United States.

A third project in development is a clamshell hangar near the airfield on Kalsu. The hangar will be used by aviation assets to perform maintenance away from dust and other weather elements, which rapidly decrease the lifespan of equipment, said Enslow.

Building new structures here not only improves Soldiers’ living conditions but also helps the local economy grow. More than \$1.5 million worth of materials are purchased through a local contractor in the area, who buys materials from Iraqi vendors. The contractor yields profits from buying materials less than the prices estimated in the winning contract bid. He then floods the local economy with American dollars he spent buying materials, Enslow said.

“Fixing the economy is one of the fastest ways to rebuild this country’s infrastructure,” said Enslow. “When you have trade, you open up job opportunities. We are investing in the local economy to help them rebuild their country.”

With more than 4,000 work-hours logged during the last two months, Soldiers continue working around the clock to complete the project on schedule.

“I think we’re doing great,” said Staff Sgt. William McDaniel, project noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Co. C, 62nd Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde. “We are staying on schedule; we started late, but we caught up, which is an accomplishment when you deal with construction.”

Although the expansion of FOB Kalsu is an enormous project, it is one the Soldiers of the 62nd Eng. Bn are excited about doing, said Capt. Charles Fagerquist, commander, Co. C, 62nd Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde.

“My company possesses incredible skills, and big missions like this allow their skills to shine,” Fagerquist concluded.



FOB KALSU, Iraq – Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, 4th Infantry Division (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Riley, 16th Engineer Brigade (center), listen to a Soldier from the 62nd Engineer Battalion give a lesson on a hydraulic pick being used during a recent construction project. The new buildings will accommodate Soldiers moving in from Forward Operating Base Duke, located near Najaf.

## Transportation Soldiers take supply mission door-to-door

Story by Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
Sust. Bde. PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

Back in the states, having a UPS truck pull up to deliver an expected package is a special treat; on Camp Taji, the closest thing units have to that is the 432nd Transportation Company.

The Puerto Rican Army Reserve unit, based out of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico, is charged with carrying out the last step for any piece of cargo traveling through the 4th Sustainment Brigade’s tasked routes and camps across Baghdad: delivering items to unit customers.

While the items transported have a more military flair – repair parts and water versus birthday presents and store purchases from delivery persons in the states – cus-

tomers here still appreciate the deliveries.

“They’re glad to see us,” said Sgt. 1st Class Hector Perez, the company truck master. “They know that we get them their parts faster. Parts don’t just sit in a yard somewhere, lost.”

The unit moves containers and pallets from the centralized receiving shipping point to customers on camp. The brigade’s use of the CRSP concept allows everything from damaged vehicles to water and parts to be easily tracked, palletized and shipped with minimal fuss. Both items sent out and those bound for Camp Taji itself arrive at the centralized point, and the 432nd takes it the final step.

“The old system made (the customer) come to us,” said Capt. Jakara Cruz-Osorio, 432nd commander. Now they go to the customer, added Jakara. “It’s easier for them.”

The CRSP concept also allows for more efficient supply movement, Perez said. Exercising total control over cargo from start to finish allows personnel to keep supply yards empty and customer stocks full.

The 432nd is relatively new, formed from other units back in October. Before deploying in April, Cruz and the 12 Soldiers from her prior command had to assess the skills and capabilities of the available talent.

Luckily, the unit had been called up to fulfill its intended purpose in Iraq, so the unit could use Soldiers with a transportation background to help train the new arrivals.

“We made sure to send people to school before we left,” Cruz said, explaining how she worked to bring everybody up to speed on how to operate in a transportation company.

“We take Soldiers with experience and put them with Soldiers without experience.”

For Soldiers like Spc. David Porter, civilian experience has helped a lot. He drives trucks for a living outside and inside the military. “Being a truck driver on the outside gives you an edge because you know what freight is about,” Porter said.

He’s been able to relay his learned ins and outs of delivering supplies – small but important issues for truck drivers like how yards are typically set up, how to interact with the yard operators and how to get a truck in and out of spaces quickly.

The 432nd performs missions both on and off post, typically averaging 16,000 miles on Iraq roads every month with 2,000 tons of cargo delivered. They are currently assigned to the 189th Corps Support Battalion.

# IA, MND-B aid citizens caught in terrorist attack

Photos by Maj. Christopher Quick, Information operations officer, 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.

**RIGHT: FOB MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq** – An Iraqi woman expresses her emotions at the deadly events July 17 as Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers pull security at a market place in Mahmudiyah following a terrorist attack using mortars and small-arms fire. Reports indicate 42 people were killed and 70 were wounded. Iraqi army soldiers conducted a search of the area and found two suspected terrorists in a nearby house with two rocket-propelled grenades, an AK-47 rifle and a bag containing an unknown number of grenades. The suspects were taken into custody.

**BELOW: FOB MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq** – Debris sits at the scene of a deadly attack on a market place July 17.



**LEFT: FOB MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq** – An Iraqi soldier patrols the streets July 17 after a deadly terrorist attack at a market place in Mahmudiyah. Iraqi soldiers, along with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers, secured the perimeter of the market place. In an operation July 28, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, teamed up with Iraqi police from Iskandariyah and captured five terrorists suspected of connections with the July 17 attack.

## AYABACHI,

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

make this place safer' and trust us. I expect from the people a positive reaction, I do not expect to clear the area of terrorists 100 percent but it is a start. Our actions show that we are willing to come back again."

Marine Maj. Todd Bottoms, military transition team officer-in-charge, Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group from Camp Pendleton, Calif., attached to 1-8 CAB, has been working closely with

the Iraqi battalion as a liaison to the Iraqi forces and Coalition Forces planning the operation.

"I would like to see the Iraqi people understand the Iraqi army is security, the future of security ... and not turn to criminals or thugs for their protection," said Bottoms.

To help get the message across, flyers were printed in Arabic urging the Iraqis not to be intimidated by the insurgents and that helping the terrorists was helping to tear the country apart.

Capt. David Banks, civil affairs team

leader, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion from Fort Dix, N.J., attached to Co. D, 1-8 CAB, has worked hard to put the town back together. His team's job during the operation was to assess the town on four key areas: water, sewage, electricity and transportation.

Water was a main concern of the town because the water comes directly from the river untreated. Banks will order chlorine to be delivered to the town so the Iraqis can learn how to treat the water themselves.

Though the town has needs, Ayabachi

is one of the better villages Banks has been in. The roads are paved and they have at least eight to 10 hours of power at a minimum, which is impressive for this region, he said.

"We have learned in our time here we need to approach the Iraqi people in a respectful manner and I think we are generally successful at that," Banks said. "The end result I would like to see is opening a door so we can return to work with these people; knowing when I go home, my team made a small difference out here."

# Iraq police rolling along

Iraqi police see new police trucks as symbols of progress, sign of security on streets in Najaf

Story and photo by Cpl. Michael Molinaro  
2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

FOB DUKE, Iraq –

Iraqi police in the Najaf province gain new confidence and skills every day, whether it's on the job patrolling the streets or training with Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Recently, Multi-National Division – Baghdad presented them an additional boost to their capabilities when it provided them 40 brand-new police trucks to the fleet of IP vehicles in the Najaf province July 17 at the Crucible training complex at Forward Operating Base Duke.

The trucks, acquired through a U.S. government program, were manufactured in the United States. They are three-quarter ton, four-wheel drive police vehicles which can seat six people and handle almost any situation.

"The trucks are more than just vehicles," said Maj. Gen. Abbas, Najaf provincial police chief. "They symbolize the future of the holy province of Najaf. When people see these on the roads, they will know that their streets are safe and secure."

IPs in Najaf previously used smaller, less-equipped trucks while on patrol; the new, modern vehicles come with many accessories vital for a police force to provide security for its citizens. Front-end bumpers were installed to assist citizens when their vehicles may break down, along with a trailer hitch on the rear bumper to tow stranded automobiles.

"This signifies more than pieces of equipment being given from Coalition Forces to the Iraqi Security Forces," said Maj. Tim Knowles, executive officer, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT. "It signifies the relationship the Coalition has with the leaders and the people of Najaf."

Numerous lights, a loud siren-and-speaker system, and enhanced radios are also new to the IPs.

"These new trucks are very nice," said Lt. Sahaam. "Immediately, our confidence is high knowing we will be patrolling our streets with these new trucks."

The donation coincides with the continued training of Iraqi police at the Crucible by Soldiers from 3-16 FA and the International Police Liaison Officer program. Approximately 150 IPs complete the program every two weeks. Thus far, more than 1,000 have graduated, said Knowles.

"The trucks are modern and well-prepared, just like the Iraqi Security Forces," said Mark Davison, provincial reconstruction team leader and a representative from the U.S. state department.



FOB KALSU, Iraq – An Iraqi police officer directs the flow of IP vehicles out of the Crucible training complex at Forward Operating Base Duke July 17. The vehicles were donated to the IPs from the U.S. government. IPs continue to receive enhanced police training from Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and the International Police Liaison Training program.

IPs from Karrar, Al Ghari, Manathera, Radhwiya and other regions and towns from the province were presented the keys to the vehicles, briefed on the trucks capabilities and then drove them off to their respective IP stations. The trucks will immediately be put into use as the IPs continue to strive to keep the streets of Najaf safe from terrorism.

IPs have been embraced by the people of Najaf, said Assad Sultan, governor of Najaf. The area is revered

throughout the Islamic faith and is a tourist haven for Shiites. The progress the ISF have made in the region has made it a mecca for both tourists and transplanted Iraqis from other areas of the country.

"People are coming to Najaf because they see people living without fear," the governor remarked. "That is attributed to our security forces and their professionalism. These new trucks are another symbol of the new, great Iraq that is our future."

## Yusufiyah undergoes gradual restoration with help of U.S. military

Story by Spc. George Welcome  
2nd BCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – The outdoor market was quite vibrant on the morning of July 13. The sounds of bleating car horns, chickens squawking for freedom from a vendor's cage, and conversations of passersby seemed to serve as a soundtrack for the activity taking place at the market. As far as the eye could see, sellers were displaying everything from clothing to ice and produce that looked so fresh, it could have only been harvested minutes before.

The market place was full of faces, which seemed to be looking forward to a peaceful and uneventful day.

Peaceful and uneventful were not always words that could be synonymous with the "nahia" of Yusufiyah. Just south-

west of Baghdad, it was once an insurgent haven.

While there still remains work in making Yusufiyah more stable, local Iraqi citizens perhaps feel that the efforts of coalition forces and brave Iraqi citizens have had a positive impact on the area.

"Before the American Army came to this area, it was full of insurgents and thieves and killers," said Ali. "They came to this area and made it better and brought some safety, but there are still occasional shooting and IEDs."

There have been a number of community improvement projects completed in Yusufiyah including a council building and a health clinic, in an effort to bring normalcy to the lives of the people there.

"The Yusufiyah nahia council building was recently completed," said Capt.

William Perrich, of the 413th Civil Affairs Battalion. "It has been operational for about two months. It was one of the projects we inherited when we arrived here.

"The primary health clinic is also staffed and is now treating patients. It was closed briefly while it was being remodeled. At that time, most Yusufiyah residents were going to expensive private health clinics or to Mahmudiyah's hospital for treatment."

The citizens of Yusufiyah have had their share of ups and downs in the past years. Before the war for Iraq's freedom began, it had been largely a farming community in which it retained a great degree of independence from the government in Baghdad.

"This area depended on itself," said Ali. "The farmer would go to work and

his family's food would come from the work."

While the people are appreciative of the effort being put into their community – the push for more and better water, electricity output and schools for their children – they still say that certain items are difficult to attain.

"Fuel is a very important need for us," said Haseena, a woman who ran a small produce stand. "We don't have gas. We need gas to cook and fuel to use in cars. It's very expensive and hard to get."

Despite the limited access to certain supplies, the people said they feel confident that with time and help, that their government will be able to supply their needs. "If the American government helps our government, then our government will be able to support us," Ali said.

# Brigade combat team works to improve Iraqi infrastructure, basic living conditions

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams  
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD –

**T**he Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team are working diligently at setting the conditions for the Iraqi government to take charge of the essential services and public works within Baghdad.

The brigade's Special Troops Battalion has taken the

lead in the fight to help the Iraqi government maintain and improve upon its essential services – utilities such as water, sewer, electricity and sanitation, for the Iraqi people living in southwestern Baghdad, said Lt. Col. Joe Gandara, commander, STB.

The battalion's assets, such as the Infrastructure Coordination Element, a group of engineers, officers and Soldiers, dedicated to helping Iraqis take the lead in building a better Baghdad, work with the local Beladiyas,

or neighborhoods, and the governing authority to ensure the city of Baghdad is ready to improve the Iraqi people's living conditions. The foundation of the projects, the infrastructure, is a series of essential services, such as water and electricity, which are essential for the Iraqi people to improve their basic living conditions.

"The Brigade's mission is to create an environment that enables the Iraqi government to establish rule of law in Baghdad and transition to Iraqi control," said Capt. Ryan Parks, sewer and water projects manager, STB.

"By developing and managing infrastructure projects, the ICE is helping create that environment," he explained. "If the citizens of Baghdad do not have to worry about necessities such as potable water and electricity, they can focus more on establishing governance and order to Iraq."

To date, he added, the ICE cell has managed 94 essential service projects worth more than \$48 million. The projects also provide both short and long-term employment for Iraqis, to include hiring local laborers from different districts to work on projects.

"There are countless neighborhoods and citizens around Baghdad that are benefiting from new infrastructure projects and from rehabilitation projects," he said.

Facing several challenges, to include lack of funding, unemployment and maintaining security in Baghdad, the work accomplished to date is setting the conditions for the Iraqis to be successful.

In addition to supporting the brigade in its mission to secure and rebuild central, western and southern Baghdad, to include the International Zone, the Karadah Peninsula and Al Rasheed District, the Special Troops Battalion is also responsible for working with the Iraqi government to facilitate the rebuilding of infrastructure in the Baghdad area.

"The ICE is also the unit's primary liaison with the Amanat (Baghdad city government), local district utility directors, and outside agencies such as United States Army Corps of Engineers, Project Contracting Office and the Provincial Reconstruction Team," Parks said.

As the Iraqi government transitions into the role of dispersing interim funds to rebuild the infrastructure, the role of civil military operations is changing, he explained.

"We bridge the gap by developing a relationship with not only the Iraqis, to gain their priorities – that is really where we are trying to focus at – but also to make sure that we begin to build a relationship with the (Iraqi) state departments that are currently standing up," said Maj. Ray Proske, executive officer, Special Troops Battalion, 4th BCT.

The coordination cell works with local leaders to identify and service the particular needs of their communities and works to coordinate the repair of Iraqi essential services within the brigade's prescribed area of operations. This task will only be accomplished once the city begins to regulate the essential services it provides to the people living in Baghdad, explained Proske.

The success of the battalion in its mission to improve the lifestyle of the Iraqi people cannot be gauged in dollars or in projects alone, added Gandara. The real success is developing a relationship between the city government and the local townships within the city to identify and meet the real needs of the people.

The real challenge is teaching civics to the local governance and its people as well as the meaning of a self-representative government, he explained.

"We also have the advantage of training the Iraqi people of doing it themselves within the parameters of a normal society," Gandara said, "so that we know that we have built something that will stand – that I know will be a success within the traditions and culture of the Arab peoples."



**BAGHDAD –** An Iraqi laborer welds water pipes used in water treatment facilities in Baghdad's International Zone. The projects of the 4th Brigade Combat Team's Special Troops Battalion's Infrastructure Coordination Element provide both temporary and permanent employment to Iraqis and, in most cases, the Iraqi contractors hire local laborers from the different districts where the projects take place, said Capt. Ryan Parks, sewer and water projects manager, STB, 4th BCT, 4th Infantry Division.

# Armor Soldiers capture wanted terrorist

Story by Maj. James Lowe  
4th BCT PAO, 101st Abn Div.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, serving with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, captured a high-valued terrorist July 17 in the New Baghdad district of eastern Baghdad.

While patrolling as part of Operation Together Forward, an MND-B operation geared to reduce sectarian violence and murders, Soldiers noticed two individuals behaving suspiciously while in a parked vehicle.

The Soldiers searched the vehicle and discovered a pistol, which the men had no permit for, and printed documents that indicated the men supported terrorist activities. The Soldiers detained the men for further investigation.

During their detention, intelligence Soldiers determined that one of the men was one of the top 20 most-wanted terrorist targets in the Baghdad area.

“This was great detective work by the troops on the ground and great work by the battalion and brigade intelligence Soldiers putting the pieces together to figure this out,” said Lt. Col. William Brown, intelligence officer, 4th BCT, 101st Abn. Div.

For the capture to take place, first the Soldiers had to notice that something about the situation was not right.

“They said they were security forces, but we had not seen them around all day. We do this often. When things aren’t right, we check,” said Spc. Lonnie Bays, a tank crew member acting as an armored humvee crew member.

The company commander of the 1st Platoon echoed that observation. “They have consistently found the bad guys and then used precision engagements to capture them. This is another example of the positive work they do with the local populous each day,” said Capt. Andrew Byrd, 4th BCT.

## Field artillery brigade brings comfort, security to MND-B Soldiers

Story and photo by  
Spc. Rodney Foliente  
4th Inf. Div. PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Many Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad are often unaware of the unseen hands that constantly move in a diligent effort to safeguard, streamline and improve the working and living conditions throughout Camp Liberty.

The matters of force protection, safety and quality of life rest in the able hands of the Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, which is based out of Fort Sill, Okla., currently based at Camp Victory and attached to Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

“Our job is to improve and maintain the quality of life for Victory Base Complex,” said Capt. Mark Johnstone, brigade human resources director and Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator, HHB, 17th FA Bde.

The VBC predominately includes Camps Liberty, Victory, Slayer and Striker.

The 17th FA assumed the role of garrison command for VBC in September. In January, it “took on the extra responsibility of being in charge of base defense operations,” said Johnstone, who calls Lawton,

Okla., home. “We’re not only in charge of running the city (VBC) but defending the city as well.”

The unit also performs back-ground checks and credentialing for local nationals and contractors, he added.

“We run almost every facet of garrison life on VBC,” said Sgt. 1st Class Troy Heffner, brigade master gunner functioning as the engineering, plans and construction noncommissioned officer-in-charge, HHB, 17th FA Bde.

The brigade covers everything from making sure air conditioner units work to increasing force protection and Soldiers’ safety by improving entry control points and barriers throughout the VBC area of operations.

“A lot of what we do isn’t seen by the

Soldiers,” said Heffner, a native of Hamburg, Pa. He said one reason is because much of the construction is done

by Army engineers and contractors. Most of the labor for their projects comes from contractors, who are federally contracted throughout Iraq, such as Kellogg, Brown and Root, or from local contractors.

By hiring Iraqi contractors for many labor projects, Coalition Forces also help boost the local economy, operating in conjunction with Multi-National Force – Iraq’s and MNC-

that work (on VBC) on a daily basis,” he said.

Hiring local nationals also allows the Iraqis to learn new techniques, learn about new building materials or tools, and often raises the standards of their capabilities, added Heffner.

Another reason why some of the efforts of 17th FA Bde., perhaps escape notice is because many Soldiers may not think about where their comforts come from or what it takes to get something fixed, replaced or built, said Heffner. The fact most Soldiers don’t worry about such things means that the artillerymen-gone-garrison have been doing their job well, said Heffner proudly.

The 17th FA Bde. Soldiers don’t mind being an invisible force, he said, adding they receive their satisfaction from knowing they are helping their fellow Soldiers.

“The intent is to allow the Soldiers returning from (combat missions) to relax and enjoy themselves and not have to face the conditions they deal with outside the wire,” added Gregory.

Soldiers in a combat environment have to focus on their missions and shouldn’t have to worry about lacking such things as electricity in their trailers, water for showers, lighting around the perimeter walls, paved roads, unclogged sewers, protective barriers and other daily safety measures, said Lt. Col. Dewey Granger, the governor for MND-B’s Camp Liberty and commander of 1st Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th FA Bde.

Entertainment and fitness are also important for Soldiers’ well-being, which is why 1-12 FA unveiled Camp Liberty’s new indoor basketball court with an MWR-hosted basketball tournament July 15-16. “It’s unlike any other gym out here,” Granger said.

With hardwood floors, air conditioning and a digital scoreboard as some of its features, the full-size basketball court promises to get a lot of use in an area where the days can often simmer above 110 degrees.

The basketball court is amazing, said Spc. Ron Flowers, transportation specialist, Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, attached to MND-B. He said he hadn’t expected to find a court so nice in Iraq.

“We work very hard to meet (Soldiers’) needs and make them comfortable so all they have to do is focus on the mission,” said Granger, who calls Killeen, Texas, home.

“It goes to show how our Army can adapt to almost every situation and overcome. It’s a testimony to the quality of training we receive, the support we get from the Army as a whole and the support we get from the American people.”

Sgt. 1st Class Troy Heffner  
Engineering, plans and construction  
noncommissioned officer-in-charge  
for Victory Base Complex,  
Headquarters and Headquarters  
Company, 17th Field Artillery Regiment

l’s program of hiring Iraqis to fill approximately 75 percent of the civilian labor force, said Lt. Col. Kevin Gregory, native of Ireland, W.Va., who is the executive officer for 17th FA Bde.

“There are close to 2,500 local nationals



CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Troy Heffner, engineering, plans and construction noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the Victory Base Complex and brigade master gunner, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, based out of Fort Sill, Okla., proudly points along the future site of the approximately 1,100 meter-long entry control point that he co-designed. What he describes as the “ECP of all ECPs,” is slated to begin construction in September and will use new technology to minimize Soldiers’ risk of exposure to roadside bombs and vehicle-borne improvised-explosive devices.



AL DUJAYL, Iraq – Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, march down a road near Forward Operating Base O’Ryan during an Iraqis in the Lead ceremony July 13. The Iraqi battalion assumes responsibility for a large part of 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division’s area of operation.

# Iraqi battalion takes control

4th Iraqi Army Division battalion assumes responsibility for portion of Iron Brigade’s area of operations

Story and photos by Pfc. Paul Harris  
3rd HBCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

AL DUJAYL, Iraq –

**T**he 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division assumed responsibility for a large portion of an area of operation from 1-8 Combined

Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attached to Task Force Band of Brothers, July 13 in an Iraqis in the Lead ceremony near Forward Operating Base O’ Ryan.

“Let this area be proud of the soldiers of this battalion,” said Col. Shaker Ferris Kadub, commander, 4th Bn., 1st Bde., 4th IAD, in his opening remarks to the crowd gathered to witness the ceremony. “People will be able to sleep at night because of those brave soldiers.”

The Iraqi battalion has been training with the military transition team from 1-8 CAB for the past nine months to be ready for this day. The MiTT trained the Iraqi soldiers on how to conduct operations in their area and gather intelligence to fight the insurgent forces.

The area the Iraqi battalion will be taking over includes the town of Al Dujayl, which has gained notoriety in recent months from the Saddam Hussein trial. Most of the witnesses to testify in the trial have come from Al Dujayl. The town is primarily Shia surrounded by Sunni and has been a focal point for sectarian violence.

The Iraqi battalion has a tough job ahead of them, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Martindale, commander, 1-8 CAB. This unit in particular has

gone about gathering their own intelligence during their own operations. He said it makes it much easier to turn over the area of operations to them. He said this will put the Iraqi face on the security more so than it has in the past.

The four companies of the Iraqi battalion marched in front of the reviewing stand, which included Martindale, Lt. Col. James Rice, deputy commander, 3rd HBCT, and Gen. Abdul Jabar Salah Rabah, commander, 4th Iraqi Army Division. In their spotless white gloves and pressed uniform, each Soldier turned their heads to the right in passing to acknowledge their commander, who later spoke about what today means to his Soldiers.

“These days are the new days of Iraq,” Abdul Jabar said. “Soldiers, be happy for this day. The people of Al Dujayl are proud of what you did for their protection.”

After Abdul Jabar spoke, Rice approached the podium and spoke through a megaphone to address the crowd on behalf of the Coalition Forces.

“This ceremony marks the 4th Battalion’s place of honor in the history of the new Iraq,” Rice said.

“It is a place the soldiers and leaders have earned through hard work and dedication to the ideals of your constitution. The battalion represents the strong hand that will help the people defeat the insurgency and it will empower the civil leaders to help them execute the civil programs so necessary for growth and prosperity.”



AL DUJAYL – Lt. Col. James Rice, deputy commander, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Martindale, commander of 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd HBCT, salute soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, as they pass the reviewing area during an Iraqis in the Lead ceremony near Forward Operating Base O’Ryan July 13.



# Ready to make

## Camp Taji hosts breast cancer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A civilian working at Camp Taji has a special reason for walking in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, Vicky. The awareness walk was held on the camp north of Baghdad July 8.



Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt  
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

From opposite sides of the planet, more than 300 Soldiers and civilians participated in a five-kilometer walk around Camp Taji in conjunction with citizens in San Francisco to spread awareness about breast cancer July 8.

Dubbed the “Avon Walk for Breast Cancer,” residents of the camp north of Baghdad got up early before the day’s extreme summer heat began, donned their pink breast cancer awareness shirts and spread the news about the deadly disease.

“You are here today because you or someone you know has been affected by breast cancer,” said Lt. Col. Jeffery Toomer, mayor of Camp Taji. “I personally have been affected by breast cancer because my grandmother died just last month of it. Avon is sponsoring the same event today in San Francisco; we are just ahead of them (11-hour time difference between Iraq and California).”

In the United States, someone is diagnosed every three minutes with breast cancer. It is the most common cancer among women, except for non-melanoma skin cancers and the chance of developing invasive breast cancer at some time in a woman’s life is about one in seven.

Currently, there are more than 2 million people living in the U.S. who are being treated for breast cancer. It is estimated that in 2006, 28,000 cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S. It is the second leading cause of death in women, exceeded only by heart disease.

Fortunately, 90 percent of patients survive when cancer is detected early and treatment begins.

“My mom had breast cancer eight years ago but is a survivor,” said Chief Warrant Officer Kathleen Harris of Company B, 4th Squadron, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. “I’ve never done one (awareness walk) before, but I guess they had to send me to do one.”

“I do this every year,” said Sgt. Anthony Black Hawk crew chief with 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. “All of my grandparents have been affected by breast cancer. I have three grandparents to cancer and I have a mother who is fighting breast cancer. The event puts it out there and it shows how much people this affects. It brings it home.”

For more information about breast cancer awareness and prevention, visit the National Cancer Institute Oncology Program Web site at [www.nccupink.com](http://www.nccupink.com).

# ...e a difference Cancer awareness walk



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**TOP: CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Soldiers and civilians get ready to participate in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer here July 8. The five-kilometer walk was held to raise awareness about the deadly disease.  
**LEFT: CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Soldiers and civilians participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer held here July 8 to raise awareness about breast cancer.

# Engineer, civil affairs Soldiers design, break ground on center to serve 450,000 south Baghdad residents

Story by Maj. Paul Schmidt  
Civil affairs officer-in-charge  
2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.

BAGHDAD –

Construction began July 17 in Mahmudiyah on a civil military operations center designed to provide local residents the ability to communicate with the military about concerns and receive assistance from the government.

The CMOC will provide support in the largest city in south Baghdad and will serve a population of more than 450,000.

The facility's design and construction is a joint undertaking by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division's civil affairs section, and the 62nd Engineer Battalion, 16th Engineer Brigade, which is attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Some of the services will include providing assistance with filing paperwork for compensation of destroyed or lost vehicles and equipment and small loans to help businesses.

One such center currently operates near the Al Tella Palace in the Radwaniya area. The center provides assistance to many people each week from around Radwaniya, Abu Ghraib and Baghdad.

"We helped more than 100 people this week with finding lost cars and even one man who was separated from his wife, who was taken to a hospital," said Yagdan, who is an employee at the center.

Area leaders have praised the center in Radwaniyah for assisting local citizens and said a center in Mahmudiyah will be very beneficial to even more people.

Meanwhile, in the town of Radwaniyah, assistance for farmers or business owners

is available for residents across south Baghdad and the surrounding area.

After identifying a need for economic development programs, in particular small loan availability for citizens of south Baghdad, members of the 2nd BCT pursued the development of this micro-finance project through the Lewis Berger Group, a sub-contractor for the United States Agency for International Development.

The Al Bashair Center is open for business and provides small loans, training and other assistance to small business owners.

"Assistance is difficult for some business owners to find," said Tamather, who works on the center's staff. "With the help of God, we will provide that assistance for people to build the success for their businesses and families," she continued.

The center was created specifically to provide funding assistance that is not wide-

ly available for Iraqi citizens. Funding for the center was provided by a government grant and will allow small business owners to buy equipment they could otherwise not afford. Citizens may apply at the center and receive additional assistance with business needs, such as training and advice on the use of funds.

Local leaders have praised the center for assisting local residents and said that it is very beneficial to the people of south Baghdad and for the future of Iraq.

"Small businesses are an important part of any local economy, and this center is designed to help them specifically," said Nayif, a local councilman in south Baghdad.

"With these facilities, the citizens of south Baghdad will be able to take their economic future into their own hands," he said.

## Combat Aviation Brigade Chinooks keep trucks, personnel off perilous roads



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A crew chief assigned to the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, guides a Sustainment Brigade, 4th Inf. Div., forklift operator toward a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during pallet loading operations here July 14. The missions flown by the Chinook teams help lower the number of convoys needed to move equipment and personnel in and around the Baghdad area.

Story and photo by Spc. Creighton Holub  
CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

Although the Combat Aviation Brigade's Chinook helicopters fly every night, perhaps one of the key benefits of their mission is fewer convoys rolling off the forward operating bases throughout Multi-National Division – Baghdad's area of operation.

The nightly flights have kept an estimated 3,000 trucks and more than 7,000 Soldiers off the roads of Baghdad.

"We're preserving democracy one pallet at a time," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillip Lopez, a Chinook pilot from Patterson, La., assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, MND-B. "Once we started doing this mission, they started seeing the numbers of folks on the road dwindle. As a unit, we can move them faster than they can on the ground – and it

saves lives without having civilians and military folks on the ground. In a night, we can move several trucks-worth of pallets back and forth."

The Chinooks move an average of 40 pallets every night around the MND-B area. The brigade has transported more than 7,679 tons of equipment.

The Chinook crews work closely with Soldiers from the division's Sustainment Brigade in getting equipment and supplies to where they are needed within the MND-B area of operations. Soldiers who would normally drive trucks to deliver the valued equipment said they are pleased with the efforts of the Chinook crews.

"I feel a whole lot safer," said Sgt. Marcus Hargrave, a motor transport operator who is on his second deployment to Iraq and is assigned to the 155th Cargo Transport Company. Instead of driving humvees and "deuce-and-halves" on convoy missions, Hargrave said his job now consists of driving forklifts and humvees on Camp Taji.

"I don't have to worry about improvised-explosive devices or anything like that. As long as we're not on the road we're good. I think there's a lot less people getting injured and killed."

Although the helicopters are immune to the dangers of roadside bombs, they battle a different type of threat in the air.

"There is still risk involved," Lopez added. "The advantage of flying is that we're not out there on the road and not seeing the implanted IEDs. We have more maneuverability; we're not fixed on a road; we can alter our path to whatever you need to do in the air. It makes us a lot harder target than a convoy."

Not only does the Iron Eagle Brigade keep fewer convoys from having to roll, it also moves the equipment and personnel faster and safer due to the Chinook's speed, aerial abilities and countermeasures employed to protect the crews and passengers.



# Al Ahnaf Nahia facility opens

Story and photo by Norris Jones  
Gulf Region Central District  
US Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD – “This is a great moment for our community,” said Anmar Thamer during a ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the official opening of the Al Ahnaf Nahia Council’s new building.

Thamer is chairman of the council, which represents about 50,000 residents in north Baghdad Province. “After suffering 35 years of neglect under the old regime, our residents finally have something they can call their own.”

He said their eventual goal is to have the facility open six days a week “so anybody who lives in this area has an opportunity to come here and get help – whether it’s to file a claim against the government if there’s a problem or doing normal documentation, like verifying one’s residence.”

Apart from the weekly council meetings, the new 300-square-meter masonry structure will also host various committee meetings in such areas as agriculture, health and sports, he continued.

“This facility is visible proof that democracy is working. We’re very grateful for the projects bettering our community, such as the new health facilities and schools.” In addition to the 19 council members, others who regularly attend the meetings are members of the Iraqi army and police.

“Our job is to discuss concerns of our community and look for ways to resolve them,” Thamer concluded.



Baghdad – Local Iraqi children receive gifts from Soldiers attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of Al Ahnaf Nahia Council’s new building here.

Construction on the \$285,719, one-story government building was started in November and features a 5-meter high council chamber that can host more than 50 people.

The project was financed through the

Commander’s Emergency Response Program that allows the local U.S. military commander to identify projects that make an immediate impact on local communities. Abbass Saleh, the council’s vice chairman, pointed out they had been

meeting in a government facility about an hour’s drive away.

“With the new building, most of us can get here in five minutes. We need to be able to serve our people every day. This is a tremendous asset,” said Saleh.

## Iraqi central criminal court building construction nears completion

Story by Tom Clarkson  
Gulf Region Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD – *“Justice without force is powerless ... (and) ... force without justice is tyrannical.”*

*Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), French mathematician, physicist and religious philosopher.*

Pascal understood the obvious nearly 400 years ago. In fact, his observation is an apt description of Iraq’s evolution from a country under the forceful heel of a tyrannical leader to one now working through the growth pains of becoming a maturing democracy with a deep desire for justice.

In keeping with Iraq’s new commitment to justice for all, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division, Project and Contracting Office, has conducted Iraq Reconstruction and Capacity Development projects to construct or remodel numerous buildings for use as courthouses. Work on 22 such halls of justice has been completed so far, with five more under construction and four more to soon be started.

One such major structure in Baghdad is of considerable historical significance, symbolizing all that was unjust in Iraq, but which now reflects the country’s emerging positivism.

During the Saddam regime, the large, three-story building served as a museum for numerous “look at me” artifacts – including AK-47 assault rifles that were sup-

posedly silver-plated. Now, the remodeled facility, completed July 8, will be the site in which justice will be meted out to numerous members of Saddam Hussein’s Baathist Party members and other terrorists.

All architectural renovation and construction labor on the building was performed by Iraqi citizens. The total rehabilitation cost was almost \$3 million for the massive structure, now known as the Central Criminal Court of Iraq.

“As we often encounter, we had significant power, materiel and security challenges that needed to be addressed and resolved,” said Hasam Abdulla, Iraqi project engineer, in describing some of the challenges of this project.

In all, approximately 3,000 USACE-GRD/PCO reconstruction efforts are taking place throughout Iraq.

The fact that terrorism has insinuated itself into the equation, noted Abdulla, forcing delays and challenges unheard of in normal building and reconstruction efforts, reinforces the fact that the Baghdad CCCI project will be one that is deeply appreciated by his countrymen. “It will stand for all of the good that can be realized if we work together in a strong and focused manner.”

Abdulla has been a part of the USACE for more than two years. Prior to heading up the CCCI project, he led work on major water treatment and communications projects. The next big challenge ahead for Abdulla and his countrymen will be the Al-Mamoon Exchange and

Telecommunications Center project.

“Hasam and the CCCI are outstanding examples of the fine work and accomplishments that are being done under Iraqi direction,” noted USACE resident engineer Stan Reese.

His comments were echoed by Maj. Robert Nash, officer-in-charge, Gulf Region Central International Office, who added, “One can not speak strongly enough about the professionalism and bravery of Hasam on this ‘Hall of Justice’ work.

“Hasam and that for which he has worked so diligently in this structure, are key components of the very future of this country. He, those like him, and what they are creating, represent the core tandem of two basic and very important human principles tantamount to success in Iraq.”

Pausing to remember it correctly, he said, “These words bracket an appropriate and very applicable thought articulated by Agesilaus the Second, ‘Courage is of no value unless accompanied by justice!’”

Tom Clarkson is a member of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division/Project and Contracting Office public affairs team in Iraq. Requests for more information or pictures of higher resolution may be directed to him at (540) 665-5344 or Email requests sent to: Tommy.G.Clarkson@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).

# Culture Experts

**O**n August 19 or 20, the anniversary of the death of Imam Musa al-Kadhim, the 7th Shiite imam, will be commemorated in and around the al-Kadhimiyah shrine in northern Baghdad.

Approximately 1 to 1.5 million pilgrims from all over Iraq, Iran, Syria, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Bahrain and everywhere else Shiites live, will converge upon the shrine. Many will have walked hundreds of kilometers for the opportunity to honor the imam. Needless to say, this event is the largest annual Shiite pilgrimage in Baghdad.

Al-Kadhim (745 – 799 AD) was born at the height of the power struggles between the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties for the rule of the Muslim world. After his father, the sixth imam, was murdered by the Abbasids, he was nominated imam by the majority of the Shiite community. Because Musa was not the eldest son of the sixth imam, there was some controversy over his nomination, and the followers of the eldest son, Isma'il, split from the mainstream Shiite current, and formed the sect known today as Isma'ili Shiism or Sevener, which means they believe in seven infallible imams. Iraqi Shiites are almost all Twelvers.



By Jake Lester,  
Senior cultural  
and political  
advisor

Because of his fear of al-Kadhim's claim to the throne and his massive popular following, Caliph (Muslim ruler) Harun al-Rashid ordered the al-Kadhim imprisoned at the Baghdad prison, where he died four years later at the age of 55. Most Shiites believe that he was poisoned.

Following his death, the caliph had the body of the imam put on display on a bridge in Baghdad to show that there were no marks on the body, in an attempt to show that he had not harmed him.

After his death, al-Kadhim was laid to rest north of Baghdad in the cemetery dedicated by Abbasid Caliph al-Mansur to the Bani-Hashim tribe, to which the imam belonged. The story has it that the imam had already purchased a plot there in the expectation that he would be killed. Following the burial, Shiite believers gradually moved to the area to settle near the his burial place, which became a center of Shiite learning. The population in the area expanded rapidly until it became a township, then a city in its own right known as al-Kadhimiyah. The ninth imam, Muhammad al-Jawwad, was later buried at the same site. Baghdad later grew to encompass the city until it became a neighborhood of the capital city.

The area, already famous for the mausoleums of the 7th and 9th imams, recently acquired a more morbid type of fame. Last year, as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims already spooked by mortar attacks against their proces-

sion were crossing the al-A'immah bridge over the Tigris River from the Sunni district of al-A' dhamiya to the Shiite district of al-Kadhimiyah, unknown persons in the crowd shouted that there was a suicide bomber among them. The ensuing stampede of frightened pilgrims seeking to get off the bridge by leaping into the river left hundreds dead and wounded. The Iraqi Ministry of Health calculated the death toll at 843. The Ministry of Interior reported that 953 people were killed and 815 injured. Causes of death ranged from drowning in the river, trampling on the bridge, and falling from the bridge onto hard ground in some places. This was the largest death toll from a single event since the invasion of Iraq, and it has not been topped since.

As this year's commemoration of the same event approaches, there is reason to be very alert for new attacks against the pilgrims because last year's attack proved so devastating, it is likely that the perpetrators could attempt a repeat performance. The pilgrims will not have forgotten what happened last year, and will be very tense and prone to either run or attack at the slightest real or imagined provocation, and Baghdad is far more polarized and prone to violence than it was this time last year.

Always be alert and watchful. On this day, be even more so.

## The bridge on the river Tigris

Get into a new frame of mind.  
Own the Edge.

# Soldiers blow up terrorist safe-route

Story and photo by Spc. Edgar Reyes  
2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FOB KALSU, Iraq –  
For Soldiers from the 73rd  
Explosive Ordnance Disposal  
Detachment, 2nd Brigade Combat  
Team, 4th Infantry Division,  
blowing stuff up is routine business.

When they get to use their detonation  
abilities to deny terrorists freedom of  
movement with the confiscated explosives  
of the week, it takes their jobs to a whole  
new level.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th  
Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf.  
Div., together with a team from 73rd  
EOD, launched Operation Cobra Cutter  
July 8 to eliminate a terrorist safe-route,  
which allowed vehicle travel across a  
canal and served as an escape route for  
terrorists placing roadside bombs on the  
roads in Haswah, which is located in the  
northern Babil province.

The mission was  
two-fold, said Capt.  
Aaron Scheinberg,  
platoon leader,  
Company B, 2nd  
Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.,  
2nd BCT. “We  
planned to remove  
the terrorists’  
access in an out of  
the area, but the  
way we accom-  
plished the mission  
was rather ironic.  
We took the rounds  
found in weapon  
caches, and would-  
be bombs in the

area, and used them to blow up the same  
routes the terrorists use to hide and  
emplace these munitions. It was actually  
poetic justice,” said Scheinberg.

The mission presented several dangers  
for Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., due  
to the possibility of booby traps near the  
crossing.

The Soldiers in charge of escorting and  
providing security for the EOD team  
approached the location slowly, patiently  
searching for command wiring used to  
detonate bombs and suspicious objects  
possibly rigged with explosive devices.  
The booby trap sweep took more than an  
hour to complete, and Soldiers did not  
find anything out of the ordinary.

“The hardest thing about the actual

mission is coming in and out trying to  
detect roadside bombs and booby traps,”  
said Staff Sgt. Chris Woodruff, section  
sergeant, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.,  
2nd BCT. “We had to make sure the site  
was secure before we started pulling  
perimeter security.”

After leaders on the ground deemed the  
area safe, EOD Soldiers began preparing  
the area for demolition. Using the artillery  
and mortar rounds acquired from terrorist  
caches, Soldiers laid the materials evenly  
in the middle of the pathway. They then  
taped more than 300 pounds of C4 explo-  
sives on top of the materials and added  
extra explosives at the ends of the route to  
ensure its destruction.

Before detonating the munitions,  
Soldiers searched the area for civilians,  
livestock and property near the sight,  
which could be damaged from the blast.  
Two families living nearby were escorted  
to a safe location along with all of their  
animals. With Soldiers and civilians several  
hundred meters  
away from the  
blast site, EOD  
detonated the  
explosives.

“The explo-  
sion was pretty  
loud,” said Pvt.  
Chris Peer,  
tanker, Co. B,  
2nd Bn., 8th  
Inf. Regt., 2nd  
BCT. “The flames  
and the smoke  
looked really  
cool in the  
sky. It’s something  
you don’t normally  
see in the civilian  
world.”

After the area was declared safe, EOD  
and 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. Soldiers  
walked over to the blast site and inspected  
their handy work – “mission complete!”

Prior to the day’s mission, Soldiers  
placed barriers in front of the pathway to  
stop traffic from coming in and out, said  
Woodruff. Terrorists adapted to the tactics  
and figured out a way to remove the  
blockade. After much deliberation,  
Coalition Forces decided destroying the  
entire entry and exit points would be the  
best deterrent against the terrorist threat.

“The barriers we used were being com-  
promised after just a couple of weeks,”  
said Peer. “It’s going to be much harder



Photo by Spc. Edgar Reyes, 2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.  
FOB KALSU, Iraq – Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment,  
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, unload terrorists’ munitions on a  
pathway July 8 during Operation Cobra Cutter in Haswah to destroy an escape route  
used by terrorists after planting roadside bombs.

for the terrorists to compromise because  
instead of blocking the route, we  
destroyed it. They could try to rebuild it,  
but it is going to take them a long time.”

“There was nothing really left of the

pathway,” said Woodruff. “It was a long,  
drawn out mission, but in the end, we saw  
a cool explosion and are now in a better  
position to catch more bad guys since  
they don’t have a shortcut anymore.”

## SECURITY,

CONTINUED FROM PG. 10

“We’re always looking for new ideas  
and better improvements,” said Granger,  
who added that any Soldiers with ideas or  
concerns can take an active part in their  
quality of life by contacting their mayors.

With a previous deployment to Iraq and  
hefty combat-arms experience, the Soldiers  
of 17th FA Bde. feel they understand what  
Soldiers need, and though they are current-

ly functioning in a different capacity than  
field artillery, they are dedicated to their  
present mission and continuously give it  
their all to benefit their fellow Soldiers,  
said Granger.

Along with most of the 17th FA Bde.,  
Heffner said he would rather be function-  
ing as a field artillery unit, but he admitted  
he has really enjoyed his temporary engi-  
neer work here.

Heffner said he recently co-designed  
“the ECP of all ECPs:” an approximately

1,100 meter-long ECP that will use new  
technology to minimize the Soldiers’ risk  
of exposure to roadside bombs and vehi-  
cle-borne improvised-explosive devices.

Construction for the massive ECP is  
slated to begin in September, around the  
time when the 17th FA Bde. will redeploy  
home.

One year ago, Heffner said he would  
have never believed himself capable of  
designing such a complex and high-tech  
structure. But now, at the tail end of the

deployment and with a wealth of training  
and experience under his belt, he will leave  
behind his legacy to VBC: the ECP he will  
always be proud of from his short stint as  
an engineer.

“It goes to show how our Army can  
adapt to almost every situation and over-  
come,” said Heffner. “It’s a testimony to  
the quality of training we receive, the sup-  
port we get from the Army as a whole and  
the support we get from the American peo-  
ple.”

## GUIDANCE



# Beat the Heat

Iraqi summers are very hot and many are at risk for heat injuries

A few weeks ago, I spoke with a physician who saw three people with heat stroke in the three days he had just spent at a combat support hospital in Iraq. It appeared that all the casualties were poorly acclimated "Fobbits" who were working or exercising outside before collapsing suddenly from exertional heat stroke.

Fortunately for us, no Soldiers from our division have suffered from heat stroke since coming here, which is probably a good testament to the quality of our Soldiers and leadership. But before we start patting ourselves on the backs and get complacent, take a look at the weather chart for Baghdad, and you'll see that we still have a lot of dangerously hot days ahead of us.

On the bright side, there are a few factors in our favor. First, as this weather chart indicates, the afternoon humidity in the summer is rather low. This makes sweating more efficient at cooling our bodies so we feel less lethargic. This is why we say "dry heat is neat, but humidity causes stupidity." Second, compared to the intensely hot afternoons, morning temperatures are relatively cool. This provides an ideal time for Soldiers to perform strenuous aerobic exercise or work and acclimate to the heat (Work out before the sun comes out.). Third, Baghdad often experiences dry winds coming from the northwest called shamals. These winds can last for weeks in the summer months and blow strongest in the afternoon, when they are needed the most to lower the relative temperature of our bodies through increased evaporation.

## Heat illnesses.

Most heat injuries are preventable if we are acclimated, hydrated, avoid excessive heat and use the recommended work/rest cycles. However, even highly conditioned athletes, like former NFL Lineman Corey Stringer, can collapse and die suddenly from exertional heatstroke. The key is prevention and staying alert for the early signs and symptoms of the different types of heat illnesses. Here are five types every soldier should be aware of while deployed to a dangerously hot environment.

## Heat edema.

Heat edema is an early and mild type of heat illness that involves swelling of the hands, feet or lower legs. It usually occurs in people who are not heat acclimated, when their body has not yet learned to conserve enough salt while sweating. It usually stops occurring after gradual acclimation to hot weather. Keep in mind that Soldiers living in air-conditioned offices and quarters may never become acclimated to the intense heat of



By Lt. Col. Mitch Meyers, Preventive medicine officer, 4th Inf. Div.

## YEARLY WEATHER CONDITONS FOR BAGHDAD

Month	Average Low Temp F°	Average High Temp F°	Average Daily Temp F°	Highest Recorded Temp F°	Average Afternoon Humidity %
JAN	38	58	48	75	53
FEB	43	64	54	84	43
MAR	50	73	62	88	34
APR	59	84	72	100	25
MAY	68	96	82	111	16
JUN	74	105	90	120	11
JUL	78	110	94	122	10
AUG	75	108	92	118	12
SEP	70	103	86	117	13
OCT	60	91	76	105	21
NOV	47	74	61	90	34
DEC	42	62	52	76	54

Table: Yearly Weather Conditions for Baghdad, Iraq.

Baghdad, even after being here several months. Performing strenuous aerobic exercise every morning outside for at least 30 minutes several times a week should result in a good level of acclimation.

## Heat cramps.

Heat cramps occur in muscles repeatedly used during strenuous exercise when our blood is low on salt, or when we have consumed so much water that the salt in our blood is effectively thinned out. Prevention requires eating a diet with adequate salt (the average American diet has plenty of salt in it), and avoid drinking large quantities of pure water. The best way to gauge adequate hydration is to drink enough fluids to assure that you have to urinate frequently, and that your urine is a clear to light yellow or amber color. Pay attention to heat cramps. Left untreated, they are sign that heat exhaustion may occur soon afterwards.

## Heat syncope.

Heat syncope is lightheadedness or fainting that usually occurs right after exercising when dehydrated. The heart is still beating rapidly, but the leg muscles are not pumping enough venous blood back to the heart to perfuse the brain. Treatment involves lying down to rest, elevating the legs and rehydration. Like heat cramps, this can be a sign of impending heat exhaustion.

## Heat exhaustion.

Heat exhaustion is a marked inability to continue working or exercising in the heat and is caused by either dehydration, salt depletion or by a combination of both conditions. It usually occurs after prolonged sweating

and exercise. Treatment requires rest, cooling off and replacing lost water and electrolytes with something like Gatorade or an intravenous saline solution.

## Heat stroke.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency that can quickly cause death or long term disability if not recognized and treated quickly. When the core body temperature is higher than 104 degrees, a part of the brain that helps regulate body temperature can become severely damaged and the body quickly loses its ability to compensate for hyperthermia through sweating and other mechanisms. A casualty may experience fatigue, weakness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, intense thirst, hot flushed skin, confusion, loss of coordination, loss of consciousness and lapse into a coma.

Heat stroke is fatal in about 15 percent of casualties, but survival rates are much higher when it's recognized and treated early on. This is another reason why a buddy system is so important to Soldiers.

At the earliest sign of heatstroke, the Soldier should stop all physical activity, immediately cool down in the shade with water and fans and massage the large muscles of the legs to increase blood circulation. Intravenous fluids will be necessary, so medical treatment and evacuation should be requested as soon as possible.

When it comes to heat related illnesses, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For more information on hot weather injuries and illnesses, visit the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Web site at: <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>.



## WATCH YOUR BUDDY! SYMPTOMS OF A HEAT CASUALTY INCLUDE:

- HEAT CRAMPS IN ARMS, LEGS OR ABDOMEN.
- SWEATING PROFUSELY.
- HOT, RED, FLUSHED SKIN.
- WEAKNESS, DIZZINESS AND/OR NAUSEASNESS.
- LIGHTHEADEDNESS, FAINTING.



# Money for school: new program aims to give spouses Montgomery GI Bill benefits

For the purpose of enhancing the retention of Regular Army Soldiers in critical skills with six or more years of active service, effective July 21, the Secretary of the Army has approved the transfer of up to 18 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to spouses as a pilot program.

Expiration of the pilot program has not yet been determined because this program is bound by law to the retention of critical skills, and Soldiers must elect to participate at the time of reenlistment.

MGIB-era Soldiers who are eligible must have enrolled in MGIB on DD Form 2366 (MGIB basic enrollment form), upon entry to active duty. Soldiers must also possess a critical military skill, which is defined as a Soldier who qualifies for a "MOS-specific" Selective Reenlistment Bonus incentive and is entitled to a Zone B or Zone C bonus at the time of reenlistment. Soldiers must have completed at least six years of active service in the Armed Forces and reenlist for a minimum



Sgt. Maj. Arlene Horne, Retention, 4th Inf. Div.

of four years.

All eligible Soldiers desiring to participate in the program must complete a DD Form 2366-2, application for Montgomery GI Bill Act of 1984 Transferability Program. This applies even in cases where a spouse is not designated at the time of reenlistment to receive benefits. If a spouse is designated at a later date, a new DD Form 2366-2 must be completed. Soldiers do not have to be married to participate in this program.

The form serves as an election and proof of participating in the program. Soldiers will complete a new form through their servicing career counselor each time a change is made. (Example: A Soldier divorces a spouse designated to receive their MGIB entitlement. The Soldier may change the beneficiary on DD Form 2366-2 to remove the former spouse or designate a new spouse if applicable).

Eligible Soldiers who elect transfer of MGIB benefits to their spouse at the time of reenlistment will have their entitlement to a SRB multiplier reduced by 0.5. (Example: A Soldier is entitled to a SRB Multiplier of 1.5 and elects to transfer MGIB benefits to his spouse; the adjusted SRB multiplier then becomes 1).

If a Soldier elects to participate in the program and later changes his mind, the reduction in his SRB cannot be refunded.

Soldiers participating in the Bonus Extension and

Retraining Program are not eligible for the MGIB Transferability of Benefits Program upon entry into the BEAR Program. However, providing they meet the eligibility requirements, when they reenlist upon completion of training they may elect to participate.

The fiscal 2006 Basic Monthly MGIB benefit for full-time training for veterans is \$1,034. Soldiers can transfer up to 18 of 36 months of entitlement, totaling more than \$18,000. This benefit is prorated for part-time enrollment.

For Soldiers who elected the Army College Fund as an enlistment option and/or have enrolled in and paid toward the \$600 MGIB Additional Opportunity, their expanded benefit (MGIB, ACF and MGIB Additional Opportunity) is transferred.

The Veterans Administration will complete verification of enrollment in the Army College Fund and/or the MGIB Additional Opportunity at the time the spouse files a VA Form 22-1990, application for VA Education Benefits. Soldiers can contact the VA or visit their Website at <http://www.GIBILL.VA.gov> for questions on application for benefits procedures.

Soldiers with questions pertaining to this program and eligibility requirements addressed in this article can contact their servicing career counselors or contact the Ironhorse retention office on Camp Liberty at DSN 847-2352.

**393rd  
Corps  
Support  
Battalion**

- Seat belts
- Pope glass
- Combat locks
- Bolt extraction
- Metal fabrication
- Gunner restraints
- Heavy engineer repair
- Communication repair
- DS maintenance repair

**Call the 98th Maintenance Shop office: DSN 822-4988**

## GUIDANCE

RELIGIOUS SERVICES, AA MEETINGS,  
AND MANDATORY R&R BRIEFINGS

## VICTORY CHAPEL SERVICES, BLDG 31

## Sunday

7 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.

Traditional Protestant Worship  
10:30 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass  
noon Gospel Protestant Service  
2 p.m. Mormon Worship  
4 p.m. Episcopal/Lutheran  
Worship

6 p.m. Contemporary Protestant Service

## Monday

10 a.m. SGM's Meeting

1:30 p.m. Protestant Gospel Prayer Meeting

3 p.m. R&R -- Reunion and  
Suicide Intervention Briefs  
7 p.m. Gospel Protestant Bible  
Study

## Tuesday

7 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday

9:30 a.m. R&R -- Reunion and  
Suicide Intervention Briefs

7 p.m. Korean Bible Study

8:30 p.m. Protestant Music

## Rehearsal

## Thursday

6 p.m. Roman Catholic Music  
Rehearsal6:45 p.m. Men's 'Purity' Bible  
Study

## Friday

1 p.m. Jumu'ah (Islamic Prayer)

5 p.m. Prayer Gathering Service

6:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship  
Music Rehearsal8:30 p.m. Protestant Music  
Rehearsal

## Saturday

9 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist  
Music Practice

11 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist

3 p.m. R&R -- Reunion and  
Suicide Intervention Briefs

4 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal

7 p.m. Roman Catholic Music  
Rehearsal

8 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

8 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

8 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

8 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

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8 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

8 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

## DIVISION CHAPEL

## Sunday

9 a.m. Contemp. Protestant Worship

10:30 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass

1 p.m. Episcopal Worship Service

3 p.m. Gospel Worship

8 p.m. Collective Protestant Worship

## Monday

6 p.m. EML Chaplain's Briefing

7 p.m. Bible Study

## Tuesday

7 p.m. Bible Study

## Wednesday

6 p.m. EML Chaplain's Brief

7 p.m. Bible Study

8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

## Thursday

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Women)

7:30 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal

## Friday

12 p.m. Islamic Prayer

6 p.m. EML Chaplain's Briefing

7 p.m. Bible Study

## Saturday

7 p.m. Bible Study (Men)

8 p.m. Contemporary Protestant  
Praise Band RehearsalCAMP VICTORY CHAPEL,  
BLDG 2

## Sunday

9 a.m. Orthodox Liturgy

## Monday

4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

## Tuesday

4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mas

## Wednesday

4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

7 p.m. Men's Gospel Fellowship

## Thursday

4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

7 p.m. Spanish Bible Study

## Friday

4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

8 p.m. Women's Gospel Bible Study

## Saturday

5 p.m. Orthodox Vespers

11 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist

## CAMP STRIKER CHAPEL

## Sunday

9 a.m. Catholic Mass

10 a.m. Contemporary Protestant

10:30 a.m. Protestant (Pad 6, Tent  
410)

11:15 a.m. Traditional Protestant

4:30 p.m. Protestant

6 p.m. LDS

7 p.m. Praise Service (Gospel)

7:30 p.m. Praise and Testimony (Pad  
6, Tent 410)

## Monday

9 a.m. Catholic Mass

## Wednesday

9 a.m. Catholic Mass

6 p.m. LDS Bible Study

7 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study

7:30 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study (Pad 6,  
Tent 410)

## Thursday

5 p.m. Purpose Driven Life

7 p.m. Praise Choir Practice

## Friday

9 a.m. Catholic Mass

11:15 a.m. Catholic Mass (TOC  
Conference room)

## Saturday

6:45 p.m. Catholic Mass (Pad 6,  
Tent 410)Daily 6:30 a.m. TOC Prayer Service  
(TOC Conference room)Chaplain's Corner  
Standing on the values set  
by the Bible, the Duke

**A**s a small boy, I formed a fond appreciation for what is now considered the "old-time Westerns movie genre." That type of Western has all but faded into the distance, much like one of its old-time heroes, Allan Ladd, in "Shane."

Personally, due to the unique qualities of the Westerns, I think it is sad that they are no longer being made in the "old style." What is it that I believe makes old Westerns unique? Well, they are in fact the quintessential morals play, meaning there is always a good guy and always a bad guy, and the bad guy never (or almost never) wins.

In many of these classics, there was only one truly good guy with a handful of timid helpers, verses a huge gang of villains. In those movies, the hero was hopelessly out-numbered and out-gunned, but he managed to prevail in the end.

The ultimate icon of the Western good guy was portrayed by actor John Wayne, "the Duke." That is not to say that there were not others that played the role well – Garry Cooper's performance in "High Noon" is a stellar example.

The Western "bad guy" leader, or lone desperado, seemed always to be played by Richard Boone. Many of you younger Soldiers may be saying "who is that?" It doesn't matter; nobody remembers the bad guy's name anyway.

The tools of the trade for both sides were easily defined.

The hero had his trusty six-shooter, a keen wit (although not always an abundance of "book-learning"), a strong sense of right and wrong and loads of courage. The villains also have their guns, but they were typically caught up in underhandedness toward one another – full of schemes of foul play and trickery. They were bullies in a gang and cowards when they were alone.

The Duke played men of character – hard men with a heart of gold. He did not pick a fight but did not mind finishing one. Wayne's characters would stand up to a mob of killers alone if he had to when all others had fled. He would never leave a friend. In the old Westerns, the hero never ran, no matter how steep the odds or how grave the challenges. Steadfast, he stood alone against certain defeat, yet he always seemed to come out on top.

The bad guy would appear to have the upper hand right up to the final showdown; then he would show his "true colors," and either buckle at the knees in fear and run off or was shot dead in the street by the Duke.

That was a big part of the charm of these old Westerns – the good guy and bad guy were clearly defined. It always looked dark for the Duke, but in the end, the bad guys would face justice (dead or alive). The beleaguered town folk would be freed from the villains, and of course, the hero got the girl.

This simple movie formula was replaced with movies of ever increasing violence, for violence's sake, with the hero and villain often indistinguishable. The old style Western has all but gone from the big screen. However, there is much that can be learned by watching those movies.

The first lesson is that there really is a right and a wrong in most situations. Second, it really does matter which side you have chosen. There was always a code or creed that the hero lived by in those old movies.



Chaplain (Capt.)  
Ashley Payne  
589th Brigade Support  
Battalion, Fires Brigade

In "The Shootest," the character of J.B. Books, played by Wayne, repeated his own personal creed: "I will not be wronged. I will not be lied to, and I will not have a hand laid upon me. I don't do these things to others and require the same from them." Books' code was simple; he would live by a code of showing respect, honesty and fair play toward all men, and he went on to make a firm and clearly defined standard for others to follow.

Today's real world situations are not as clear as the old Westerns. Both the good and bad guys are not so easily defined and, depending on circumstances, sometimes it is questionable as to whom the hero and the villain are.

In response to our changing and sometimes confusing world, there are people who have developed an ethical stance that shifts and depends largely on the state of affairs at any given time.

This ethic allows for an individual or group of individuals to determine how they will react in each situation. For them, it depends on the set of circumstances whether lying, theft, assault and even murder may be considered acceptable. Loyalty is based upon a "what can you do for me" mentality instead of "what can I do for you." Stepping on people to get ahead is the name of the game.

The world is not as black and white as in the world of the Western movie but for some it is much grayer than for others. The "ethics by situation" view is not designed for the fair treatment of others but for favoring the selfish desires of the individual.

The Bible gives us a clearer understanding as to how we are to treat those around us. In fact, there are many verses that tell us how we are to live and behave with, and toward, others. One of these verses, James 4:17, tells us "anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do, and does not do it, sins."

As Soldiers, all of us have gone through ethics and values training and we know what the acceptable and expected standard is for our behavior. By extension, we also know what we ought to do in any situation. Not doing the right thing makes us guilty of breaking not just man's laws but also God's laws. At times, this will be put to the test and we will be tempted to violate the rules to avoid a potentially embarrassing or even damaging situation involving friends or ourselves – to cut and run, bend the truth or simply look the other way.

This is why I like the old-time Westerns – because the hero is placed in those same kinds of compromising and difficult circumstances; but, instead of running and hiding, he takes a stand even though it has the potential to cost him greatly. To dodge the truth, or do anything "shady" would violate his core beliefs, in himself, his country and his God.

Standing firm on your core values may, in some instances, be the only thing you have left to stand on. Do not ever fail yourself by going against what you know to be right.

# Kathleen Turner Overdrive

'Classic rock' comes to Iraq with 4th Infantry Division Band's newest specialty group

Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1st Class Mary Mott  
363rd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Naming the group in jest – leader Staff Sgt. Brian Archer approaches most things with a tongue-in-cheek comment and a wry smile – is only one of the fun things about “Kathleen Turner Overdrive,” the 4th Infantry Division Band’s newest specialty music ensemble, an “old time” classic rock foursome playing memories from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s.

Why yet another “specialty group” in a band – with a total of about 40 musicians and vocalists – that already had eight, one of them an 11-member rock band?

According to Archer, the band realized “there is a demographic that we were missing.”

During the band’s first deployment to Iraq (in 2003), Sgt. 1st Class Aulio Marroquin, band operations supervisor from San Antonio, said that audiences “kept asking for classic rock” in addition to the music played by the standard contemporary rock band. Although the idea of putting together the classic band was talked about for a couple of years, it only came into being about two months ago when the “chemistry” finally jelled.

Sgt. Bradford Bailey, from Las Vegas, is not only a guitar master but possesses an energetic and dynamic stage presence – putting heart, soul, and seemingly everything else, into his music. He is, in fact, the catalyst that finally brought the group together to begin performing, said Archer and Sgt. Luis Feliciano, bass guitar player and vocalist.

“Bailey has brought a level of rock unknown before in the Baghdad area of operations. His whole attitude is rock.” said Archer.



**BAGHDAD –** Rocking in the 2006 Independence Day celebration, a member of “Kathleen Turner Overdrive,” the 4th Infantry Division Band’s newest ensemble, kick out classic rock jams July 4 at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Members of the group are Sgt. Bradley Bailey (pictured above), from Las Vegas, on guitar and vocals, Staff Sgt. Brian Archer, drummer, from Columbus, Ohio, Sgt. Luis Feliciano, vocalist and bass player from San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico; and Staff Sgt. Josh DiStefano, on keyboard, from Los Angeles.

Archer, a native of Columbus, Ohio, for all his zaniness both on and off stage, knows his stuff when it comes to playing drums. A solo by him on Led Zeppelin’s “Moby Dick” will leave listeners feeling as breathless as if they’d been chased a couple of miles by a wildebeest.

In addition to his skill as a musician, Archer is also an electronic master and the “man behind the sound” of several of the 4th Inf. Div.’s ensemble groups, including the contemporary rock band.

Rounding out the group, Staff Sgt. Josh DiStefano, a keyboard player from Los Angeles, is a multi-faceted performer who can seemingly adapt himself to any musical style. DiStefano also plays keyboard for several of the specialty bands, includ-

ing contemporary rock, jazz and “boogie” brass, and is a composer as well.

“It’s all about fun; it’s more about entertaining than being good,” said Archer. “We have a rule in our show that you are definitely allowed to have fun.”

“Clap; sing along; head-bobbing is preferred,” said Feliciano, a native of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico.

“Most of the 4th Inf. Div. has seen the rest of the groups, so this is a new team,” added Marroquin.

“The motivation behind everything we do is so Soldiers can have some fun,” said Archer. A lot of Soldiers tell them the songs “bring back lots of (good) memories.”

If variety is the spice of life, the KTO

quartet dishes it up. “We kind of side track the audience and get them involved,” said Feliciano. “We ask for requests,” he laughed, “but then play whatever we want to.”

Selections stretch back as far as the ‘60s and into the Golden ‘70s and ‘80s, and include artists and groups like “Black Sabbath, Judas Priest, Madonna, KISS, Motley Crue, AC/DC, Jimi Hendrix, ABBA, Neil Young ... or not,” according to Archer.

Units are invited and encouraged to call upon KTO to perform and can arrange this by calling the band hall at VOIP 242-4181 or 4122 and talking to one of the band operations sergeants, Staff Sgts. S. Chris Kerley or Troy Hascall.

**Camp Slayer Babylon Movie Theater Show Times:**

**Monday thru Friday:**  
4 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday:**  
10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.

Stop by the Camp Slayer MWR for weekly movie listings

August Division MWR Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	7 Spades Tourney @ 8 p.m.	8 4 on 4 Volleyball Tourney @ 7 p.m.	9 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	10 Basketball Capt.'s Mtg. @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.	11 R&B Night @ 8 p.m.	12 5 on 5 Basketball Tourney (TBA)
13 Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.	14 Dominoes Tourney @ 8 p.m.	15 Volleyball Night @ 8 p.m. Ping Pong Tourney @ 8:30 p.m.	16 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	17 Frisbee Football Capt.'s Mtg. @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night	18 R&B Night @ 8 p.m.	19 Frisbee Football (TBA)
20 5K Run Check-in @ 5:15 a.m. Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.	21 Texas Hold'em Night @ 8 p.m.	22 4 on 4 Volleyball Night @ 7 p.m.	23 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	24 Softball Capt.'s Mtg. @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.	25 R&B Night @ 8 p.m.	26 Softball Tourney (TBA)
27 Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.	28 Chess Tourney @ 8 p.m.	29 Volleyball Night @ 8 p.m. Pool Tourney @ 8 p.m.	30 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	31 Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.		

ENTERTAINMENT

The 19th Amendment is passed, allowing women the right to vote.

*Celebrating Women's Equality Day*

The event is hosted at Camp Liberty's Division Chapel, 7-8 p.m.

**CARTOON CORNER**

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# Sports Roundup

with Staff Sgt. Christian Farrell  
363rd MPAD



## Tradition trumps change

### THE CASE OF CHANGING UNIFORMS

It was about two-months ago when Soldiers received word that a change was in the works. "Army changes its uniform," was the headline that got our attention. Army head honchos apparently decided it was time for something different for the dress uniform – goodbye green, hello blue.

"World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army's most honored traditions," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston.

Soldiers have become quite familiar lately with changing clothes. The Army Combat Uniform most of us now sweat in daily isn't the same one we were wearing a year ago. The Battle Dress Uniform and those black combat boots are a distant memory, both now appearing on the EUL or "endangered uniform list."

But these changes, our leaders tell us, come for a reason: a Soldiers uniform must fit the environment he fights in. In the 21st century, urban warfare is in. The Vietnam jungle days aren't coming back – so we're told.

Those two changes though, come seemingly with legitimate reasons – the former one done in the name of tradition, the latter for form and function. I'll label them understandable changes.

What I can't understand though, is why *sports teams* feel the need to change uniforms for no apparent reasons. During the last decade, no matter what the sport, you can count on a number of teams each year taking the field, court, diamond or ice wearing new duds. Stop the madness!

New uniforms: 1) don't help you win games. 2) don't sell more team merchandise, and 3) destroy the time-honored team tradition of its players wearing the same jerseys year after year.

The New York Yankees have been wearing their famed pinstripes since the days of the dinosaurs. It's arguably the best uniform in all of sports. I don't say that because I'm a New Yorker, but rather because the uniform has withstood the test of time. Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Derek Jeter – they've all worn the pinstripes. It's TRADITION!

Listen up general managers and team owners, athletic directors and school presidents: tradition should be embraced, not disgraced.

Sadly, tradition is a word the National Football League's Minnesota Vikings don't have in their playbook anymore. The Purple People Eaters have sold out and jumped on the "the heck with history" bandwagon.

They'll still wear purple this season, but they've added a trendy and unnecessary wide side-stripe, along with some other minor changes. Team management should concern itself with finding a new quarterback who'll help the team win some more games instead of altering a good uniform in hopes of bringing in a few more concession sale dollars. Win a Super Bowl and you won't be able to stock the shelves with enough Vikings merchandise.

While the Vikings are moving away from team tradition, the Cleveland Browns should be applauded for doing just the opposite. The Browns are remembering their roots. Browns players this fall will wear black shoes and sport grey facemasks on their helmets just like they did some 50 years ago.

My favorite uniforms in sports have one thing in common: the teams look the same to me today as they did when I was five years old. The teams that get my vote for best uniform are: in professional football: the Indianapolis Colts; college football (there's so many): Michigan, USC, Alabama and Penn State; hockey: the Montreal Canadians; basketball: the Boston Celtics; and in baseball: the best team also happens to wear the best uniform, and of course that would be those Damm Yankees.

FACES AND PLACES



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Michael Larson, COMCAM, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.  
**CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Sgt. Nicholas Fate from 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provides perimeter security in a rural field after a long foot movement to search for weapons caches near Mushahda July 17.**



Photo by Sgt. Jeff Smith, Company B, 2-4 Avn. Regt., CAB, 4th Inf. Div.  
**TOP: CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A Chinook helicopter sits on the landing pad in the early evening hours here while pilots wait for total darkness to conduct flight operations for Company B, 2nd Squadron, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.**  
**RIGHT: FOB KALSU, Iraq – Sgt. Laura Williams, truck driver, Company A, 204th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, ties down an M1088 truck to the bed of a M1000 heavy-equipment trailer July 16 at Forward Operating Base Duke. Soldiers from 204th Support Bn. are moving their base of operations north to Forward Operating Base Kalsu as FOB Duke prepares to be transferred over to the Iraqi government.**



Photo by Cpl. Michael Molinaro, 2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.