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the **STATIC LINE**

**Fourth Iraqi Army
Division & Task
Force Panther take
lead in Salah ad Din**





the **STATIC LINE**



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER:

I want to thank all of the Paratroopers and Soldiers of our BCT for the smooth transition with the Rakkasans. As you now fully realize, Salah ad Din Province is a complex place, full of challenges and opportunities for peace and prosperity. We have to continue to work with our Iraqi partners and get them ready for more responsibility and autonomy. In the end, we and the people of Salah ad Din want the same thing: safety, security, and economic prosperity. By treating the civilians with dignity and respect, we will move

together towards that brighter future. During the holy months of Ramadan, dignity, respect, and cultural sensitivity are even more important. The enemies of the Iraqi people will try to use this holy month to sow hatred and mistrust in the population. They will fail. The Panthers and the Iraqi security forces will not let that happen. Thank you for the great work you do everyday. Do not let complacency settle in, and continue to stay focused on our mission. The adventure is just beginning.



*All the Way!!
H-minus!!*

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Task Force Panther takes torch in Salah ad Din Province



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden/ 3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO

Col. Bryan R. Owens (center), commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and his Arabic translator Omar (left) speak with Governor Hamed Hamood Shekti (right) of the Salah ad Din Province Aug. 31, at the Provincial Government Office in Tikrit, Iraq, about goals, expectations, and needs of the province's security forces. The meeting was an introduction for Owens and Shekti as Owens' Task Force Panther prepared to assume authority of operations in the Province from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on Sept. 9.

Spc. Joshua R. Ford **3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO**

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – (September 9, 2006) Brigades from two Divisions that are well known for their exceptional duty and call to action found themselves fighting side-by-side once again in a foreign conflict.

They are both known for their unique capabilities on the battlefield – one is air assault and the other airborne. The Rakkasans from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the Panthers from the 82nd Airborne Division have proven themselves time and again in every American-involved conflict since World War II.

As Task Force Rakkasan prepared to redeploy, Task Force Panther prepared to assume responsibility of the Salah ad Din Province – an area in which the Rakkasans spent more than 12 months deployed to. After several weeks of joint missions and operations, the Paratroopers of Task Force Panther officially assumed responsibility Sept. 9, 2006, at COB Speicher.

“It is going to be a challenging year, but a very rewarding one as we assist the Iraqis in making progress,” said Col. Bryan Owens, commander of the 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. “This is an extremely complex environment to work in and our Paratroopers are up to the task.”

During their time at COB Speicher, the 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., worked with the 4th Iraqi Army Brigade, stood up police departments and continued to develop Iraqi Security Forces into a self sustaining force, said Maj. Timothy P. Sullivan, executive officer, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. Paratroopers from 3rd BCT will pick up where the 101st left off, continuing to train Iraqi forces and run joint patrols with the Iraqis.

“Our primary focus is to work by, through, and with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police to provide security in the area. As the Iraqi Security Forces take the lead, we will assist them with their efforts to protect the citizens of Iraq and allow the fledgling government to blossom into a functional entity,” Owens added.

The Iraqi security forces in the Salah ad Din Province have been conducting operations independently with Coalition Forces supervision over the past three months.

“Iraqi Forces have taken the lead in Multi-National Division-North,” said Sullivan.

The Panthers have entered a critical phase in Operation Iraqi Freedom; determining if the Iraqi Forces are ready to take full control of Salah ad Din Province without supervision from Coalition Forces, said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Hawkins, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

“Standards that were set for Iraqi Forces already will definitely be elevated,” Hawkins added.

During their 12-month deployment here, Task Force

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A look at where they came from and why they are *who* they are: **Paratroopers**

Public Affairs

3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

The 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment was activated July 6, 1942, at Fort Benning, Ga., under the Airborne Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. Shortly after its activation and movement to Fort Bragg, the regiment was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. Ever since that day – Feb. 12, 1943 – the regiment has called Fort Bragg home.

From World War II to Vietnam, from the Sinai to Grenada, from Operation Desert Storm/ Desert Shield to efforts in the Global War on Terrorism; the nation has called on the regiment to fight in foreign conflicts, provide humanitarian assistance, and conduct peacekeeping missions all across the globe.

The regiment has deployed on short notice numerous times without hesitation and continues to serve in honor of the legacy and example set by its forefathers more than 64 years ago.

“The discipline of a Paratrooper is like that of no other,” said 1st Sgt. Richard Lopez, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. “Paratroopers are of a different mind-set than that of the rest of the Army. We are held to a higher standard that was set by those Paratroopers who served before us.”

It began with six weeks of intense, grueling training in Casablanca, North Africa, and final preparations in Kairouan, Tunisia. The regiment was preparing to enter World War II in Operation Husky by making the first regimental-size combat parachute assault by Allied forces.

The regiment’s Paratroopers jumped into Gela, Sicily, on July 9, 1943. There, they were met by the Herman Goering German Panzer Division, which they blocked at Biazzia Ridge, keeping them from reinforcing the beach defenses at Gela – preserving and ensuring Allied landings. With Sicily secured, the Allies continued their attacks on the Axis powers with landings on the Italian mainland.

During World War II, the regiment made three more parachute assaults – Salerno, Italy (Sept. 14, 1943), Normandy, France (June 6, 1944 – D-Day), and Groesbeck, Holland (Sept. 17, 1944).

The 505th PIRs jump on Normandy during D-Day was actually conducted prior to the planned timeline of the invasion, which is known as H-hour. Because of the regiment’s tradition of being the first into battle, they inherited the motto “H-minus.” Their early leap into the night led to the liberation of St. Mere-Eglise, which was the first French town to be liberated from German control.

Also during World War II, the regiment fought in Operation Market Garden – the largest parachute assault in history – and the Battle of the Bulge, which is remembered for the bleak winter days and nights of hard-fought battle the Paratroopers endured in the Ardennes Forest.

Two Presidential Unit Citations, the French Forragere, the Netherlands Military Order of William, and the Belgium Forragere were awarded to the regiment for its actions during World War II. Even today, all of the more than 18,000 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers wear the French Forragere around the left shoulder of their Class-A dress uniform.

“It’s an honor to wear those awards that were earned by our founding Paratroopers,” Lopez said. “It’s important to our heritage because after we’ve left the military, our traditions and legacy are still in place for future generations to follow.”

After World War II, the 505th returned to Fort Bragg. In June 1957, the regiment



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was reorganized and re-designated as the 505th Infantry and relieved from assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division.

On May 25, 1964, the 505th Infantry was reassigned and re-designated as the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. The Brigade was organized into three battalions, 1st Battalion, 505th PIR; 2nd Battalion, 505th PIR; and 1st Battalion, 508th PIR. First of the 508th was later re-designated as the 3rd Battalion, 505th PIR, in October 1968.

Less than a year after their reassignment, on April 30, 1965, the brigade was alerted for combat as part of Operation Power Pack, the defense of the Dominican Republic against communist insurgents. Within 18 hours after notification, the first C-130 Aircraft landed at San Isidro Airfield, Dominican Republic.

Still today, Paratroopers remain packed and ready for no-notice notification. Just as the rest of the division, the 505th PIR maintains a ready status to deploy anywhere in the world within 18 hours or less of notification to conduct a parachute assault, land, fight, and win. “The ability to deploy anywhere in the world within 18 hours or less is a defining characteristic of a Paratrooper,” Lopez added. “Paratroopers provide an asset to the nation that no other division in the Department of Defense can provide. We can drop all our vehicles, equipment, and man power on little or no notice.”

On Feb. 12, 1968, the brigade began a



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden/ 3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO

Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, approach the door of a C-130 Aircraft during an airborne operation June 2004 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

22-month deployment in the Republic of Vietnam to secure the region south of the demilitarized zone. Third Brigade was the only unit from the 82nd Airborne Division to participate in the Vietnam conflict.

After Vietnam, the brigade participated in several peacekeeping campaigns – the Sinai (March-Aug. 1982), Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada (Oct.-Dec. 1983), Operation Just Cause in Panama (Dec. 1989), and Operation Restore Hope in Panama (Dec. 1994). They

also deployed with the rest of the 82nd Airborne Division as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm to enforce sanctions and deter further Iraqi aggression from expanding into Saudi Arabia.

Most recently, Paratroopers of the 505th have made five separate deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism – three to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

Since the Global War on Terrorism campaign began in 2001, task forces from the regiment have spent more than 26 months in the Middle East.

Because of their success in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and their proven ability to rapidly deploy on short notice, the regiment and the remainder units of the 82nd Airborne Division have been dubbed “America’s Strategic Response Force.”

Their most recent rapid deployment was in September 2005 to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans. Within six hours of notification, the first wave of Paratroopers was patrolling the flooded streets of Downtown New Orleans and the French Quarter making assessments of the damage.

The task force evacuated more than 5,000 people and rescued nearly 1,000 trapped and stranded from their flooded



A Paratrooper from 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, fires a round from his M4 Carbine Feb. 12, 2004, during an insurgent attack on Coalition Forces at the Mayor’s office in Fallujah, Iraq.

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Panthers

homes. Paratroopers also assisted in the refurbishment of key facilities throughout the city, such as the Saint Louis Cathedral, the Superdome, the historic French Quarter, medical centers, housing projects, and schools. Paratroopers continuously conducted presence patrols to ensure the city's safety from looters and crime. The task force redeployed four weeks later.

Today, in support of the Army's transformation from division task forces into modularized brigade-centric combat teams, the regiment consists of 3,500 Paratroopers from six separate battalions – two airborne infantry battalions, a reconnaissance squadron, an artillery battalion, a special troops battalion, and a support battalion.

The majority of the BCT's Paratroopers – ranging from all technical and tactical skills – are jump qualified and maintains airborne proficiency by conducting at least one quarterly exit from an aircraft while in flight.

"Just like every other Soldier in the Army, Paratroopers are volunteers," Lopez said, "but our (regiment's) Paratroopers volunteered to come (to the 82nd Airborne Division) and volunteer to conduct airborne operations."

Currently, all six battalions are in the first months of a year-long deployment in support of OIF in the Multi-National Division – North area of operation.

The 1st Battalion, 505th PIR; 2nd Battalion, 505th PIR; 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment; 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion; and the 3rd Brigade Support Battalion is the current make up the 82nd's 3rd Brigade Combat Team.



Courtesy Photo

Paratroopers from the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, check their parachutes and equipment during training in 1942 in North Africa.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden/3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO

Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, patrol a rural farming area November 2003 just outside of Fallujah, Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden/3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO
Sgt. Daniel Loeffler, team leader, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, treads his way through the flooded streets of New Orleans during a presence patrol of the French Quarter Sept. 9, 2005.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Acosta

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Duenas, squad leader, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, leads his squad of Paratroopers out of an Afghan village after searching the area for enemy activity Oct. 9, 2002, in southeastern Afghanistan.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klicka/ 133rd MPAD

Maj. Roger Stark of the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion and **Lt. Jeffery Wright** of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, talk with children in the city of Samarra, Iraq, Sept. 5 as other Soldiers look over a soccer field that is in need of repair.

TOA

Panther will fall under the 25th Infantry Division, which is the command and control element for MND – North.

“The Panthers are going to be able to take the Iraqi Forces to the next level, continue their development and provide the reinforcement they need to get them through the critical next phase of development ... the economic welfare of the province,” Sullivan said.

“We are not only trained and ready, but are excited about getting started and accomplishing our mission here,” said Owens. “I believe the key to success is to get the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government officials to embrace their duty to the greater good of the Iraqi population and not just for themselves, their families or their tribes.”



Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), load a helicopter Sept. 3 as they end their tour of duty at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora and Iraq.

Right-Seat, Left-Seat Rides

Paratroopers learn the ropes from Rakkasans

Tikrit: Task Force Loyalty

Spc. Joshua R. Ford
3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO

Driving down Main Supply Route Tampa, Sgt. Nate Everitt, squad leader, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), pointed out areas to look out for improvised-explosive devices to the unit that would replace his in Iraq.

Paratroopers from Battery A, 1st Bn., 319th Airborne Field Artillery Reg., 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., listened attentively while Everitt continued to point out small villages on either side of MSR Tampa and what his unit had encountered in the past year with the inhabitants of each village.

Later the mounted patrol pulled into a small town on the outskirts of Tikrit where the Soldiers dismounted their vehicles. They were immediately greeted by cheerful children while the convoy commander asked the village elders and religious leaders if they had noticed any suspicious activity in the town or surrounding areas.



Photos by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO

Sgt. James Copeland, squad leader, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, pulls security overlooking a canyon during a patrol Sept. 1 near Tikrit, Iraq.

“These guys like us,” Everitt turned and said to Paratroopers of the 319th AFAR. “Not all the villages and towns are like this one though,” Everitt continued

with a sober look on his face.

This was all a part of the right and left seat rides to familiarize Paratroopers of 1st Bn., 319th AFAR with the area they will soon take over from Soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 320th FA.

The outgoing Soldiers of the 101st have been showing their 82nd counterparts the ropes what is soon to be Task Force Panther’s area of responsibility. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Div., handed off their battle space in Northern Iraq to the Paratroopers of 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

The right-seat ride requires a unit to show an incoming unit around their area of operation before redeploying, said Staff Sgt. Raymond St. Louis, squad leader, Battery A, 1st Bn., 319th AFAR Reg.

“During the right-seat ride, we’ve shown the 319th guys hot spots, and introduced them to the key leaders of each city, town and village; all to let the guys get comfortable with the area they will be responsible for,” said Everitt.

Soldiers from the 101st have done an excellent job showing their 82nd counterparts around the area of operation, said



Spc. Russell Coffey, cannon crew member, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), interacts with children of a small village on the outskirts of Tikrit, Iraq, during a patrol Aug. 30.

1st Lt. Ronald M. Kubacki, platoon leader, Battery A, 1st Bn., 319th FA.

“Obviously you don’t want to throw us out there to do nothing. So for them to actually give us the opportunity to get out there and ride with them and see how it goes, you start to get comfortable with learning the area a little bit,” Kubacki added. “It also gives us a chance to pick up on good standards and tactics that worked for them while they were here.”

After a week of learning the ins and outs of the Salah ah Din Province, Paratroopers from the 319th AFAR took over for the left-seat ride. It was now up to the 82nd Paratroopers to prove they had a grasp on what they’d learned the week prior.

One non-commissioned officer from the 101st sat in each vehicle during the left-seat ride monitoring the Panthers to make sure they have a good grasp on the area and what to do in certain situations.

“The left-seat ride was certainly different because we got out

there not knowing the area too well. It was a big shock to us trying to get around,” said Kubacki.

“But being out there, the guys start to get used to it and feel more confident, and by the end everybody feels comfortable with it.”

“These guys got out there and seemed real motivated. They did everything right,” said Russell Coffey, cannon crew member, Battery A, 3rd Bn., 320th FA.

“We asked every little question we could think of about the area, and they threw all the information down our throats which was really informative for us,” said Kubacki.

“The whole process has been good and very beneficial to the unit,” said Kubacki. “We feel well prepared to take on this mission.”

“These guys come from a great unit with a good history and I feel comfortable leaving this area in the 82nd’s hands,” Coffey added.

Bayji: Task Force 1Panther

Capt. Amy A. Bishop
133rd MPAD

The torch has been passed in the city of Bayji as Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division took control of the area from Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division.

Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, officially took command and control of Forward Operating Base Summerall from the Rakkasans of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, to continue current operations in the Bayji area.

As the Troopers arrived, the 1st Bn., 187th Infantry Regiment, passed on their wealth of knowledge by leading the Troopers on patrols and giving classes on such things as improvised-explosive device detection and reaction, reaction to contact with the enemy, and live-fire exercises to prepare them for their upcoming year.

The city of Bayji provides a great deal of electrical power to the city of Baghdad and northern Iraq. It also has an oil refinery and pipeline that is crucial to the success of Iraq’s new economy. The battalion’s primary mission is to assist Iraqi Security Forces in protecting these assets, but they have a number of other responsibilities as well, said Lt. Col. Scott Harris, commander, 1st Bn. 505th PIR.

Over the course of the year, Troopers will be working with the Iraqi Army Sol-



Photo by Sgt. Wayne D. Haley/133rd MPAD

Capt. Tim Peterman, commander, Company C, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, (center) from Roy, Utah, talks with a local farmer about security Sept. 5 in the city of Bayji, Iraq.

diers from the Iraqi Army base K2, which is co-located with FOB Summerall, to ensure that they are prepared to take over security responsibilities in the area.

Other missions include assisting local government officials in project planning, facilitating reconstruction efforts and overseeing infrastructure projects. The will also work with the Police Transition Team to ensure the success of the local police department.

“This is a very pivotal time in the entire war in Iraq,” Harris said. “We are at the point now where the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police – the total Iraqi Security Forces – are really beginning to build up. They

have done a lot of training, and they are equipped. So, my focus over the next year is working on being able to get the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police out front so that they can become a legitimate force in the eyes of the Iraqi citizen.”

As the Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division fly home, the Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division get settled in for the long road ahead, but say they are ready for the challenge.

“We are excited to be here,” Harris said. “My Troopers have trained for this for the past year....we look forward to helping the people in this area out and hope to make a difference.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klicka/133rd MPAD

2nd Lt. Jeffery Wright of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, and Maj. Stuart Stoval of the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion provide security for other Soldiers Sept. 5, 2006, as they talk with shop owners in the city of Samarra, Iraq.

Samarra: Task Force 2Panther

Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klicka
133rd MPAD

Paratroopers from North Carolina replaced the Infantryman from Kentucky in Samarra, Iraq, this month.

Troopers from 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, are taking over where the Rakkasans from 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, left off at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora located near the city of Samarra.

“We are going to continue to build on the great effort made by the three-eighty seventh Infantry this past year” said Lt. Col. Viet Luong, commander, 2nd Bn., 505th PIR. “Our mission here is to take over the southern sector and help to enable critical (Iraqi Security Forces) capabilities.”

Units have already begun patrolling the streets and participating in missions with the



A Paratrooper from 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, searches a vehicle during a hasty checkpoint near Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora Sept. 3 in Samarra, Iraq.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klicka/ 133rd MPAD
Sgt 1st Class Clayton Holliday, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, provides security for his Troopers Sept. 5, 2006, as they talk with store owners in the city of Samarra, Iraq.

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402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, which has been in place at Brassfield-Mora for about six months now. Soldiers of the 402nd have been showing them the ropes, taking them to the city of Samarra to locate soccer fields that are in need of repair.

“We were out scouting locations that needed to be cleaned up so that soccer fields could be developed for the children of the city”, said Maj. Stuart Stoval of the 402nd CA Bn. “The new Soldiers performed very well. They did the meet and greet of local store owners and played with the children. They did all the right things while out on the mission.”

Additionally, troopers of 2nd Bn., 505th PIR, will continue training and mentoring Iraqi Army Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Seven, an Iraqi military installation near Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora. The goal is to help the Iraqi soldiers become more independent and able to assume more missions on their own.

The battalion is also responsible for overseeing the training of the Iraqi Police in the area, facilitating reconstruction projects and assisting local government officials during the rebuilding process.

“We will continue to build a relationship with the people of Samarra,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Brett Hagel-Pitt. “The citizens here need to know that the Government in Baghdad cares about them and that the Soldiers of the 505th care about them.”



Paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, look over a soccer field Sept. 4, 2006, in the city of Samarra, Iraq. The Paratroopers were making assessments of the area during a civil military operations mission.



505th Parachute Infantry Regiment 82nd Airborne Division



All the Way!!
H-Minus!!

