

The Ivy Leaf

Established in 1917 to honor those who serve



VOL. 1, NO. 21 MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD “STEADFAST AND LOYAL” OCTOBER 29, 2006

MND-B CG, CSM
express gratitude to
MND-B Soldiers

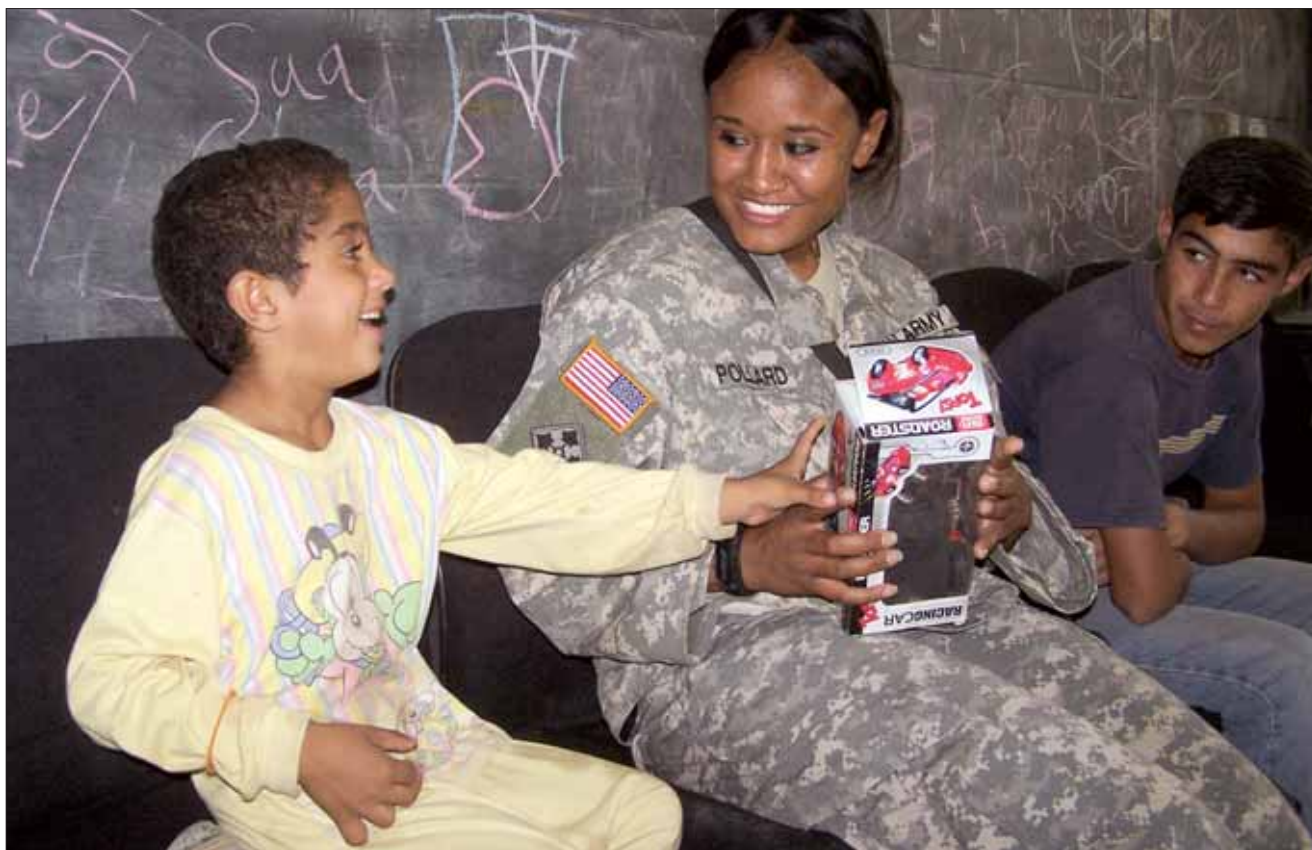
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**Chaplain shares reunion,
reintegration tips for
redeployment**

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MND-B Soldiers
participate in
Army Ten-Miler

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CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Valrica Pollard, re-enlistment and medical logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, plays with a little boy at the Civil Military Operations Center clinic at the Radwaniya Palace Complex Sept. 23. Patients are eligible for supplies, such as food, clothes and toys, after being treated at the clinic. Pollard enlisted the aid of fellow Soldiers to get toys and clothes sent from home to donate to the local residents through the clinic.

REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

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

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq –
In the midst of moving barriers and taking part in other logistics missions throughout Baghdad, Soldiers from 589th Brigade Support Battalion, Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, have also worked on leaving a personal impression on Iraqi citizens

The Soldiers have been collecting and delivering clothes, toys and other items to the clinic at the Civil Military Operations Center in the Radwaniya Palace Complex for nearly six months.

The effort started when Staff Sgt. Valrica Pollard, re-enlistment and medical logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, met Soldiers with the 414th Civil Affairs

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NEWS FROM THE FRONT

MND-B Soldiers seize 2 weapons caches, detain 7

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers seized two weapons caches and detained seven suspected terrorists in and around Baghdad Oct. 15 and 16.

MND-B Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, seized a weapons cache Oct., 16 conducting combat operations in Yusufiyah, south of Baghdad.

The cache consisted of a 155mm artillery round, a 105mm round, six 60mm artillery rounds, a 120mm artillery round and two 82mm rounds.

In a separate incident, MND-B Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, detained seven suspected terrorists and seized a weapons cache while conducting random searches in Huriyah Oct. 15.

The cache contained a PKC assault rifle, an RPK machinegun, 11 AK-47 assault rifles, a G3 rifle, a handgun, two Browning high-powered rifles, a shotgun, six 57mm air-to-ground rockets rigged as improvised-explosive devices, more than 5,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, 42 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 38 rounds of Smith & Wesson .38 cal. ammunition and various bomb-making materials.

The suspects were held for further questioning. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed the munitions.

As of Oct. 15, Iraqi Security Forces and MND-B Soldiers have cleared more than 95,000 buildings, 80 mosques and 65 muhallas, detained more than 214 terrorist suspects, seized more than 1,700 weapons, registered more than 750 weapons and found more than 41 weapons caches in support of Operation Together Forward. The combined forces have also removed more than 210,810 cubic meters of trash from the streets of Baghdad.

(Courtesy of MND-B PAO and 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.)

Attention all Fort Hood Soldiers: Take care of outstanding traffic tickets or arrest warrants NOW

Submitted by the 4th Infantry Division staff judge advocate client services office

Soldiers from Fort Hood who have been deployed this past year and neglected to pay for their traffic tickets back home may get a break.

"If the citation was issued by the city of Killeen Police Department, the presiding judge, Barbara 'Bobbie' Weaver and she and her court staff are willing to have our Soldiers come into the Ironhorse legal center and submit their names

and citation information for processing and payment of their delinquent tickets," said Maj. Gregory Simmons, currently deployed with the Army Reserve's 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, and working in the Ironhorse legal center.

Simmons is an attorney in Killeen, Texas, and the presiding associate municipal judge for Killeen as a civilian.

"We will get the status of the ticket and the Soldier can pay the fine and court cost prior to arriving (back in) Killeen," said

Simmons. "If the ticket is in 'warrant' status, we will work to get the warrants and warrant fees suspended."

In addition, Soldiers can request a payment plan and prevent their case from going into warrant status. "If a service member wishes to contest their ticket we can also request a continuance and a new court date for appearance," said Simmons.

Soldiers who think that they have a traffic ticket in the City of Killeen need to come by the Ironhorse legal center to start

the process.

"I also served as the city judge for Harker Heights, and I have a firm working relationship with their judge, the judges in Copperas Cove and Nolanville. Working with Bobbie (Weaver) and other judges in clearing their backlog of old cases is beneficial to all parties," said Simmons.

The Ironhorse legal center is open from 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. The Killeen Municipal Court Web site is: KMC@ci.killeen.tx.us



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

MND-B CG presents 1st OIF 5-7 battle streamer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, presents the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, the first 4th Inf. Div. battle streamer Oct. 5 for Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 on Camp Taji. Lt. Col. John Cross (left), commander, STB, 1st BCT, helped attach the campaign streamer to the unit's guidon.

The Ivy Leaf

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Combat Aviation Bde., 4th Inf. Div.
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16th Engineer Bde.
172nd Stryker Bde.

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CG praises division combat formation

I want to thank every Soldier, and I would like to let you all know how proud I am of each and every one of you. It has been a true honor to command this division in combat in what may be one of the most decisive periods in the campaign. I've watched as our team – from the division's staff down through the brigades, battalions, companies, platoons and squads – continually demonstrates its ability to quickly adapt and remain relevant at what we're doing. That's a huge tribute to our Soldiers during this war on terror.

The Soldiers in this organization have never let me down. I want to thank the entire formation that served right alongside me and never quit, that never faltered throughout the time I've been the division commander. You are the best – and I'm deeply indebted to all of you.

Our mission has been vital during a time in which I consider to be one of the most important times in Iraq's history. Since the division's transfer of authority on January 7, we have provided the new government of Iraq the time necessary to demonstrate, and prove, its ability to the Iraqi people that it is a viable entity as it strives to succeed and transition into a democratic society. We've provided the Iraqi government a window of opportunity to see if it will succeed or not. That's huge. I think it's a significant accomplishment for us.

I have been impressed with our Soldiers and their ability to perform their missions in such a complex, demanding and tough environment. They have remained disciplined throughout the deployment.

Our formation has validated the idea of the transfor-



Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman,
Commander,
4th Inf. Div. & MND-B

mation of the heavy division and brigades. This division will serve as a model for how you transform the rest of the Army from what we've learned over here fighting. We have accomplished a lot. In a year's time, we were able to reorganize the division; we made it more effective, and we proved the concept in combat. We've done that across every battlefield operations system in the division. Of significance is the fact we've demonstrated our ability to deal with more than one province. We were the first division assigned to Multi-National Division – Baghdad to pick up three additional provinces.

While here, we have made great progress in training the Iraqi army. We started with only two brigades in the lead with battle space – and now we have got 10 brigades. We've put the 9th Iraqi Army Division in battlespace and trained it up completely. Perhaps just as important, we've worked extensively with the national police and identified the shortfalls to strengthen its overall capability. We've also made huge progress with the local police. In fact, we now have 262 police stations that we have oversight for. This is a huge accomplishment.

I would like to tell all our families that I am deeply proud of their Soldiers. I'm proud of what our families have done to support their spouses, their parents, their loved ones, as they've endured the yearlong deployment. A year is a long time. I'm proud of their continued support and their sacrifices.

I'm sincerely sorry for the loss of the great Soldiers from our formation. It has changed the lives of many of our families, and my heart also goes out to those who have been severely wounded. They are part of our family, and they are very important to us – they are important to the institution.

I want to thank those spouses back there and those commanders' wives and the sergeants' major wives down at the brigade and battalion level who carried a heavy load throughout this deployment.

I also appreciate the support of our communities from

across our nation. When the U.S. military goes to war, the nation as a whole must go to war. To know we've got the support of the American people, and they support our American Soldiers, and the things they do to support our Soldiers – their support is greatly appreciated. When you put America's sons and daughters in harm's way – that makes a big statement. You can't do that without the support of the American people.

I want to thank the people in central Texas for their unwavering, genuine support and also that of the 4th Infantry Division Association, which has remained steadfast and loyal – we could not have completed this tough assignment without their support.

I truly appreciate the efforts of our Soldiers. I strongly feel that, at the command level, it is our job to take care of them. When you're responsible for 68,000 people, of whom 37,000 are U.S. Coalition Forces, there is a lot of things that you've got to make sure you're doing to make sure you are taking care of people.

A part of that is understanding the horrors of war are demanding both physically and mentally on every Soldier. When you've got people who really care, and it's genuinely shown, that says a lot to a Soldier. For me, I like to hug my Soldiers. I put my arm around them, talk to them, 'cause I care about them. It's the human dimension of war that makes a difference. That's why I am where I am today – because of the Soldiers.

The division has been a time in my life that my wife, Dee, and I will never forget. It has not been easy in a war like this. I've learned one heck of a lot, and I'm a better man for the experience.

Our division is a well-respected combat formation. It has proven itself twice in Iraq. The legacy of the division will continue – it will continue to be a magnificent war fighting formation because it has magnificent people – and it will continue to serve our nation with pride – as have you all!

Ironhorse 6, Steadfast and Loyal

Command Sgt. Maj. Riling to MND-B Soldiers: 'Thanks for the job you did'

First of all, I'd like to thank all of you for the wonderful job you have done during our deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. You have made the Ironhorse Team proud.

During the past 12 months, the units from throughout Multi-National Division – Baghdad have pulled together and developed into a cohesive and formidable force. We assembled, and melded together, a blend of capabilities and combat power from across the Army inventory into a finely honed, lethal, combat team, which has led to our success.

Each and every Soldier should be proud of their accomplishments. Prior to our deployment, the 4th Infantry Division, along with its brother units, underwent transformation into a modular combat configuration. After watching the stellar performance of our units, we can only deem that the transformation process has been a huge success – and you helped prove that success.

It has been my pleasure to observe as our Soldiers grew every day in combat. Through experience, training and sheer tenacity, our Soldiers dramatically improved the division's capability to defeat the terrorists. You overcame everything the terrorists could throw at us, from the improvised-explosive devices, VBIEDs and suicide bombers to small-



Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling,
4th Inf. Div. & MND-B

arms attacks, indirect fire and ambushes. Our knowledge grew exponentially since we arrived in theater. You truly developed and grew into true combat warriors.

During our time here, the actions of our Soldiers forged a bond of trust with the people of Iraq. You repeatedly demonstrated that American Soldiers are here to help the Iraqi people and to help them develop their nation into a better country. You accomplished this by getting out and finding the bad guys – and destroying them.

We faced a very complex and difficult fight. For the enemy, it is very easy to see where our forces are. We don proper combat uniforms that declare who we are, and we travel in military vehicles – it's easy to identify us. For our Soldiers however, identifying the enemy is much more difficult. Many times, Soldiers don't know who the bad guys are unless the bad guys act aggressively or shoot at them. When our Soldiers and gals roll out the gate, they don't know if an IED, VBIED, suicide bomber or enemy forces are out there. That's what made our jobs so hard. It is something our Soldiers learned to deal with over time by sheer training, experience and ingenuity – and I think our professional Soldiers excelled.

We paid a terrible price in gaining our experience, and we lost a lot of great

Soldiers. Through Sept. 15, 200 of our fellow comrades paid the ultimate sacrifice in their service to our nation. It is a heart-wrenching experience. When the commanding general and I go to the memorials, we can see the hurt in our fellow Soldiers' eyes – it is a pain that we share with them. They miss their buddies – their comrades in arms with whom they have served and become family members with. Afterwards, they get back in those humvees, those Bradleys, those Abrams, those Strykers and those helicopters, and they go back to the fight and take the fight back to the enemy.

That's what I am the most proud about – our Soldiers. I am proud of our junior leaders – our sergeants and lieutenants – our young leaders who stepped up to the plate and made the decisions and go after the enemy. They did it every day. They didn't always get the guidance of the commanding general, the division command sergeant major, the brigade commanders or the brigade CSMs. At times, they made these tough decisions at the squad and the platoon levels. It is the squad and platoon levels where this fight is really at. It is the Soldiers in the squads and the platoons who are the ones fighting out there. They are the workhorses of this division – and they did a damn good job of it.

I would like to say thank you to all of you for your sacrifices. It has been a long, hard year. I think this division has made a difference in Iraq. I would also like you to keep in mind that, as Soldiers, we also

need to be prepared to do whatever our country tells us to do next. It's what we volunteered to do when we became Soldiers in this all-volunteer force.

I thank our family members and our civilian teammates for all of their sacrifices. It has been difficult, knowing that your loved ones are away and facing the dangers of war. It has been a long year, and we truly could not do what we do without you. I would also like to thank our wonderful communities from throughout our nation who have continuously shown their support for our troops by sending them care packages, letters, emails, cards, magazines and too many other items to list here to let the Soldiers know how much they care for them. Our Soldiers and leaders truly appreciate the support demonstrated by our fellow Americans and our communities from throughout the nation during our tenure here.

Our country believes in us. Perhaps even more importantly, the citizens of the United States of America believe in us – and I think their damn proud of us. Our nation knows that we're over here to accomplish our mission. The Army is very proud of us as well. We have heard from the Army leadership numerous times, from the Chief of Staff of the Army through various key leaders, that our Soldiers are doing a great job.

I am proud of all of you, and it has been my privilege to serve as your division command sergeant major.

Ironhorse 7, Steadfast and Loyal

MND-B Soldiers, IA conduct Operation Iron Arrow II

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

FOB KALSU, Iraq – Iraqi army soldiers from the 8th Iraqi Army Division, supported by Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers, conducted Operation Iron Arrow II in the northern Obeidi region Sept. 30.

The Obeidi region is believed to be a hiding area for terrorists from different parts of Iraq, which are influencing tribes to take part in sectarian violence.

“The operation is an IA-led effort aimed at establishing security on the Shia side of the region, which has seen an increase in sectarian violence,” said Capt. Kyle Norton, Military Transition Team, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

“Operation Iron Arrow I was conducted to root out terrorists on the Sunni side of town,” said Norton. “MND-B Soldiers want to make sure IA security operations are spread evenly on both the Sunni and Shia side of the region.”

Scouts from 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, performed a reconnaissance mission in the targeted area prior to IA soldiers starting the mission, said Maj. Thomas McCardell, team leader, MiTT. Elements of Company A, 2nd Bn., established screen lines and outer cordon security alongside the Soldiers of 3rd Bde., 8th IAD.

The inner cordon was composed of several battalions from the 2nd Bde., 8th IAD, which searched houses, roads and neighborhoods for weapon caches, roadside bombs and propaganda material. IA soldiers discovered a roadside bomb in the area and performed a controlled detonation.

Soldiers from the MiTT used this mission as an opportunity to properly train the IA ground commanders how to communicate efficiently with the units in contact.

“One of the things we are trying to do is teach the IA commanders is battle tracking strategies and having their subordinates report to them with information during an operation,” said Norton.

During previous operations, IA commanders dispersed throughout the battlefield and attempted to see for themselves how the operations were going. Sometimes they were lost in the shuffle,



FOB KALSU, Iraq – Lt. Col. Richard Muraski, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, looks over a map with the battalion commander of the 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, during Operation Iron Arrow II in the northern Obeidi region Sept. 30.

which in reality, made the missions more difficult and time consuming, said Norton.

“Company commanders are now reporting to the battalion commanders and keeping them informed on what their soldiers find or complications that arise,” said Norton.

In addition to the IA being trained to become a better army, the Ministry of Defense has begun issuing up-armored humvees to brigades from the 8th IAD, said Norton. The IA soldiers used Iron Arrow II as a test run for these new vehicles during combat operations.

The humvees help the IA look more professional and provide them with increased protection from roadside bombs, said Norton. A lot of the civilian trucks they were using would not survive a direct hit from a roadside bomb.

It is good to see the MOD is providing soldiers with up-armored vehicles to keep them safe, he said, because it shows the people the government is taking the initiative in making their country a safe place.

“I think the IA did a good job during the mission,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ed

Martinez, logistics advisor, 0822 MiTT, STB, 2nd BCT. “They showed great initiative and great battle-tracking skills. They also showed the terrorists the IA are

willing to look for them on either side of the region and stop them from harming innocent civilians and provoking sectarian violence.”



FOB KALSU, Iraq – Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provide outer cordon security while elements from the 8th Iraqi Army Division search homes during Operation Iron Arrow II in the northern Obeidi region Sept. 30.

Baghdad citizen's tip leads IPs to unexploded VBIED, IA EDO team disarms

BAGHDAD – An Iraqi army Explosive Ordnance Disposal team removes unexploded ordnance from a vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device, which failed to detonate in Bayaa Oct. 11. Iraqi authorities were tipped off by a concerned Iraqi citizen when he noticed a vehicle in his neighborhood, which didn't belong. Photo courtesy of 172nd SBCT, MND-B



Story by MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – A tip from a concerned Iraqi citizen-led Iraqi policemen to a vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device in Baghdad's Al-Bayaa district Oct. 11.

The Iraqi police were informed by an Iraqi citizen that there was a vehicle in his neighborhood which didn't belong.

Upon further investigation, the IPs determined it was a VBIED that had failed to detonate. The IPs then called in an Iraqi army Explosive Ordnance Disposal team to disarm the bomb and notified Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, who provided overwatch and support.

Inside the vehicle, the EOD team found 23 57mm mortar rounds, two 120mm artillery rounds and a 157mm artillery round.

There were no reports of damage to Iraqi army, Iraqi police or MND-B equipment or personnel.

MND-B Soldiers capture high-value terrorist

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brock
506th RCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.
BAGHDAD –

Soldiers from Troop B and Company C, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad; Company C, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team; and a company from the Iraqi Army, captured 28 anti-Iraqi forces Oct. 3 in a pre-dawn

raid that hit nine targets simultaneously in the Jisr Diyala section of eastern Baghdad.

Among the detainees were three high-value individuals, including the number nine person on the division's high-value target list and two others on the squadron's high-value target list.

The number nine HVI has allegedly been directly responsible for murders, extra judicial killings, criminal activities and attacks on Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces, said Lt. Col. Brian

Winski, commander, 1st Sqdn., 61st Cav. Regt.

During the operations, several weapons and ammunition were confiscated, to include a PKM machine gun, a PKC machine gun drum, a RPK machine gun, a hunting rifle, two handguns, seven AK-47 rifles, five hand grenades and several rocket-propelled grenades.

This operation was an intelligence driven and included gathering information over several months.

"We were given a target of where he

(the number nine HVI) had been known to reside," said 1st Lt. Josh Mangas, platoon leader, 1st Platoon, Troop B. "This was the last known location, and we isolated the position and conducted a normal cordon and search."

During the operation, no MND-B Soldiers or Iraqi Security Forces were injured.

"This shows the value of good rehearsals, adaptive leaders, aggressive Soldiers and everybody knowing the plan of who we were after," Winski said.



HAMRIN, Iraq – A patrol of Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, return to the shore after patrolling Hamrin Lake in northern Diyala Province Oct. 6.

'Hunters' survey lake, hope to halt insurgent flow of goods

Story and photo by Sgt. Zach Mott
3rd HBCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.
HAMRIN, Iraq –

Water can be a scarce resource in many regions of Iraq. However, there are some areas, namely along the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys, that thrive because of the direct access to water.

These "liquid highways" also have the potential for use as an avenue for terrorists to traffic their goods, including improvised-explosive device materials, weapons or people.

The 'Hunters,' Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted a reconnaissance in early October at a man-made lake in the village of Hamrin in northern Diyala Province, to assess the enemy's capabilities for its use as quick getaway, as well as determine the ability to halt this trafficking lane.

"We're mostly focused on showing the capability (to

halt the trafficking lane) to the enemy so that they know that they will have to account for that, or at least keep that in their decision cycle," said Lt. Col. Louis Lartigue, commander, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, after piloting several tours around the lake.

Soldiers from the squadron's support unit had to make a few repairs and changes to the boat trailer to ensure it was sea-worthy prior to getting it out on the water.

"We serviced the engine to make sure everything ran," said Staff Sgt. Phillip Kitchen, team chief, Service and Recovery Section, Dragoon Troop, 2-9 Cav. "The prop that was on it when we got it was destroyed, so we had to re-do the prop; sand it down, grind it down, make it better. The boat had a hole in it so we had to patch the underside of the boat so that it wouldn't leak in."

In preparing the boat for use on the open water, as opposed to using it on fast-moving rivers during previous operations, there were a few kinks that need to be worked out, said Capt. Dave Buehler, commander, Dragoon Troop.

"So far, it's good. It got into the water; the trailer's a little high based on what we had to work with when we built it," said Buehler.

After taking over operations from the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry when the unit redeployed to the United States in August, the Hunters wanted to authenticate the tool before handing it over to its eventual replacements.

"We're validating both the maintenance readiness of it and the functionality of the boat out in the lake to prove that it's actually a task that we need to (hand) over to the next unit," Buehler said.

Earlier in th deployment to Iraq, the Hunters conducted similar operations on the Tigris River while at Forward Operating Base Wilson. For many, this wasn't their first time cruising the waterways of this mostly desert country, but most relished the change from the norm.

"But when it comes down to it, it's fun to get out on the water and do something different than a regular '1114 (humvee) patrol," Lartigue said.

MND-B Soldiers detain terrorists, seize cache

Story by MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD –

Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, discovered a large weapons cache Oct. 5 afternoon and detained four suspected terrorists just outside Mushada.

The 4th Bn. Soldiers found 10 155mm mortar rounds, 17 152mm mortar rounds, three 120mm mortar rounds, 10 122mm mortar rounds, four 100mm mortar rounds, eight 125mm tank rounds, five rounds smaller than 100mm, eight 50 lbs. bags of fertilizer and thousands of feet of copper wire.

In a separate incident, a patrol from 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, reacted to a small-arms fire attack and detained six suspected terrorists near Husseniya, north of Baghdad, at approximately 2 p.m. Oct. 8.

The patrol returned fire, wounded two suspected terrorists and detained six additional terrorists involved in the attack. The wounded were taken to a medical facility on Camp Taji.

Soldiers from the same battalion found an ammunition cache north of Baghdad at approximately 6:30 a.m. Oct. 8.

The patrol seized six 155mm artillery rounds, a 130mm artillery round, a 125mm artillery round, a 115mm artillery round, a 120mm mortar round and various bomb-making materials.

The suspected terrorists were detained for further questioning. The munitions were destroyed by an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Eli Medellin, COMCAM, MND-B

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Capt. Eric Livengood, 4th Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, attached to 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, takes inventory of a cache of weapons found in Mushada Oct. 5.

1-22 Inf. Regt. Soldiers seize large weapons cache in western



Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray, Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Armored Div.

BAGHDAD – Ordnance found in western Baghdad Oct. 10 is stacked and categorized prior to being detonated an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

Story by Sgt. Nathan Ryno

1st Bn., 22nd Inf., 2nd BCT, 1st Arm. Div.

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers seized a large weapons cache Oct. 10 in western Baghdad.

The Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, seized the cache, which consisted of 12 60mm mortar rounds, 104 expelling charges, 55 120mm mortar rounds, 15 120mm mortar rounds, seven 125mm mortar rounds, seven 122mm mortar rounds and various bomb-making materials.

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., continued to search for possible weapons caches and conduct operations to deny terrorists the ability to operate.

“The weapons were hidden behind mounds of sand,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Mosteller, Co. A. “The unit on the ground was on a routine patrol and started searching the local area for possible weapons and found an extremely large cache. It was a good find.”

“We had to dig a little to get the bulk of the weapons,” added Pfc. Matthew Neel, “but once everything was uncovered, it was clear that we had a very large amount of hidden weapons.”

Operations return to normal after mortar attack on FOB Falcon

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

FOB FALCON, Iraq – Less than 24 hours after enemy 82mm mortar rounds hit an ammunition holding area Oct. 10, causing a torrent of explosions and fires that continued to smolder through the next day, life on Forward Operating Base Falcon returned to normal.

Despite triggering multiple explosions and causing fire crews to work overtime, there were no casualties, and little damage was sustained to the buildings and vehicles positioned throughout the large military base located in Baghdad's Doura neighborhood, said Col. Michael Beech, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

With the help of seven Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, the Soldiers at FOB Falcon were able to quickly locate and dispose of all unexploded ordnance near the explosion site, which enabled business to return to normal by the morning of Oct. 12.

"Ultimately, this incident has had a minimal effect on my brigade's operations within the last 24 hours," Beech said. "This attack did not effect ongoing Baghdad security operations in our area of responsibility, and the loss of ammunition will not degrade the operational capability of the 4th Brigade Combat Team."

The most damage occurred in areas directly surrounding the large steel shipping containers that held the various types of tank, artillery and small-arms ammunition, he said.

"Currently, we have cleared all the areas that are necessary for the maneuver units to use to be able to conduct normal operations," said Maj. Mark Crussow, operations officer, 3rd EOD Battalion, attached to the 4th Inf. Div., speaking on Oct. 12.

"Our focus now is to secure the ammunition holding area and dispose of anything we feel poses a threat to personnel on the FOB," he said.

The seven ordnance disposal teams from the 3rd EOD Bn., worked from dawn to dusk following the incident, disposing of several hundred pounds of explosives deemed unstable. All other areas except those within about 1,000 feet of the explosion site were completely secured within 24 hours, he said.

At the time of the attack at approximately 10:40 p.m., base personnel went to full alert as attack aviation and unmanned aerial vehicles flew overhead in an attempt to locate the terrorists' mortar position.

One of the mortar shells, more than likely, struck a portion of the holding area designated for storing flares, or munitions used for illumination, and ignited a fire,



FOB FALCON, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Evan Ort, ammunitions specialist, Company A, 704th Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, marks down the location of a piece of unexploded ordnance located at Forward Operating Base Falcon Oct. 10. Within approximately 24 hours, life returned to normal on Forward Operating Base Falcon after enemy 82mm mortar rounds hit an ammunition holding area the night of Oct. 10 and caused a torrent of explosions and fires that continued to smolder early the next morning.

which then caused the ammunition to explode, said Staff Sgt. Evan Ort, ammunitions specialist, Company A, 704th Support Battalion, 4th BCT.

Ort, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the ammunition holding area, said at least 15 containers went unscathed during the incident.

Further assessments were scheduled to be made once the quarantined area around the site was secured, said Ort, who searched for ordnance Oct. 12 with other Soldiers from the 704th Support Bn.

Sgt. Peter Schmitt, petroleum specialist, Company B, 704th Support Bn., recounted the incident and said all the necessary steps were taken to ensure the safety of the Soldiers living on the FOB.

"It was definitely crazy to watch. Anyone living near the site was evacuated to a safe location until everything was secure," Schmitt said, speaking about the explosion

that sent flames and a rainfall of sparks into the night sky.

Soldiers and base employees were moved immediately to the safety of hardened buildings and structures on the base, Schmitt explained.

Schmitt said he was able to see the explosions from his barracks and quickly helped evacuate Soldiers to a safe building several thousand feet away.

"As bad as everything sounded when this incident first happened, it turns out not to be as bad as I thought," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Moody, 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div., during a visit to FOB Falcon Oct. 12.

"Our Soldiers are doing a great job with recovery, and I think the fact that something like that can happen to this brigade, and we can rebound so quickly says a lot about the kind of Soldiers we have," he continued. "This event had a minimal impact on our mission and what we do."

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Soldiers seize 30 weapons, munitions caches

Story by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, have seized 30 weapons, munitions caches the week of Oct. 1-7 in the southern Baghdad area.

As reported earlier, Soldiers of 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., seized 14 weapons caches through Oct. 4; through Oct. 7, the Soldiers seized an additional 16 weapons cache in the southern Baghdad area.

The caches comprised large quantities of assault rifles, machine guns, ammunition and a wide assortment of explosives and bomb-making materials.

The most significant find within the

caches were four aircraft bombs, believed to be 500 pounds apiece. The munitions are believed to have been intended for building a massive improvised-explosive device to be used in Baghdad.

Other items in the find include 86 90mm rockets, a 107mm rocket, two fertilizer bags containing home-made explosives, two 120mm mortar rounds and a variety of remote-controlled-triggering devices

Also found were three Dishka 12.5mm heavy machine guns with 20 full ammunition cans and a 14.5mm anti-aircraft machine gun.

Soldiers also found several rocket propelled grenade launchers with 34 grenades and two RPK machine guns with ammunition.

A suspected terrorist was detained at the scene.

The caches were found during

Operation Commando Hunter, which is designed to deny the terrorists sanctuary within the brigade's area of operations.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David Hoffman, combat camera, MND-B
BAGHDAD – Rocket-propelled grenades, launchers, rockets, RPK machine guns and ammunition were among the enemy weapons in one of the 30 weapons caches seized by Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Rashidiya school gets supplies, renovations

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

Students from the Sheik Dhari Secondary School in Rashidiya lined up to receive school supplies Oct. 5 from the Soldiers of Team 4, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is attached to the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

With students, teachers, community members and Iraqi police officers helping, the Team 4 Soldiers passed out 40 dozen notebooks, water coolers, filters, chalk, erasers and pens to the school as it prepares for an influx of returning students.

“This mission today is part of an ongoing project to renovate the school,” said Staff Sgt. Walter Laracuenta, team sergeant for Team 4. “We purchased the supplies locally to help improve the economy.”

Attendance at the school is going back up to previous levels as the security situation improves and people are returning to the area, said Nama Harbi, headmaster of the Sheik Dhari Secondary School.

“Security has been an issue in the past, but things are getting better,” he said. “The police have started to come around more and talk to us about our issues.”

The school focuses on Arabic, English, Kurdish, Social Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Science and Mathematics. Harbi said he eventually seeks to add higher-level Math classes and even Physics to the curriculum. This is his fourth year working at the school.

The school is one of five school projects Team 4 is currently working on in its area of operation. The other projects include a water treatment plant, an electrical sub-station and government office buildings. The team began its operations with 1st BCT shortly after arriving in April.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Walter Laracuenta, Team 4, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, passes out notebooks Oct. 5 to local children during a school supply mission to the Sheik Dhari Primary School in Rashidiya.

Since the 414th CA Bn. started conducting missions, the Soldiers said they have noticed things slowly but steadily improving.

“The government is a lot more proactive and doing more and more to help the people,” said Sgt. Carlos

Matos, Team 4. “There are a few projects that are completely Iraqi-run and we have no part in. That’s a sign to me that things are more secure. I have personally seen them working together and having more meetings providing essential services for the people.”

Saab al Bour Primary School kicks off new school year, celebrates renovations

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Saab al Bour Primary School opened its doors Sept. 30 with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers on hand to pass out school supplies to the students starting the new school year.

The primary school, located north of Baghdad, has undergone a \$144,000 refurbishment, which began at the end of the last school year and was completed just in time for the new school year.

“We had a school opening today, and this is one of eight schools we are refurbishing in this city,” said Capt. Holly Hanson, team leader, Team 3, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “We brought them two school kits as a gift for their school opening. The school is now complete with its refurbishment.”

“It’s good to know that we are helping with education here in Iraq. The community is happy we are helping with the

schools.”

During the school renovation, workers repaired the schools interior walls, bathrooms and administration rooms. In addition, all the desks were either repaired or replaced and each classroom now comes equipped with a new chalkboard.

Approximately 1,000 students attend the primary school, with two sets of classes held daily for boys and girls. The boys go to school in the morning; the girls attend school in the afternoon.

“I am glad the Americans are here help-

ing us,” said Malga Hamid, assistant headmaster at the Saab al Bour Primary School. “Without them, our community would not be where it is today. It feels good knowing that there is someone that wants to help.”

Not only are the adults excited about the renovated school opening, so are the students.

“I’m very excited to go back to school,” said a young Iraqi student, who insisted on arm wrestling each and every American Soldier at the opening. “I’ve been waiting for this all summer long.”

He's watching out for you ...

... Are you watching out for him?

It's a 24-hour mission.

Infantry company's efforts breathe new life into small town

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

FOB KALSU, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers delivered an assortment of equipment and goods to the Muehla Agricultural Union Oct. 9.

Refurbished tractors, seed spreaders and water pumps were among the items donated to the union as it begins to move from underneath the guidance of the Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and starts earning profits on its own.

“Muehla is the template for success for rural areas of Iraq,” said Capt. Colin Brooks, commander, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

Muehla is a cradle for farming in the Babil province. Green pastures dominate the area, in Muehla alone, there are 650 farmers who represent more than 10,000 people. The area was known as a safe haven for terrorists in the past, and many rocket and mortar attacks against MND-B forces were carried out from inside the town, Brooks said.

Upon arriving in Iraq last December, Brooks and his Soldiers immediately sat down with sheiks from the area to gauge their interests. While no one disputed the fact there were bad people in the area, and Co. B would search for and detain individuals, Brooks wanted to open up dialogue with the influential leaders from the area and begin a positive relationship.

He said he quickly discovered farming was the key to stability in the area. With the Iraqis best interests in mind, he took on a major project by standing up an agricultural union that, in time, would provide all of the equipment and goods needed for the farmers of the area. By rounding up terrorists at night and meeting with sheiks and residents during the day, the reversal of Muehla from a terrorist safe haven to an example for the rest of rural Iraq was in full swing.

Brooks said his Soldiers talked to more than 200 farmers to see what they felt was needed to work proficiently. Elections were held in May as the farmers voted for a director and a board of seven members, who would oversee the union and make important decisions regarding the needs of the people. Soldiers delivered more than 400 tons of fertilizer, seeds and other equipment to get the union on its feet and



FOB KALSU, Iraq – Capt. Colin Brooks, commander, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, talks to farmers from Muehla outside the Agricultural Union building Oct. 9. Brooks and his Soldiers delivered tractors, seed spreaders, water pumps and other items to the union as efforts continue to assist the union in working on its own before the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. Soldiers redeploy later this year.

start earning profits.

“Farming is their lives,” Brooks remarked. “We made it important to us as well. We have an incredible rapport with the people now, and the results in the area are astounding.”

Those driving around the rural roads of Muehla today will see corn fields so high that farmers from Iowa would be proud, Brooks said. The area is peaceful. There are no attacks resonating from the region, and Brooks and his Soldiers from Co. B have unprecedented freedom of movement in the area.

The equipment the Soldiers delivered will be used to rent out to farmers belonging to the union, Brooks said. The equipment will enable the farmers to do the job quicker and produce more crops. The union uses the money from the rentals to buy fertilizer and seed at subsidized prices, which enables the union to sell the items back to its members at a lower cost. It is a cycle that benefits everyone involved.

The board members have bold plans for the future that once seemed like a

dream, said Omar Hashem, director of the union, such as farmer's education program, veterinarian services, and a young farmers program.

With Brooks and his men scheduled to redeploy by the end of the year, the time has come for the union to walk by itself without any assistance from Coalition Forces.

“We are indebted to Capt. Brooks and his Soldiers forever,” Hashem said. “They had a plan that no one else had and made it work. They have given us the head start that we needed, and now it is up to us to make it successful.”

Very soon, farmers will harvest their corn, sell it to the local markets and reap the benefits of their hard work and the new cooperation amongst the members, Hashem said. Wheat season is right around the corner, and excitement is everywhere as the villagers of Muehla can now see a bright future with an endless rotation of crops from season to season.

“We had problems before in the area, but Capt. Brooks and his men made an effort to get everyone to the table and

talk,” Hashem said. “He and his guys solved the problem peacefully.”

The success in Muehla has allowed for Soldiers from 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. to exploit other areas similar to Muehla, such as Jiff Jaffa and Diyarah: small farming communities left to fend for themselves previously by the government, Brooks said. Both towns have recently started their own agricultural unions.

Because of the success in Muehla, Brooks has shown it as an example to other Coalition Force units as a way to bring better security through projects that people are passionate about. Leaders and sheiks are now coming to the table and discussing their problems and ways to counter them instead of resorting to violence.

“I can only hope other communities in Iraq get to experience what we are getting to experience,” said Hassam Ali, a local farmer from Muehla.

“Our fields have crops; our bins have seeds; and most importantly, our families have peace in their homes,” he added. “That is all I ask for.”

PATIENTS,

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Battalion, out of Utica, N.Y., who were living and working near 589th BSB Soldiers.

Pollard had received a box of toys and said she and her colleagues were interested in adopting a school or getting involved in the community in some other way.

The 1414th CA Bn. Soldiers took Pollard, a native of Akron, Ohio, to the clinic, where a local Iraqi doctor teamed with U.S. military doctors to treat local nationals. After the Iraqis were treated, they were presented supplies from the donations.

After her first visit, Pollard said she sprang to action, writing to family and friends for more supplies. She said she talks about the CMOC everywhere she goes, especially when she runs into Soldiers from her former units.

“Even when she was on Environmental Morale Leave, she was meeting with people and churches to get supplies

sent over,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Taylor, 589th BSB, a native of Lexington, Ky., who has visited the clinic several times with Pollard.

Pollard also encouraged her fellow Soldiers to solicit supplies and accompany her on trips to the clinic.

“She just kept asking me,” said Capt. Annette Whittenberger, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 589th BSB.

Whittenberger, a native of Simi Valley, Calif., said her mother sent a big box of toys. She has twice visited the clinic with Pollard.

“It was pretty exciting,” said Whittenberger. “I got to see the kids and their parents and how the whole thing operates.”

Pollard said she visits the clinic whenever she gets a chance, usually about every other weekend. After turning in the boxes of goodies, she likes to play with the Iraqi children, who get excited about new toys and the animated movies playing in the waiting area.

“Regardless of what your purpose is, you have a good feeling that you did your part,” said Pollard.



Photo by Spc. Allison Churchill, Fires Bde. PAO, 4th Inf. Div.
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Two Iraqi girls pose with stuffed animals they received after being treated at the Civil Military Operations Center clinic on the Radwaniya Palace Complex Sept. 23.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A crew chief assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade's air ambulance company checks his Blackhawk helicopter during pre-flight inspections here Aug. 3. Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, are set to assume the medical evacuation mission from the CAB's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment.

1st Cav. Div. MEDEVAC crews train with 4th Inf. Div.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Rogers

CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

Medical Evacuation flight crews from the 1st Cavalry Division's Air Cavalry Brigade, which is based out of Fort Hood, Texas, as the Soldiers began their yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment arrived at Camp Taji Sept. 12 and immediately began a training process to help ease the unit's transition into the battle.

"(Both units) are currently in the process of doing Local Area Orientation flights with their pilots-in-command," explained Maj. Rick Ortiz, commander of the CAB's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment.

Ortiz said the training is being conducted by the 1st Cav. pilots and flight medics. At the same time, once they complete the LAOs, they will be required to perform right-seat and left-seat rides with their crews in order for them to fly in the area of operations and understand the radio calls. This is to increase their awareness of the terrain before they assume the mission."

The purpose of the right-seat and left-seat rides is to increase the incoming crewmembers situational awareness and knowledge before they assume the mission, said

Ortiz.

The 1st Cav. Div. crews are making a smooth transition into the Multi-National Division – Baghdad operation.

"So far, it's going very well," he said. "We've had some challenges as far as aircraft maintenance is concerned as we transition, but we've got to continue training every day. Progress is good, and we're staying on track to complete the Relief-In-Place/Transfer of Authority process on time."

The 1st Cav unit will be attached to the 4th Inf. Div.'s Combat Aviation Brigade, said Ortiz, much like the 4th Inf. Div.'s CAB was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division last year when it arrived in theater ahead of the rest of the brigade.

"They are kind of in the same boat we were in when we first got here, and we're passing on our lessons learned, so hopefully they will take them and not make the same mistakes and continue to drive on," he said. "I'm sure they will pick up the mission and do well."

He said the fact that the Air Cavalry Brigade has been assigned to Camp Taji before has made RIP/TOA process a lot easier.

"I think it has made a difference," said Ortiz. "I think they're coming here with a great attitude and they're a very motivated unit. They're confident and open-minded about the transformation and they're taking advice.

The training has been very positive and helpful for the unit, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jesse McAninch, a pilot in Co. C, 2-227th Avn. Regt.

"I think the training has been pretty outstanding," he said. These guys know the AO extremely well from being here two years ago. We were over in the Marine Corps sector, but we flew into Baghdad quite a bit. The training is a good refresher from when we were here."

The brigade's training is geared toward ensuring that his unit is successful in its mission and the transition should be a smooth one, he added

"It makes it a lot easier," McAninch said. "Prior to this, I was only familiar with Combat Support Hospital area south and that area, but now I'm getting to know Baghdad a little more intimately. It's been great. They're very knowledgeable, and they've been putting out great information."

For now, Ortiz said he and his unit are looking forward to returning to Fort Hood and getting reacquainted with their loved ones.

They are scheduled to arrive at Fort Hood in the next few days and, according to Ortiz, he is looking forward to the trip.

"Absolutely, absolutely," he said about his return to Fort Hood. "I'm very proud of my guys who are out there making sure that this unit receives the proper training."

NO SOLDIER LEFT BEHIND

Staff Sgt. Matthew Maupin

"I will never leave a fallen comrade."

These well-known words from the Warrior Ethos ring true for Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin. Maupin is an Army Reserve Soldier from 724th Transportation Company who was captured April 9, 2004 during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

Staff Sgt. Maupin – we are still looking for you, and we will find you. You have not been forgotten.





FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Two Soldiers from the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, assist a man on crutches during a medical operation in the Shaab and Ur neighborhoods of east Baghdad September 30.

506th RCT, IA conduct MedOp in east Baghdad

Story and photos by Pfc. Paul David Ondik
506th RCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.

FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers, working together with elements of the 9th Iraqi Army Division and local Iraqi leadership, conducted a medical operation and provided humanitarian assistance to residents in the Shaab and Ur neighborhoods of east Baghdad September 30.

For the Soldiers of 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, and Troop A, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry, of the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, participating in the project, the operation was an opportunity to interact on a personnel level with the people they were deployed to help. The medical operations have provided medical screenings and treatment to more than 2,000 Iraqi patients.

“This is our fifth of a total of six operations that were planned, and they’re getting better,” said Capt. Brian Wilson, medical operations planner, 414th CA Bn. “Each time we’re seeing more patients. The Iraqi army is stepping up a little more each time.”

“So far we’ve just been trying to get clothes together to get out to the folks who need it,” added Spc. Allison Lancewicz, a military intelligence analyst, serving with the 506th RCT. “I love working with little kids. This is the best job.”

After patients were assessed and treated by Iraqi and American personnel, they were provided an opportunity to pick up clothes and supplies for the new school year. The items were donated by concerned civilians back in the United States.

“Everybody’s excited about getting some new clothes for school,” said Wilson. “It’s the beginning of the school year, so we’re giving each parent the choice of three things per child.”

The operation is intended to serve as a template for

future operations, with the Iraqi army conducting them independently of MND-B Forces.

“The idea of this is to help Iraqis learn so they can do it on their own. That is the whole point behind it,” Wilson said.



FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Spc. Allison Lancewicz, military intelligence analyst, 506th Regimental Combat Team, plays ball with an Iraqi child during a medical operation in the Shaab and Ur neighborhoods of east Baghdad Sept. 30



BAGHDAD – Sgt. Corey Tucker, Company A, 1st Battalion, Soldiers worked with local Iraqis to gather information on terrorist activity Oct. 4 in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood.

Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div. ABOVE: BAGHDAD – Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, clear a building during Operation Half Nelson, where Soldiers worked with the Iraqi army and local citizens to gather information on terrorist activity Oct. 4 in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood.

BELOW: BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, talk with residents of Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood during Operation Half Nelson intended to gather information on terrorist activity Oct. 4.



Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div.



IA, MND-B Soldiers, Iraqi citizens work to eliminate terrorist threat

Story by Spc. Joshua Ramey
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div.

BAGHDAD –

Iraqi army soldiers, working in conjunction with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers, executed Operation Half Nelson Oct. 4, which was designed to build trust between Iraqi civilians and MND-B forces and eliminate terrorist threats in Baghdad’s Hurriyah neighborhood.

The operation focused on gathering information as well as getting to know the residents of the Baghdad neighborhood, which is suspected of harboring terrorists.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, combined their efforts to conduct a cordon and knock mission.

Operation Half Nelson, part of Operation Together Forward, began when MND-B and Iraqi Security Forces blocked off a small area, established a security perimeter and spoke with local citizens, who voluntarily opened a dialogue with MND-B and Iraqi forces.

“Today’s mission was to conduct a cordon and knock in order to gather information on suspects who have been implicated in sectarian violence,” said 1st Lt. Jacob Hughes, platoon leader, Co. A., 1st Bn., 23rd Inf. Regt.

“The people are saying that things have gotten a lot better ever since we came in and began working together with the Iraqi army. It’s good to see that children can walk to school without being escorted by adults.”

“The Soldiers of 1-23 Inf. Regt. enjoy working with the Iraqi army,”

Hughes said. “Obviously, there are language barriers, but we have developed a special bond with the strike platoon of 4th Bn., 1st Bde., 6th IAD. We are all Soldiers, and we are doing the same thing – making the people of Baghdad feel safe.”

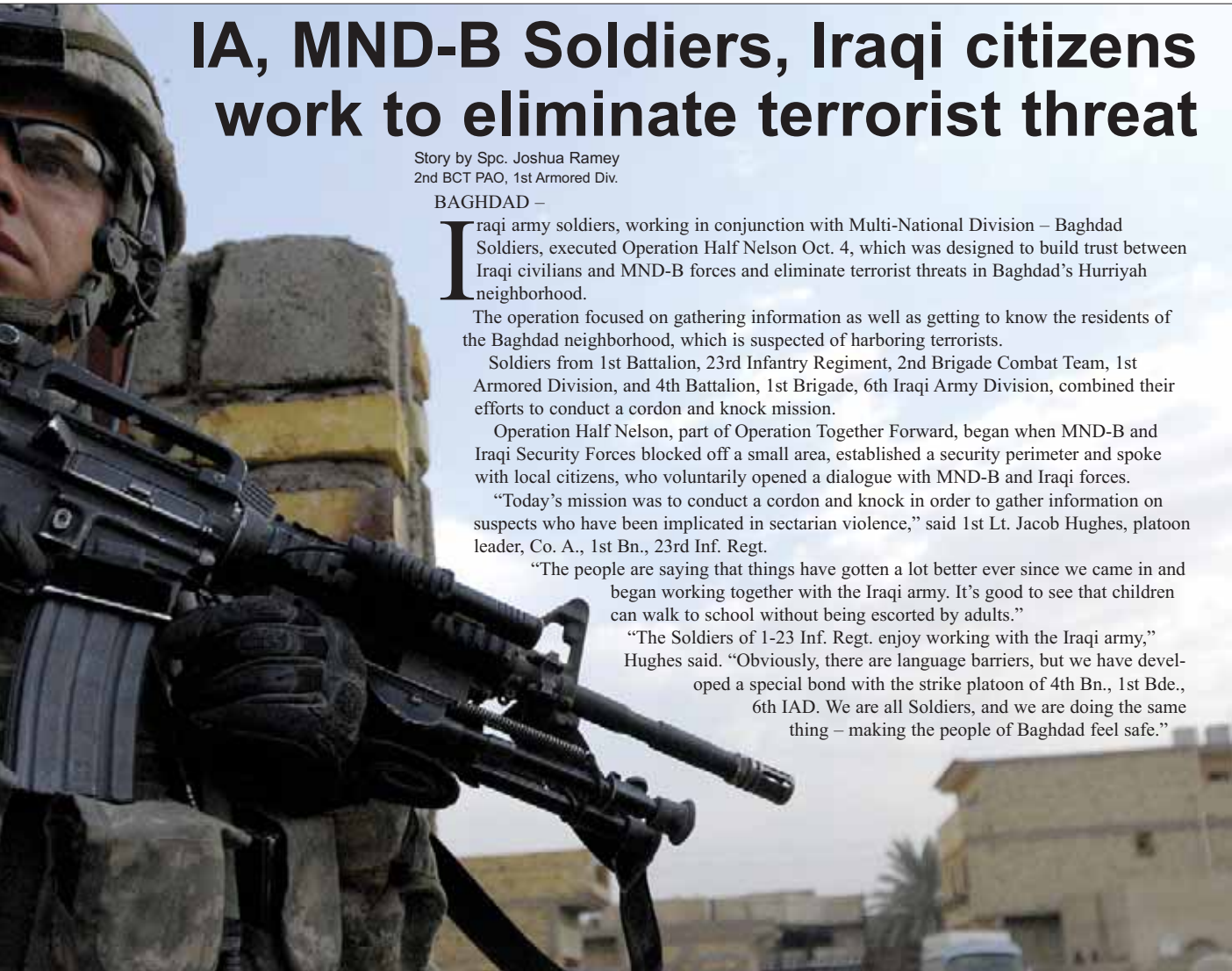


Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div.

ion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, pulls security near an alleyway during Operation Half Nelson. on terrorist activities in Baghdad’s Hurriyah neighborhood Oct. 4.



Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div.

LEFT: BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, patrol the streets of Hurriyah during Operation Half Nelson Oct. 4. The Soldiers worked with the Iraqi army and local citizens to gather information on terrorist activity in the area.

RIGHT: BAGHDAD – Soldiers of Multi-National Division – Baghdad use a working dog in an attempt to detect explosives during Operation Half Nelson in Baghdad’s Hurriyah neighborhood Oct. 4.



Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div.



Photo by Sgt. Brent Williams, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – Col. Michael Beech, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, makes assessments while Sgt. Jeffrey Rogers, command personal security detachment team leader, pulls security during a mission with a platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

PSD: It's not your everyday job

Story by Spc. Jason Dangel
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq –

In the early morning hours, a Soldier awakens to the sound of his internal communications radio as a stern voice blaring over the radio instructs the leader to rally his men and be ready to move into southern Baghdad in less than 30 minutes.

Fifteen minutes later, approximately 14 combat-ready Soldiers line-up their armored vehicles with their weapons ready and mounted atop their steel turrets. The Soldiers stand ready to greet the brigade commander before leaving the safe haven of a small forward operating base on the edge of the International Zone.

This is the life of the Soldiers who make up the command Personal Security Detachment teams of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in Baghdad.

The two 14-man teams are tasked to provide a means of safe and timely transportation for the brigade command team: Col. Michael Beech and Command Sgt. Maj. John Moody. The task requires a state of readiness 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week.

"I couldn't do what I do without them," said Moody, who has more than 27 years of service.

"They do a good job and take their job seriously," he said. "They take personal responsibility for taking me where we need to be, and when I get out of the vehicle, they are like those guys who take care of the president – secret service."

There isn't a day when the two teams made up of infantrymen, cavalry scouts, tankers and military police don't see the highways of the bustling Iraqi city, either out on patrol with units from the 4th BCT or taking the command group to various meetings and ceremonies throughout central and southern Baghdad.

"The PSD team is tasked with the responsibility of

ensuring the safety of the (commander) and the command sergeant major for any and all missions and meetings within the Multi-National Division – Baghdad and 4th BCT area of operations," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Cardona, PSD noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 4th BCT.

Approximately four months before deploying in December 2005, the Soldiers who make up the current command PSD teams were each selected for the security job they would be tasked to complete, Cardona said.

Most of the Soldiers, he added, were young and inexperienced when they showed up for their first day of duty.

Unsure of how well the assortment of young Soldiers would work together, Cardona sent both teams through two weeks of initial training.

"From the day the PSD was created, it was kind of thrown together," said Cardona, a 15-year Army veteran from Alice, Texas. "All the Soldiers came from different units and backgrounds, so the training gave me early assessments on what they needed to improve on as a cohesive security unit."

The majority of the standardized training included a two-week course that encompassed convoy escort procedures, protection tactics for principle dignitaries and security procedures when moving the command staff through a combat zone, added Cardona.

After the training, Cardona identified two leaders, who are now both designated team leaders for the two PSD teams: Staff Sgt. Bradley Hoy, an infantryman, from Llano, Texas, and Sgt. Jeffrey Rogers, a military policeman, from Buffalo, N.Y.

Both veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Hoy and Rogers took comfortably to the leadership positions they were asked to fill and worked hard to ensure their Soldiers were trained and ready for their mission in the Iraqi capital, explained Cardona.

"Truthfully, I don't think we could have done it without

(the leaders)," Cardona said, speaking about the success of the PSD teams. "They both stepped up into an unfamiliar position and have done a great job leading their Soldiers."

After four months of training, to include a three-week mission rehearsal exercise at Fort Hood, the two teams deployed with the rest of the brigade to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in late November 2005. To date, the teams have completed approximately 550 successful missions.

Aside from the constant string of daily missions tasked to the two autonomous teams, when not traveling the streets of Baghdad, they can be found in the motor pool working on their humvees.

Down time is hard to come by for the PSD Soldiers, who are constantly working to improve and upgrade the vehicles that carry the 4th BCT's command personnel.

If a new armor upgrade is available, there is no question that it will be installed, said Spc. Alex Faiivae, a gunner for the commander's team.

"There is definitely a lot of time spent in the motor pool," said Faiivae, a native of Woodridge, Va. "We have installed just about everything in terms of armor upgrades that is available. We have to have the highest amount of protection because we carry around the colonel and sergeant major – and they have to be safe."

Most of the Soldiers are in the motor pool so often they even have their own coveralls, Faiivae said.

There is no doubt that the PSD Soldiers have a busy schedule where sleep sometimes is a low priority, but that doesn't discourage the personal security troopers.

Morale always remains high among the two teams, said Sgt. Gregory Thomson, a team leader on Moody's PSD.

"The way our young Soldiers have grown in to what they are today is amazing," said Thomson, a native of Oglesby, Ill. "When they are asked to do something, they get it done, and they are always focused on their mission. They have all grown into some great Soldiers."

MND-B trains IA engineers for upgrade to fiber optics

Story and photo by Sgt. Ann Drier
363rd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq –

The classroom is not sterile or high-tech, but what is taught there will help enable Iraqi engineers to bring their army's communication systems into the 21st Century.

Capt. Ziyad Tariq Obeed, 1st Lt. Hadar Mohammed Sadam, and Sgt. Maj. Zaid Ali Obeed, engineers with Communications Company, 6th Iraqi Army Division, quickly picked up the "lingo" and techniques of fiber optics from the Soldiers of the cable platoon, Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, during a week-long class here Sep. 18 - 24.

The classes were designed by Sgt. Jose Guerrero, Spc. Scott Ortiz and Spc. Brandon Lacombe, Co. A cable support installers, to assist IA soldiers in handling the numerous repair jobs the wiring systems in and around Baghdad will require in the years ahead.

Originally designed only as a class to enhance the skills of the Iraqi engineers in maintaining and repairing the copper cable systems typically used in Iraqi wiring systems, the students' know-how and enthusiasm for learning quickly moved them forward into the area of fiber optics.

"Out of all the cable installations in the international zone and all the repair jobs at all the different forward operating bases, teaching these men has given me the most pleasure," said Landry.

After a few days training on the copper cable processes, the Iraqi engineers requested they also be taught the fine art of fiber optic cable installation, said Sgt. First Class Tim Landry, who hails from Killeen, Texas, cable platoon sergeant, Co. A. This skill will enable them to bring the communications systems of the Iraqi army into the 21st century.



CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Engineers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division senior staff and their 4th Infantry Division instructors pose for a class photo. The team completed training in both traditional copper cable processes and fiber optics connection and learned how it will improve communications. Pictured from left to right are (rear) Sgt. Scott Guerrero, 4th Inf. Div. cable support team, a native of Waterbury, Conn.; Capt. Ziyad Tariq Obeed, engineer, Communication Systems Company 6th IAD; Spc. Jose Ortiz, 4th Inf. Div., who hails from Bayamon, Puerto Rico; (front row): Sgt. Maj. Zaid Ali Obeed and 1st Lt. Hadar Mohammed Sadam, 6th IAD.

The engineers were not satisfied with just learning the rudiments of copper cable, explained Guerrero, a native of Waterbury, Conn.

"They're very eager to learn," he said. "After we taught them about copper wire, they couldn't get enough – they kept wanting to come back and learn more."

"They learned the basic copper cable techniques in three to four days, and now they've picked up the fiber optics as well," said Guerrero. "They've learned a lot in just a week. When we're finished here today, we will go with them back to Baghdad. Tomorrow we will be watching them begin work at the Division

Headquarters. They'll be laying wire from their G2 to legal departments."

A special touch is required to splice fiber optic cable since the glass fibers are encased with fiber insulation sealed inside a plastic coating. Unlike copper, the fibers are delicate and can be easily broken by using too much pressure to cut the casing while splicing cables to connectors.

"There is a lot of difference in the cable," observed Capt. Obeed. "This is very good to learn. I'm an engineer, but I didn't know how to connect this cable before. Now it is very simple for me. No one knows about this. When we go back, we will teach them."

"At first, cutting fiber was hard," concurred Sadam. "Now I see how much pressure to use, not to cut the (glass) fibers."

The course was taught using train-the-trainer techniques, with all teaching materials recorded onto CDs. Handbooks were also provided to assist the Iraqi students in teaching their own officers and soldiers, said Landry.

"When we go back, we will train them (IA soldiers), and we will choose the good ones to teach," said Capt. Obeed. "Then they can teach others. I think it will help us to connect all the buildings. With this (technology) we can connect them for better communications, to improve the quality and bring us into the 21st century."

Training the Iraqi soldiers was also a source of personal enlightenment, said Ortiz, a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

"The best thing about this is that this is the first time we've ever worked with foreign nationals," he said. "We've learned about them and them about us."

With Soldiers from 4th Inf. Div. preparing to redeploy soon, the classes taught by the Co. A Soldiers will soon come to an end. Whether the Iraqi engineers can sustain the new technology will depend mostly on them and those they train.

"They will be self-sustaining before we leave," said Guerrero.

Soldiers from Co. A will remain available to advise the Iraqi engineers until they redeploy, said Landry. The equipment the Iraqi engineers require will also continue to be available to them until the unit redeploy. After that, the replacement company will be able to carry on the work.

"They've moved from copper to glass in just a week. We're very proud of their accomplishment, and I'm proud of my Soldiers because they planned and executed this program from start to finish," said Landry.

Army Trial Defense Service receives new shoulder sleeve insignia

Story by Capt. James D. Culp

TDS, MNC-1

In 1980, the Army created an independent "stove-pipe" organization of defense attorneys and paralegals – the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service. The TDS mission is to defend Soldiers suspected and accused of crimes and facing court martial, non-judicial punishment, administrative separation or other adverse action.

Since 1980, TDS has functioned as a worldwide organization with a small headquarters in Arlington, Va. The rest of the TDS organization is divided into nine distinct regions around the globe. TDS has more than 340 officers, about 130 of whom are active component officers and about 212 of whom are Reserve component officers. There are more than 60 RC paralegals (military occupational specialty 27D).

Nineteen TDS defense counsel and ten paralegals are currently assigned to Region

IX, the Central Command area of responsibility, and further assigned to offices in Baghdad at Camps Victory and Liberty, Ramadi, Tikrit, Mosul, Kirkuk, Balad, Talil, Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan and Camp Arijjan in Kuwait.

To help show the TDS counsel are independent, TDS counsel have never been required to wear the shoulder patch or insignia of the local organization or command. Instead, from 1980 until June 19, the officers assigned to the TDS wore the distinctive patch designed for use by War Department overhead personnel. The patch consists of the familiar blue star and white background with a red border and was authorized for all personnel assigned to the Army Field Operating Agencies unless the FOA was authorized a shoulder

sleeve insignia within its own right. Until this year, TDS had never been authorized its own SSI.

In the summer of 2005, shortly after taking over as the new chief of the TDS, Col. Larry Morris asked that members of his organization submit designs for a new patch that would be distinct to TDS. "My only direction was the old patch be incorporated into the new one," said Morris. Several designs were considered over the next year. In the end, several ideas taken from the proposed designs were incorporated into one new distinct SSI (unit patch).

On June 19, the U.S. Army G-1 approved the new SSI unique only to the members of the TDS and its reserve component counterparts. The new patch was

subsequently approved by the Institute of Heraldry on August 17.

"For better or worse, you portray a lot about yourself by what you wear," said Col. Morris. "So long as what we wear gives us an opportunity to show what we are, it's better than giving a speech."

The new shield-shaped patch reflects the nature of legal defense work. The sword supporting scales of justice represents the unit's mission to defend Soldiers at courts-martial and adverse proceedings. The sword also signifies that TDS personnel are Soldiers as well as lawyers. The glory, mullet and the red border are carried over from the former Department of the Army Staff Support patch previously authorized for wear by the TDS and provides a historical link to its organizational heritage.

Visit the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service Web site at: <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/USATDS>





Mahmudiyah mayor meets with CF, spells out priorities for neighborhood

Story by Norris Jones

Gulf Region Central District, US Army Corps of Engineers
BAGHDAD –

Mahmudiyah's mayor met with Coalition Forces Sept. 30 to discuss his community's essential service needs and how best to coordinate efforts to ensure that ongoing and planned projects meet their intended objectives.

Those attending included Mayor Muayid Fadhil, Col. Debra Lewis, commander, Gulf Region Central District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Col. Norberto Cintron, with Strategic Effects Directorate, Multi-National Forces – Iraq, and members of engineers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, along with members of Task Force 217th, 432nd Battalion and the civil affairs Soldiers from Team A, 413th Civil Affairs Battalion. Also present were Maj. Steve Martinelli and Navy Chief Richard Devlin, from GRC's Victory South Resident Office, who interact with Mayor Habib on a regular basis.

The Mayor stated his top priorities were fresh drinking water for his community and rebuilding the bombed-out Mahmudiyah market.

Martinelli pointed out that the Mahmudiyah market contract had been awarded and work should soon be getting underway.

The expected \$245,000 project is expected to be finished by the end of November. The contract calls for fixing damaged storefronts, pouring a large concrete foundation, constructing open air stalls the length of the previous market and installing gates at the entrances.

Regarding the CiCi bar pump station, which provides the largest percentage of fresh drinking water in that area, Martinelli said the scope of work has been completed. Once the funding of about \$445,000 has been allocated, a contract will be awarded. CiCi bar pump station received extensive damage by a vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device in August.

Muayid also discussed the importance of schools in his community. "We need to raise the education level in the countryside and in town. We have to fight terrorism in different ways. They have bad ideas and we have to battle those thoughts. We need to provide alternative activities for our children such as playgrounds, sports facilities and theaters. By being involved there, it will keep them away from the insurgents."

He encouraged everyone to work together to ensure that contractors perform quality work and future projects meet the needs of families in his community. Muayid said he understands that funds are limited and requested a collaborative approach for the best use of the remaining U.S. relief money. "Victory is coming soon against our enemy. This meeting is a sign we are winning."



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers BAGHDAD – A girl waits at a meeting between local Mahmudiyah leaders and Coalition Forces Sept. 30 discussing improvements to the area, including focusing on the children.

Equipment, training help Iraqi firefighters

Story by Norris Jones

Gulf Region Central District,
US Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD – Jwaad Mohammed, chief of the Al Benook Fire Station in east Baghdad, is working in one of the toughest neighborhoods in the world.

Benook has 15 years experience as an emergency responder. He says his 52-person squad gets three or four calls a day and is responsible for a 12-sector area involving some 60 streets and several hundred thousand residents. He and his crew also provide mutual support to nearby fire stations when needed.

Apart from the routine house and car

fires, his squad has responded to a number of explosive device detonations.

"Our job is to get to the scene as quickly as possible," Benook explained. "My squad is well trained, some of them going to Bahrain and Jordan for advanced courses."

Jim Otwell, a firefighter from Engine 32 in Buffalo, N.Y., has been working with the Iraq Civil Defense Directorate, equipping and training Iraqi firefighters including those at the Al Benook Fire Station.

"On an average day, Baghdad firefighters respond to 20 calls that anywhere else in the world would be considered a major

catastrophe," Otwell said. "And because they're often the first at a scene, they know there's a possibility of a secondary explosive device. They have a tough job but understand the challenges and are very motivated individuals."

Otwell recalled asking some Iraqi firefighters one day why they had reported late to a training class. They explained they had stopped to provide emergency assistance at a bus bombing earlier that day which had killed 26 people. When they finished assisting with the emergency, they discovered Baghdad roads had been closed.

"So they walked the seven miles to

class," said Otwell. "No matter where you go as a fireman worldwide, whether in the United States or here in Iraq, it's duty first. They put their people and their government first. They have a proud tradition."

Last year 1,000 firefighters were trained, said Otwell, and this year, "we're going to train two (hazardous materials) teams: one for Baghdad's east side, one for the west side. In addition, search and rescue teams are being formed for the north, central and southern areas of Iraq. "We're looking at providing the firefighters portable lights for fire and rescue calls at night and portable compressors to fill up their air tanks."

Under Saddam Hussein, Baghdad had just 17 fire stations in various states of disrepair, said Otwell. Today there are 25 fire stations including 17 older structures that have been totally renovated.

"Five years ago places like Sadr City had just one fire station covering 2.5 million people," said Otwell. "Today, we have at least three supporting that area, including Al Benook. Response time has decreased from 15 minutes to five or six minutes. Throughout Iraq \$125 million is being invested in fire stations, equipment, and training."

Al Benook is one of eight new 925-square-meter fire stations in Baghdad. They each feature five bays (three for ladder trucks and two for SUVs). It includes a dormitory area for 20 firefighters, dining room for 30, a commercial grade kitchenette to feed up to 40 people, a training room for 20, a locker room, a control room and a Chief's office. Construction on the \$1.2 million facility was started in December 2004 and completed this May.

"Bless those who built this station," said Jwaad. "This is a fine facility. Our community really appreciates it."



BAGHDAD – Al Benook firefighters provide a demonstration during a media visit Oct. 3 at the new \$1.2 million fire station in east Baghdad. The new facility received positive media coverage from both Al Iraqia and Al Hurrah Television stations.

**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**

November Division MWR Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29 Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.	30 Poker Night @ 8 p.m.	31 SRCC Rock Show @ 8 p.m. HALLOWEEN	1 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	2 Basketball Capt. Meeting @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.	3 R&B Night @ 9 p.m.	4 Basketball Tourney (TBA)
5	6 Poker Night @ 8 p.m.	7 Dominoes Tourney @ 8 p.m. Pool Tourney @ 8 p.m.	8 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	9 Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.	10 R&B Night @ 9 p.m.	11 Veteran's Day
12 Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.	13 Poker Night @ 8 p.m.	14	15 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	16 Flag Football Capt. Meeting @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.	17 R&B Night @ 8 p.m.	18 Flag Football Tourney (TBA)
19	20 Poker Night @ 8 p.m.	21 Spades Tourney @ 8 p.m. Chess Tourney @ 8 p.m.	22 Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.	23 5k Turkey Run (TBA) Thanksgiving	24	25

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

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
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
7:30 p.m. Gospel Choir
Rehearsal
Friday
6 p.m. EML Chaplain's
Briefing
7 p.m. Bible Study
Saturday
8 p.m. Contemporary
Protestant Praise Band
Rehearsal

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)

CAMP 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

WARRIOR CHAPEL

Sunday
10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Protestant
12:30 p.m. Gospel
Protestant
4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
5 p.m. Latter Day Saints
7 p.m. Non-Denominational

Christian
Wednesday
7 p.m. Gospel Prayer
Thursday
7 p.m. General Protestant
Friday
6:30 p.m. Wicca Circle
Meeting

ENGINEER CHAPEL

Sunday
8 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass
10 a.m. Traditional
Protestant
11:30 a.m. Lutheran
Worship
1 p.m. Latter Day Saints
4 p.m. Gospel Service
7 p.m. Traditional Protestant
Monday

7 p.m. Catholic Thel.
Education
Tuesday
7 p.m. Bible Study
Wednesday
7 p.m. LDS Bible Study
Thursday
7 p.m. Bible Study
Friday
7 p.m. Gospel Bible Study

VICTORY CHAPEL SERVICES

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
10:30 a.m. Roman Catholic Music
Rehearsal
6:45 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 Rehearsal
8:30 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

For more information on religious services
contact Sgt. 1st Class Billy Arnold, Chaplain's
plans and operations non-commissioned officer,
by email at billy.arnold@mnd-b.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.
- UNCONSCIOUSNESS



Successful reunion begins now! – part 4

This is the final in a series of four “Reunion Times” articles designed to help deployed personnel prepare for redeployment. These articles have addressed such things as Listening, Demonstrating Care, Rekindling Relationships, Sensitivity, Honesty, Intimacy and now, in the final issue, PATIENCE. As you reunite with family and friends, successful reunion will demand a great deal of patience. If you incorporate and apply the concepts discussed in these Reunion Times, and keep a sense of humor, you are well on your way to healthy reintegration with your loved ones.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Tommy Preston,
Division chaplain
4th Inf. Div.

income, job challenges and the joys and struggles of marriage and family responsibilities. A bond of friendship and teamwork is foundational, with passion taking less of a role, and intimacy – the overarching feeling of “belonging together” – is growing.

In healthy family relationships, romance continues to thrive. Often, however, couples must PLAN times together to ensure passion doesn't deflate.

As the couple continues to grow together and to weather the storms of life, they will find themselves sharing common goals, dreams, thoughts and loves. This is intimacy, that sense of common purpose and belonging together. When children see this, it gives them a sense of security like nothings else can. When intimacy becomes the foundation of a relationship, both friendship and passion tend to grow as well.

A few words about “flat tires:”

As I was leaving work one day, I noticed that one of the tires on my truck was very low on air. Apparently a nail had worked its way into the tire and air was slowly escaping over time. Now, flat tires can occur in two ways ... a slow leak or a blow-out. Either way, at the end of the day, you have a flat tire. Sometimes in marriages a similar thing occurs. Over time, interest, passion and the feeling of

“belonging together” seem to leak from the relationship. In most cases, the flat tire in marriages is not the result of a blow-out; rather, it is the result of a steady leak of the stuff that makes the marriage fulfilling. This does not need to happen. To minimize the slow leak process, it might be helpful to understand how a good, solid marriage is built over time.

Keep in mind that all relationships will have their struggles. There are NO perfect marriages since there are NO perfect people. Every marriage is a “work in progress.” Listening, demonstrating care, sensitivity, honesty and patience are great building blocks to developing an intimate marriage.

Keep checking the tires!

Kids are “downloading:” watching and learning:

This section contributed by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Erkinen.

It's true! Kids today are downloading much of their parents' marriage data. In a way, we all have a “hard drive” that is constantly being programmed and receiving data on what it means to be a family, a husband, a wife, a mother or father. In our society, we see many who have a



Photo illustration courtesy of 4th Inf. Div. Web site at: <http://www.hood.army.mil/4ID/index.html>

virus on their hard drives. Unfortunately, nobody has invented a “Norton anti-virus” to purge or scrub the damaged human drive. There is no “clean sweep” program that will undo or erase bad data from a young child who sees a husband and father abuse his wife. There is no download that will delete the hurtful words, the memories, the tears.

Over time, the old negative data can be replaced with good data through positive role models and hard work. Sometimes it takes counseling. Remember, you are the most significant source of data for YOUR CHILD. You are the example that will mold your child's vision of marriage and family. Hmmm. That is something to ponder.

Patience ... keeping it:

When a doctor loses patients, it is definitely not a good thing. It is equally bad when we lose our patience.

Redeployment is a time when

patience will be tested. After a lengthy absence, the returning Soldier may find that many changes have occurred in the household. Routines have been altered, activities have been added and still others have been eliminated. The problem is that the returning family member has been “out of the family loop.” The result is that he or she may feel like an intruder until things get back to normal. This may take some weeks or even months.

Some strategies to make the transition smoother:

- Seek input from everyone in the family before implementing any drastic changes.
- Communicate frequently though emails and phone calls well in advance of your return.
- “If it ain't broke, don't fix it.” In other words, if the changes are working

well, leave things alone.

- Take the time to explain reasons for changes.
- Never discuss emotionally hot issues when tired or stressed. Postpone until you are fresh, alert, rested and in good spirits.
- Understand that things will not get back to “normal” for awhile.

Final Thoughts:

As we approach the end of this deployment, we may be wondering what all the sacrifices by Soldiers and their families were for. As I thought about this, I came across this quote, which prompted some thoughts on the subject. “Why should I care about posterity? What has posterity ever done for me?” Groucho Marx, American comedian.

Yesterday, a good friend proudly showed me new photographs of two of his grandchildren. As a grandfather myself, I know exactly how he feels. It was that event that brought Groucho Marx's quote about prosperity to mind. It produced a smile, but, at the same time, those questions should cause us to think seriously about why we should care about those who will live on beyond us in this world. Here are just two reasons: first, our children and grandchildren motivate us to live honorably. Many children have been named after George Washington.

However, I am not aware of any intentionally named after Benedict Arnold. I don't know about you, but I want to leave a name that can be mentioned with pride – not because it is famous but because it is honored.

We should also care about all children because they motivate us to live hopefully. The look of happiness, intelligence and innocence in the eyes of any child – American or Iraqi – gives us cause to hope and build and dream and sacrifice for a better tomorrow.

That is why we do what we do today, and that is why we will do it tomorrow.

“The Godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.” Proverbs 20:7 (New Living Translation Bible)

Special thanks to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Erkinen, for his contributions to this article.

Traumatic brain injury known as 'signature' injury of OIF

So many thousands of War Fighters deployed to Iraq have sustained significant head injuries that traumatic brain injury is now referred to as the "signature injury" of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One recent study estimates that about 20 percent of veterans from front-line units sustained at least one minor brain injury during combat operations. Unfortunately, most cases are not identified in the field, so wounded warriors may not be diagnosed and treated



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

was almost killed several months ago in Taji by an IED.

in a timely and appropriate manner.

TBI is most likely to be discovered when it results in a coma or occurs from a penetrating head injury such as a gunshot or shrapnel wound. Penetrating injuries usually result in severe TBI requiring neurosurgery and intensive rehabilitation. This is the type of wound suffered by ABC World News Tonight co-anchor Bob Woodruff who



Illustration courtesy of Joao Gomes

BAGHDAD – Lt. Col. Mitch Meyers, preventive medicine officer, 4th Infantry Division, facetiously states that this is his MRI from his college days showing long-term consequences of repeated head injuries, excessive beer drinking, and watching too many episodes of "The Dukes of Hazard"

Grading Concussions		
Grade 1 (mild)	Grade 2 (moderate)	Grade 3 (moderate to severe)
No loss of consciousness	No loss of consciousness	Any loss of consciousness
Confusion or changes in mental status lasting less than 15 minutes	Confusion or changes in mental status lasting more than 15 minutes	- Brief (seconds) - Prolonged (minutes)
Return to duty in one day	Return to duty in one week	RTD in one week for brief LOC & two weeks for prolonged LOC

Signs and Symptoms of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury or Concussion		
Headaches Dizziness Excessive Fatigue	Problems Concentrating Memory Problems Irritability	Sleep Problems Balance Problems Visual Changes

Mild or moderate TBI is most often associated with closed skull injuries resulting from falls, motor vehicle accidents, combatives, and blast overpressure from explosives. In OIF, explosions account for the majority of TBI and affect about 25 percent of bomb blast survivors. MTBI is associated with concussion, rather than coma, and the terms MTBI and concussion are often used interchangeably. Since no obvious wounds may be visible to the naked eye, it is much less likely to be diagnosed and properly treated.

It is important for medical professionals to diagnose these injuries early on so Soldiers can be pulled away from high-risk activities long enough for the nerves and blood vessels of the brain to heal. If the injured Soldier receives another head injury too soon after the first, the cumulative trauma could result in death or permanent disability. This is referred to as "Second Impact Syndrome." To avoid it, medics need to grade the level of concussion, or MTBI, and use the guidelines in the table above to determine how long to sideline the Soldier from high-risk duties and activities.

Soldiers who continue to experience the following signs and symptoms of MTBI after a head injury may not have fully recovered, and need a continued duty profile and medical reevaluations.

The prognosis for mild TBI is very good and most cases recover completely within a few days to months. However, moderate to severe TBI can cause lasting problems.

Therefore, if you sustained a head injury in OIF and experienced any of these problems, be sure to see a medical provider and have this information documented in your health records and on your post deployment health assessment. This will assure that you get proper profiling and referral, and help with any disability claims you may need to submit in the future.

For more information on TBI, visit the following Web sites:

- Defense & Veterans Brain Injury Center at <http://www.dvbic.org>
- Deployment Health Clinical Center <http://www.pdhealth.mil/TBI.asp#cg>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/TBI.htm>



ENTERTAINMENT

'The spirit of the division,' 4th Inf. Div. Band, winds up performances

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

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."
Arnold Jacob "Red" Auerbach, famed retired coach of the Boston Celtics
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq –

One by one, the 4th Infantry Division Band's nine premier "specialty groups" are giving their final performances as the Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 deployment spirals down to a close.

"Average Joes," an immensely popular rock and variety group headed by Sgt. Daniel Arizmendi, a Brownsville, Texas native, rounded out its yearlong tour of Iraq with a performance at the 4th Inf. Div.'s Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center Sept. 29 that brought the cheering audience to its feet.

"This 12-month endeavor has been the pinnacle of my 20 years as an Army Bandsman, and it is a great feeling to be a member of the 4ID team that has made a difference in the world," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Otha Wayne Hester, the band's conductor and commander, originally from Hillsborough, N.C.

In addition to playing numerous engagements at forward operating bases throughout the MND-B area, the band also had the sole responsibility for serving as the guards for 4th Inf. Div. headquarters, a 24-7 operation.

Led by Master Sgt. Steve Mohacey, from San Antonio, the jazz combo "Groove Coalition" performed the music of renowned American jazz artist Pat Metheny for its final performance at the Division Dining Facility Sept. 26 to an enthralled and appreciative audience. Rounding out the talented quartet is Staff Sgt. Josh DiStefano, who hails from Los Angeles, on keyboard; Staff Sgt. Brian Archer, from Columbus, Ohio, on drums; and Staff Sgt. S. Chris Kerley, from Williamsburg, Va., on base guitar.

"The year in Iraq brought many challenges to the 4ID Band," said 1st Sgt. Chris

Lopez, from Copperas Cove and Seminole, Texas. "The most challenging for me was finding a balance between our guard mission and our musical mission. My Soldiers' performance in both areas surpassed all of my expectations."

A command performance at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad Sept. 9 marked the last time out for the band's prestigious "Iron Horse Winds," an ensemble led by Sgt. 1st Class Wade Petree from Roseville and Forest Lake, Minn. The band played Mozart and Strauss in an impressive chamber music performance along with selected members of the V Corps Band.

Made up of seasoned classical musicians, the group includes Staff Sgt. Heather Secora, a Southwick, Mass., native; Staff Sgt. Scott Magnuson, from Astoria, Oregon; Staff Sgt. Troy Hascall, who calls both Atlantic, Iowa and Omaha, Neb., home; and Sgt. Mark Ward, from Lafayette, Calif.

The band's popular 12-member Latin band, "Fierro Caliente," led by Sgt. 1st Class Aulio Marroquin from San Antonio, gave its last performance at the Division MWR Sept. 7 with a live Salsa night.

The 4th Inf. Div. Band's diversity did not end with these groups. Also featured throughout the deployment at the numerous FOBs in theater were other specialty groups.

The "Brute 4s," is a tuba-euphonium quartet, led by Sgt. Jeremy Jackson, from Houston; also featuring Marroquin; Staff Sgt. Jeff Smith from Satellite Beach, Fla.; and Spc. Michael Mendoza, from El Paso, Texas.

There was also the highly-charged technical excellence of "Iron Crawfish," a New Orleans style brass band, led by trombone master, Sgt. 1st Class Alix St. Felix, from South Bay, Fla. Other members of the group were Jeff Smith, on tuba; Staff Sgt. Deborah Ryan, from Freeland Pa., on clarinet; Staff Sgt. Carey Wiley from Thibideaux, La., on drums; Sgt. Bradford Bailey, from Las Vegas, on guitar; Sgt. Gary Corbitt, from Grand Prairie, Texas, on saxophone; Sgt. Stuart Bentley, from



BAGHDAD – Chief Warrant Officer 3 Otha Wayne Hester (standing), who hails from Hillsborough, N.C., and serves as the conductor and commander of the 4th Infantry Division Band, gives a philosophical shrug as band members anxiously wait their cue to begin performing at the U.S. Embassy July 4. The command performance was for dignitaries, which included the president of Iraq, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, and Gen. George William Casey Jr., commander of Multi-National Forces – Iraq. Baltimore, on trombone; and Spc. Dennis Kerr, who calls both Sparks, Nev., and Idaho City, Idaho, home, on trumpet.

The down-home country band, "Stony Creek," was led by Corbitt, performing as featured vocalist. The group also included Kerley on bass guitar and vocals; DiStefano on keyboard; Wiley on drums; Sgt. Luis Feliciano, from San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, on rhythm guitar and vocals; and Bailey on lead guitar. Kerley also arranged all of the songs the group played.

Archer, who also served as the band's sound engineer, formed yet another small ensemble, a "just for fun" group that he and three fellow "old-time rockers," called "Kathleen Turner Overdrive." Joining him on stage were vocalists and guitar players Bailey and Feliciano, with DiStefano on keyboard.

Due to the logistical difficulty involved in moving the entire band at one time, it played as a whole on only one occasion – at the U.S. Embassy on the 4th of July for a gala performance attended by dignitaries, which included His Excellency Jalal Talabani, president of the Republic of Iraq; General George William Casey, Jr., commander, Multi-National Forces – Iraq; and

Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

"What an experience to be able to command 39 of the finest Soldier-musicians in the United States Military during OIF 05-07," said Hester.

"The experience of having to move equipment once, twice, sometimes three times a week from FOB to FOB was mentally and physically challenging," added Hester, "but the reward in seeing the morale of the Soldiers, Marines, Seamen, Airmen and civilians lifted upon the strike of the band's first note was worth every bit of the effort."

"We arrived here last December as average musicians but left as professional entertainers," added Lopez. "I could not have asked for a better group of outstanding Soldiers than the ones I got assigned with, and I could not have asked for a better boss than Chief Hester. We have many memories to always remember this last year. My hope is that our success paves the way for other Army bands to follow."

Both Hester and Lopez expressed their gratitude for the support of the 4th Inf. Div.'s command group and, said Hester, "for understanding and supporting our musical mission and allowing us to do our part during this deployment."

In addition to performing for Soldiers' entertainment, the band also supplied buglers (trumpet players), who performed "Taps" at all Soldier memorials. Various groups played at key events throughout the year, to include Black History Month, Women's History Month, unit celebrations and get-togethers and memorial services.

"Brass Knuckles," a brass quintet led by Master Sgt. Stephen Foxx, from Columbus, Ohio, a group that also includes Staff Sgt. Henry Reyna, from Laredo, Texas, and San Antonio; Sgt. W. Grady Kersh, who calls both Valley Springs and Higginson, Ark., home; Leichsenring; and Staff Sgt. Bonnie Boxx, who hails from Gloucester County, N.J.; will be the last specialty ensemble to redeploy and will still be performing for Soldiers throughout the remainder of the 4th Inf. Div.'s stay in Iraq.

The majority of the band will redeploy back to Fort Hood in October to be ready to welcome the rest of their 4th Inf. Div. counterparts as they redeploy home in November.



CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Spc. Russell Windsor, from Prescott, Ariz., plays trombone for "Average Joes," a rock and variety band, at the group's final performance Sept. 30 at the East LSA Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here. The ensemble is part of the 4th Infantry Division Band, which is finishing up its second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MND-B Soldiers learn to make call, complete football officiating course

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Ballog
16th Eng. Bde. PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Soldiers in Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 16th Engineer Brigade, currently deployed to Iraq, will not be able to cheer on their favorite football teams from the stands this season.

Rather than lament the loss of their cheering opportunities, the Soldiers took advantage of a unique opportunity to become certified Ohio high school football officials while deployed to Iraq.

The course ran from July through the end of September, was conducted by Maj. Fenton Moore, a native of Columbus, Ohio, supply and purchasing officer with the 16th Eng. Bde. Moore has more than 20 years of high school and college football officiating experience.

"Officiating is a great way to stay involved with the game, whether its football, basketball or baseball," said Moore. "Some of our Soldiers expressed an interest in getting involved in officiating, so I worked with the Ohio High School Athletic Association to run the class and certify them as high school officials."

"Football is really big in Ohio and I saw an opportunity to recruit some good people. Everybody thinks they can officiate from the stands, but it's a little different when you get out on the field and you see what's going on."

Moore contacted Henry Zaborniak, the commissioner of OHSAA, to be certified as an instructor. While OHSSAA provided rule books and study material, Moore found being in Iraq forced him to be inventive. Instead of the students gaining practical on-the-field experience during a true game situation, Moore relied on videos, DVDs and other items to make up for the in-theater limitations.

Assistance came from multiple sources in the U.S., including study articles and

football play DVDs sent by Bill LeMonnier, a National College Athletic Association Big Ten and Football USA official, a High School Rules Study CD from Ellen Bouchard of Rules-Study.com, and a DVD of football plays for the students to review sent by Greg Keller of Rulebooks.com.

The students met approximately twice a week and received more than 35 hours of instruction in high school football rules and mechanics before practicing their skills during a football clinic, which concluded the course.

"Most of the students previously played football, but there's a big difference between playing the game and calling the game," said Moore. "During the class, we went over high school rules, which are different than pro or college. The mechanics are also very different, and that's very important as it tells the official where they're supposed to be standing, what they're supposed to be looking at and what they're responsible for on a particular play."

Moore recruited 16th Eng. Bde. Soldiers to challenge the officiating students during a flag football game on a makeshift, unmarked dirt field.

Students, who operated as a four-man crew, conducted the flag football match like a regular game and were responsible for keeping the game clock, controlling the game, calling and marking fouls with the flag and referee reporting.

"The simulation game gave them a real good look at the mechanics of the game, such as where they're supposed to be and what they're supposed to be watching. They got an idea of all different positions and things they've got to deal with, like whether to blow the whistle or not blow the whistle – all that stuff," Moore explained.

The students said the course was worth the effort and offered a welcome diversion during the deployment.

"I played college football, and the sport

has always been in my life. Being in Iraq, the class was a great change of pace and something to make time go quicker by learning something I can do when I get home," said Spc. Joshua Slaughter, administrative assistant, 16th Eng. Bde., a native of Columbus, Ohio.

Spc. Ronnell Williamson, administrative specialist, 16th Eng. Bde., from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, said participating in the course was a positive experience.

"I always wanted to be a referee but never had the time. Maj. Moore's suggestion to have class was a great opportunity to make it happen. I'm an athlete and I love to compete. This certification will give me another opportunity to stay in touch with the game."

Williamson said he also found calling a game as an official much more difficult than being a fan or a player and Moore's

insight was invaluable to his goal of becoming a football referee.

"You don't know how hard it is until you actually go out and do it. While this game was just a small scale, it has given me a lot of experience. Maj. Moore was very detail-oriented teacher who explained every rule to a 'T' and made certain he did a good job," said Williamson.

"This environment is nothing like home. For me, being away from my family and dealing with obstacles from my daily job, the class really broke up the hustle and bustle of what we do every day. I could relax a bit and get away from rugged life we live over here," he continued.

Moore said the students are now certified Class 2 officials who can officiate football games up through the Junior Varsity level, although the students will miss this year's season.



CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Richard Mason, 16th Engineer Brigade (center in all black), of Delaware, Ohio, keeps pace with the ball carrier as he moves across the field during a flag football game played Sept. 22 at the Victory Base Complex. Mason was one of six students who participated in an Ohio High School Athletic Association Football Officiating Course, which was conducted from July to September during his unit's deployment to Iraq. The game provided the students an opportunity to practice Ohio high school officiating rules and gain on-the-field experience calling a football game.

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SPORTS

Kalsu Soldiers commemorate Army Ten-Miler

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

FOB KALSU, Iraq –
Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers participated in a 10-mile race here Oct. 8 to coincide with the 22nd annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington.

Enthusiasm was abundant as more than 150 Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, participated in the run.

Competition raced in three categories: individual, two-man teams and five-man teams. The individual runners were placed into separate age groups. Members of the two-man teams ran five miles each, while the members of the five-man teams ran two miles each.

The race consisted of running the inner perimeter of the base twice, which totaled a little more than 10 miles. Water points were established every 2.5 miles and a safety vehicle drove behind the runners to provide medical treatment if needed.

After the participants sang the 4th Inf. Div. song and listened to opening remarks by Col. John Tully, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr., both of 2nd BCT, the individual runners tied their shoes tight, got in a final stretch and waited for the infamous words “get ready ... get set ... go!” The teams followed several minutes later. Many Soldiers sprinted their way from the starting line to the first mile marker in an attempt to gain the dominant position.

Sgt. Ruben Alvidrez, tanker, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT, maintained the lead the entire race

and claimed first overall with a time of 1 hour, 4 minutes.

“I felt good running today,” said Alvidrez. “I was able to maintain my pace the whole time without slowing down.”

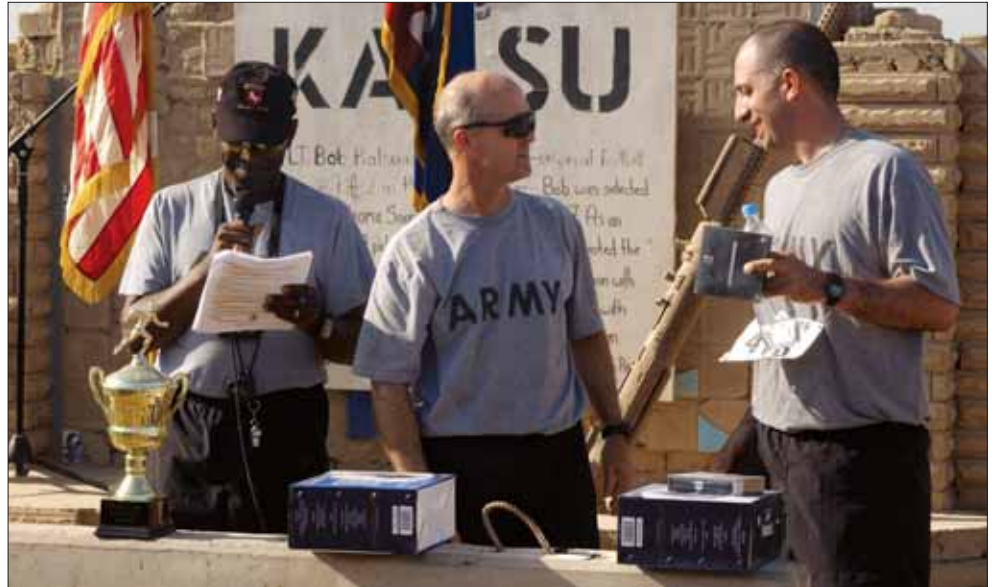
The next two Soldiers to complete the race were Capt. Michael Winters, physical therapist, Company C, 204th Support Battalion, and Cpl. Michael Molinaro, public affairs noncommissioned officer-in-

charge, HHC, 2nd BCT, with times of 1 hour, 13 minutes, 7 seconds and 1 hour, 13 minutes, 26 seconds respectively.

Soldiers lined the final stretch and showed their support for the runners and enjoyed the music provided by Sgt. Alberto Olivera, Forward Operating Base Kalsu’s disc jockey. After the runners finished, an awards ceremony was held and winners were presented a variety of

prizes, ranging from camcorders, cameras, digital music players, stereos and DVD players

“I want to thank all of you for participating in this race and putting all of your effort into this brigade to make a difference here in Iraq,” said Tully. “Events like these are meant to boost the morale of Soldiers for all the hard work they have done.”



FOB KALSU, Iraq – Cpl. Michael Molinaro, public affairs noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, receives a digital music player from Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd BCT, after winning his age-group category during a 10-mile race Oct. 8 here to commemorate the Army Ten-Miler held in Washington the same day.

MND-B Soldiers from FOB Justice run in 22nd Annual Army Ten-Miler

Story by Spc. Joshua Ramey
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armored Div.

FOB JUSTICE, Iraq –
Five Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, and Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, ran in the Army Ten-Miler at a small Army base in northern Baghdad Oct. 8 while thousands participated in the actual event in Washington.

The Army 10-Miler tradition started with 1,600 runners in 1985, in a scenic route around Washington; it was created for the general public and service members alike to honor those who sacrificed in wartime.

Since then, the Army Ten-Miler has grown to the largest 10-mile event in America, with nearly 24,000 runners in the D.C. area this year. Soldiers from posts all over the world also completed the 10 miles on Sunday.

Capt. Michael Garcia, physicians assistant, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt., organized the 10-mile run at Forward Operating Base Justice for Soldiers who wished to participate in the event.

“Everyone had the official Army Ten-Miler singlet, which gave us all a good sense of an annual Army tradition,” said Garcia, “I found a half-mile strip within the inner FOB that was safe, and we repeated it 20 times. It was a good way to feel included in some normalcy despite being here in a combat zone.”

“It felt great being able to participate in the Army Ten-Miler, even though we are out here on this tiny FOB in Iraq,” added Capt. Logan Kirschner, Co. B, 141st Signal Battalion.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Armaruel Peralta, 2nd BCT, 1st Arm. Div.

ABOVE: FOB JUSTICE, Iraq – Capt. Logan Kirschner, Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, stretches prior to starting the Army Ten-Miler Oct. 8 on Forward Operating Base Justice in northern Baghdad. RIGHT: FOB JUSTICE, Iraq – Sgt. Joseph Engels, Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, rounds a corner during the Army Ten-Miler Oct. 8 at Forward Operating Base Justice in northern Baghdad. The Army Ten-Miler has grown to the largest 10-mile event in America, with nearly 24,000 runners in the D.C. area this year. Soldiers from posts all over the world also completed the 10 miles Oct. 8.

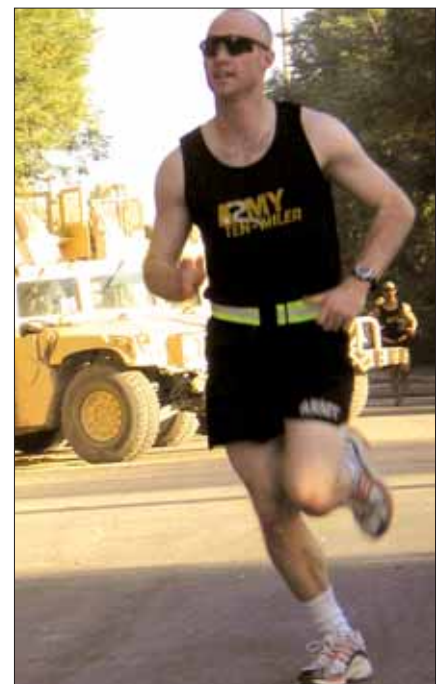


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Armaruel Peralta, 2nd BCT, 1st Arm. Div.

MND-B Soldiers at VBC take part in Baghdad Ten-Miler



Photo by MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers on the Victory Base Complex pause before the beginning of the Baghdad Ten-Miler Oct. 8 to receive a safety briefing and listen to the national anthem. The 10-mile road race ran in conjunction with the Army Ten-Miler, held in Washington later in the day. The Army 10-Miler tradition started with 1,600 runners in 1985 along a scenic route around Washington; it was created for the general public and service members alike to honor those who sacrificed in wartime.



Photo by MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Capt. Tina Cathey and 1st Lt. Charlsey Mahle, both of 4th Infantry Division, sprint to the finish line during the Baghdad Ten-Miler Oct. 8 on the Victory Base Complex. The 10-mile road race was held on the same day as the Army Ten-Miler, held in Washington, which provided Soldiers the opportunity to participate in the annual race.



Photo by MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Col. Curtis Potts, chief of staff, and Lt. Col. Scott McKean, deputy operations officer, both of 4th Infantry Division, run together Oct. 8 in the Baghdad Ten-Miler on the Victory Base Complex. The 10-mile road race ran in conjunction with the Army Ten-Miler, held in Washington.

FACES AND PLACES



Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd HBCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

HAMRIN, Iraq – Staff Sergeants Douhnn Gbehan and Mark Aldaco, both from Comanche Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are entertained by Iraqi school children during a visit to Hamrin Oct. 4.



Photo by Spc. Jason Dangel, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

ABOVE: BAGHDAD – Sgt. Fernando Rodriguez, command personal security detachment team leader, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pulls security during a mission Oct. 4 in the Doura neighborhood in southern Baghdad.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Lovel, 363rd MPAD

RIGHT: CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Billy Blanks, creator of the Tae Bo fitness system, modeled kicks for Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers as they mimicked his movements here Oct. 5 at the 4th Infantry Division Field House during a stop on Blanks' Spirit and Body Tour.