

The Ivy Leaf

Established in 1917 to honor those who serve



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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

“STEADFAST AND LOYAL”

OCTOBER 15, 2006

Army launches new advertising campaign: ‘Army Strong’

Page 3

Thurman selected for third star, command of V Corps

Page 4

Chaplain shares reunion, reintegration tips for redeployment

Page 21



BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company B, 5th Engineer Battalion, attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad’s 16th Engineer Brigade, prepare for a route clearance mission at Camp Liberty Sept. 27.

WHERE THE ‘BUFFALO’ ROAM ... 5th Eng. Bn. Soldiers clear Baghdad roads of IEDs, make travel safer

Story and photos by Spc. Rodney Foliente
4th Inf. Div. PAO
BAGHDAD –

Riding in the massive beast-of-a-vehicle, the Buffalo crew uses the benefit of its higher vantage and scans the roads and surrounding areas. Each crew member is responsible for his own sector, each contributing to the safety and well-being of their fellows. Brotherly chatter flies through the headsets – deep and

personal conversation peppered with cheap shots and banter – as they incessantly watch for threats.

These Soldiers share a warm sense of camaraderie, which Spc. Patrick Cerceau, Buffalo driver from 2nd Platoon, Company B, 5th Engineer Battalion, and native of Lake Tahoe, Calif., describes as developing from shared experiences “of getting blown up together as many times as we have.”

Attacks with improvised-explosive devices

are perhaps the greatest risk for any Soldier traveling by convoy in Iraq. For these guys, the threat is magnified.

The Buffalo crews’ job is to hunt IEDs – to actively seek out and eliminate the threats so both Coalition Forces and the citizens of Iraq can be assured safe movement around the country – and as the record shows, they are extremely proficient at what they do.

At the tail end of their yearlong deployment
SEE BUFFALO, PG. 15

This Week

Movie show times ...	17
MWR Calendars ...	17
Religious Services ...	20
Cartoon Corner ...	22
Sports Round Up ...	23
Faces & Places ...	24

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

IA soldiers seize munitions found in school

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, seized weapons and munitions in a school west of Baghdad at approximately 8 a.m. Sept. 30.

The weapons consisted of two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, two RPG rounds, two improvised-explosive devices and four 60mm mortar rounds.

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed the munitions. There were no reported injuries to the students, IA personnel or equipment.

In another incident Sept. 30, Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 9th IAD, received a tip from a concerned Iraqi citizen indicating that there was a bag of explosives lying on the side of a road south of Taji at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Upon investigation, the soldiers discovered seven 82mm mortar rounds and 17 anti-tank mines.

The munitions were destroyed by an EOD team.

(Courtesy of MND-B PAO)

MND-B Soldiers thwart terrorist attack

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, thwarted terrorists and seized weapons south of Baghdad Sept. 23.

Terrorists attacked the Soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small-arms fire; the Soldiers returned fire and disabled the terrorists' vehicle.

Four terrorists fled the scene by running into a nearby palm grove.

As Soldiers investigated the scene, they found a terrorist's body and seized weapons inside the vehicle, consisting of a PKM rifle, two AKM rifles, an RPG launcher, two RPG rounds, a rocket and 10 AK-47 magazines.

(Courtesy of MND-B PAO)

NPs seize munitions cache near Taqwa Mosque

BAGHDAD – Policemen from the Iraqi National Police seized a large munitions cache while on patrol in south Baghdad Sept. 29.

The policemen discovered the cache in a house located across the street from the Taqwa Mosque.

They confiscated nine 60mm rounds, 12 57mm rockets, an AK-47 with three loaded magazines, more than 40 belts of RPK and PKM machinegun ammunition and various bomb-making materials.

(Courtesy of MND-B PAO)

IA finds, destroys VBIED, MND-B Soldiers detain terrorist, seize munitions

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, found nine bodies inside a vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device in Baghdad's Mansour district Sept. 26.

The IA soldiers removed the bodies and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed the vehicle.

In a separate incident, Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, detained two

suspected terrorists trying to place an IED on the side of a road in Najaf Sept. 26.

The suspects were handed over to Iraqi police for further questioning.

In another incident, elements of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, attached to MND-B, discovered 12 50mm mortar rounds, eight 100mm mortar rounds, 74 60mm mortar rounds, 90 82mm mortar rounds, two 81mm mortar rounds and 88 120mm mortar rounds while performing combat operations in northwest Baghdad Sept. 27.

Subsequently, Soldiers from MND-B's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, found five 120mm mortar rounds

while conducting combat operations near Haswah, south of Baghdad, Sept. 27.

The munitions were destroyed by an EOD team.

As of Oct. 2, Iraqi Security Forces and MND-B Soldiers have cleared approximately 95,000 buildings, 80 mosques and 60 muhallas, detained more than 125 terrorist suspects, seized more than 1,700 weapons, registered more than 750 weapons and found 35 weapons caches in support of Operation Together Forward. The combined forces have also removed more than 196,921 cubic meters of trash from the streets of Baghdad.

(Courtesy of MND-B PAO)



Photo by Sgt. Kristin Kemplin, 363rd MPAD

Building the future

ADAMIYAH, Iraq – Capt. Daniel Izzo, aide-de-camp for Multi-National Division – Baghdad's deputy commanding general (support), who hails from Houston, hands out school supplies to children in Baghdad's Adamiyah neighborhood Sept. 29.

The Ivy Leaf

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New 'Army Strong' campaign launched

Courtesy of Army Public Affairs

U.S. Army announced Oct. 9 the start of its communication and education efforts to assist the Army family to communicate to the Nation about Soldier's skills, leadership, teamwork, and selfless service prior to the launch of a new Army advertising campaign.

Army Secretary Dr. Francis J. Harvey unveiled the Army Strong campaign, a key component of the Army's recruiting and advertising efforts, at the 2006 Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

"This morning we will launch our internal communications and education phase lasting several weeks

until we formally launch the new advertising campaign on Nov 9," Harvey said. "It is vitally important that the internal Army family understand and embrace this new campaign. I believe this campaign speaks to an essential truth of being a Soldier."

The Army Strong campaign builds on the foundation of the previous recruiting campaigns by highlighting the transformative power of the U.S. Army. Army Strong captures the defining experience of U.S. Army Soldiers.

"Army Strong is a strength personified by every U.S. Army Soldier -

Active Duty, Army Reserve, National Guard, Cadet and Retired," said Lt Gen. Robert Van Antwerp Jr., commander US Army Accessions

Command. "This campaign will show Americans that there is strong, then there's Army Strong. I am both inspired and confident that the campaign will build on the positive momentum within our recruiting program."

Army Strong was developed to specifically address the interests and motivations of those considering a career in the U.S. military. The campaign also speaks to those who understand and support the decision of a family member, friend or employee to serve.

A national advertising campaign for the Army Strong message will launch Nov. 9 and will initially involve television, radio and online spots as well as an updated www.goarmy.com Web site.

Print ads are scheduled to begin running in January 2007. The ads will be directed to media that appeals to young adults.

Army Strong is the creation of the McCann Worldgroup, the U.S. Army's marketing communications agency. McCann Worldgroup was retained Dec. 7, 2005, after a competitive review of potential agency partners. To develop the campaign, McCann conducted extensive research among prospective soldiers and their influencers, and interacted directly with hundreds of Soldiers. "This is a campaign informed by

research, and inspired by Soldiers," said Eric Keshin, McCann Worldgroup's worldwide Chief Operating Officer and Regional Director-North America.

U.S. ARMY



Thurman selected for promotion

4th Inf. Div. commander slated to assume command of V Corps

Story by MND-B PAO
BAGHDAD –

Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, the commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas, was selected by President George W. Bush for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general.

Thurman, who hails from Marietta, Okla., has also served as the commanding general for Multi-National Division – Baghdad since January, where he has commanded more than 70,000 United States servicemembers and Iraqi Security Forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

He was also selected for assignment as the commanding general of V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, which is based in Heidelberg, Germany.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman (right), commanding general, Multi-National Division – Baghdad and 4th Infantry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, is briefed on a battlefield circulation tour Aug. 13 by Lt. Col. Charles Webster, commander, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade. Thurman was selected by President George W. Bush for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and was also selected for assignment as the commanding general of V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, which is based in Heidelberg, Germany.

Georgian battalion continues security mission in Baghdad's International Zone



BAGHDAD – Soldiers from the Georgian army's 22nd Light Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade, watch as their battalion commander cases the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base I in Baghdad's International Zone Sept. 23. Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers bade farewell to the Georgian army's 22nd Light Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade, and welcomed its counterpart, the Batumi Light Infantry Battalion, during the ceremony.

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

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers bade farewell to the Georgian army's 22nd Light Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade, and welcomed their counterpart, the Batumi Light Infantry Battalion, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Union I in Baghdad's International Zone Sept. 23.

Attached to the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team, the Georgian army's Batumi Light Infantry Battalion uncased its unit colors, which officially marks the start of the unit's mission to provide security for the new Iraqi government working in the International Zone.

"Today is a great day, not only for the Georgian people and the Georgian army but for the Coalition Forces here in Iraq," said Col. Michael Beech, commander, 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"Today is a new beginning," said Beech. "We welcome the Batumi Battalion to the ranks of the Cobra team. We look forward to standing side-by-side with you as we continue to secure the International Zone," he said to the incoming commander, Maj. Besik Janjanidze.

The ceremony signified the successful completion of the Georgian Armed Forces' 22nd Lt. Inf. Bn.'s six-month mission to provide security within the International Zone and Iraq.

Beech also thanked the soldiers of the 22nd Lt. Inf. Bn. for their disciplined and professional performance and wished the outgoing battalion commander, Maj. Lasha Karmazanashvili, and his soldiers good fortune during their redeployment.

"The 22nd Bn. has earned a reputation for being a tough, well-disciplined and well-led outfit," Beech said to the company commanders standing in formation before him.

"It would be my distinct pleasure and honor to serve with you again, shoulder-to-shoulder, anywhere or anytime," said Beech.

With the casing of the colors, the commander of the 22nd Lt. Inf. Bn. officially transferred his mission in Iraq to the incoming unit and congratulated his troops on a mission well done.

"We will return to our country with the dignity and respect we have earned, and I would like to thank all of my soldiers and the 4th BCT for their support during our mission here," Karmazanashvili said.

The incoming battalion looks forward to beginning its new mission in Iraq and is eager to gain knowledge that will benefit the Georgian army and ultimately their country as they work with the 4th BCT in its efforts to rebuild Iraq, said Janjanidze.

"The 22nd Bn. has completed their mission successfully and with honor," Janjanidze said. "We are ready to take on this mission, and we will continue on with the tradition of success left by all the units before us."

Responsible for force protection and stabilization operations in the IZ, the Batumi Battalion will work directly with the 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The Republic of Georgia has been a coalition partner in the War on Terror in Iraq since 2003.



BAGHDAD – Maj. Besik Janjanidze (left), commander, Batumi Light Infantry Battalion, Georgian Armed Forces, uncases his battalion's unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Union I in Baghdad's International Zone Sept. 23.

Commando Brigade takes lead in southern Baghdad

Story by Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.
BAGHDAD –

The first month of a deployment is always one of upheaval – for both the unit going home and the one arriving to replace it.

Militaries since time immemorial have used flags and banners to show their presence. Honoring this time-honored tradition, the Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, raised their battalion and brigade colors and declared in no uncertain terms that the brigade is here to provide assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces and keep peace in its area of operations in southern Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Michael Infanti, a Chicago native, who is the commander of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, uncased his battalion's colors in a brief ceremony Sept. 17.

Although the formalities were short, the meaning was great, he said, as the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment took charge of the north Mahmudiyah area of operations.

"You own it, you defend it...", he told the formation of Soldiers.

Later that morning, the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, based on an Iraqi army compound in south Mahmudiyah where they work in close conjunction with the 4th Battalion, 6th Iraqi Army Division, also uncased their colors, officially taking the reins from the 101st Airborne Division.

"(It's) fun to have a ceremony with the Iraqi army," said Pvt. James Buron, a medic with Headquarters Battery and native to Phippsberg, Maine. "It's good to get things underway. Hopefully no one will need to come after us; (the Iraqis) will be self-sufficient."

The sentiment was echoed by Staff Sgt. James Smotherman, a squad leader from the battery from Las Cruces, N.M.

"I think it's fantastic that we are uncasing here today as we assist them and enhance their ability to lead themselves and defend their country."

"I'm excited," said Spc. James Butler, a fire direction control specialist from Headquarters Battery, 2nd Bn., 15th FA Regt., who hails from Galveston, Texas.

Colonel Michael Kershaw, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mtn. Div., a native of Huffman, Texas, spoke briefly at the ceremony.

"We know from what our brothers in the Screaming Eagle (101st Airborne Division) Brigade tell us that the Desert Lion brigade is the best in the Iraqi army," he said, and expressed hope for continued efforts in the sector to bring peace to Mahmudiyah.

Col. Ali welcomed the newly arrived Soldiers to the area.

"I'm wishing you the best with your efforts and operations," he said. "We hope you continue the efforts of the 101st (Abn. Div.)."

Baghdad has improved a lot during the 101st (Abn. Div.'s) deployment, Ali said.

"I am very sure of the new unit because you have a great history, and I am sure you can improve this AO. You are brothers in arms and in blood."



CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney (left), the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Col. Michael Kershaw (right), commander, 2nd BCT, and native of Huffman, Texas, uncased the brigade colors at a ceremony on Camp Striker Sept. 21.

Sgt. Robert Simonovich, a squad leader with Battery A, 2nd Bn., 15th FA Regt., who hails from Cleveland, Ohio, commented on the uncasing ceremony.

"It was an important event," he said. "It's good that they can see we're here working with the IA and see them taking the lead."

Two units under the 2nd BCT uncased their colors for the first time ever in combat; the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, and the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

Col. Jeffrey Harrison, commander of the 2nd BSTB, a Snellville, Ga. native, said the unit was writing the beginnings of its history with this deployment.

"We're replacing an excellent unit," he added. "We'll go from what they've done and build on it."

"This ceremony is significant in the fact that it's the first uncasing of our colors on foreign soil," said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Rees, signal platoon sergeant. "It's the first time the unit has been together in a combat zone."

And while growing pains are expected, Rees, a native of Muncie, Ind., has high hopes for the unit.

"We've got some challenges ahead," he said. "We definitely will meet the challenges. We have nothing but a lot of professionals."

The battalion contains companies of engineers, military intelligence, signal,

and military police.

"We've learned a lot," said Sgt. 1st Class Steve Plimpton, 2nd BSTB platoon sergeant, a native of Springfield, Va. "We have a tough mission but we're ready to accept it and be successful."

The 1st Sqdn., 89th Cav. Regt., also unfurled its colors for the first time in combat.

"We're ready, prepared, and had a great transition with the 1st Battalion, 75th Cavalry Regiment – a great unit," said Lt. Col. Mark Suich, commander, 1st Sqdn., 89th Cav. Regt., who hails from Greenville, Penn. "We plan on moving what they had started in the right direction, and establish security and control in

SEE **COMMANDO**, PG. 11

CAB radio operators provide link to MND-B ground Soldiers

Story and photo by
Spc. Creighton Holub
CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.
CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

The Combat Aviation Brigade's radio telephone operators keep pilots and decision-makers here informed of the constantly changing battlespace.

The RTOs are key information delivery personnel who move information to leaders quickly so life-saving decisions can be made.

"It's pretty important getting the MEDEVAC helicopter to where it needs to be," said Spc. Jeremy Breeden, an infantryman from Knoxville, Ill., assigned as an RTO with the Division Ready Reaction Force infantry platoon from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Company B, 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment.

An example of this, he said, was when "we were assisting the 502nd (Infantry Regiment) of the 101st Airborne Division and a MEDEVAC got there in 10 minutes. We had just got (the injured Soldier) out of the Bradley and they were landing. If they wouldn't have gotten there so fast, he probably would have died."

Although the radio operators' main job is transmitting information up and down operational chains, their other tasks include personnel and flight recordkeeping and tracking aircraft, along with other battalion-specific tasks.

"We all support the fight," said Spc. Alegra Torres, an aviation operations specialist, who serves as an RTO, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, who hails from San Francisco. "We support the infantry Soldiers more than they realize."

The job she performs is largely customer service-oriented – the customers are the crews in the sky, the leaders here and Soldiers on the ground conducting missions.

"RTOs pave the way for our success," said Master Sgt. Pershon Davis, the Fires and Effects Coordination Cell and night operations noncommissioned officer in



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Spc. Melissa McCarthy, an aviation operations specialist and radio telephone operator assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, takes a call from a unit while inputting data into a computer at the CAB Tactical Operations Center Oct. 2.

charge. "Not only do they utilize the communication piece, but they are also tasked with logging significant activities, which take place consistently on a daily basis. Therefore, a RTO must be a very versatile Soldier, carrying a significant amount of responsibility to ensure mission accomplishment within MND-B."

The radio telephone operators gather information from other units so the leaders at Camp Taji can make informed decisions and direct the brigade's assets to assist in

fighting the enemy and delivering support to troops on the ground, said Breeden. An infantry RTO's mission is to paint a picture so the CAB's RTOs can relay the best information to the brigade's decision makers.

"They filter through the information the battalions provide and determine what information needs to be acted upon," said Capt. Elena Araujo, a battle captain assigned to HHC, CAB. "The RTOs are vital links between the brigade and the battalions. Their accuracy and timeliness are

key to us executing CAB operations. When an emergency happens, they will have five or six people yelling at them trying to pass information."

The information is then utilized by leaders ranging from the battle captains to the brigade commander, depending on what the emergency situation is.

"Without having a squared-away RTO, lives are placed in tragic situations, which are the difference of life and death of a maneuver Soldier," Davis added.

IA, 3rd HBCT Soldiers conduct cordon, search operation in Diyala Province

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

MUQDADIYA, Iraq – The U.S. will not always be present in Iraq. That is the hope all Soldiers share as they continue to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To ensure that Americans will one day be able to leave Iraq, a capable Iraqi Security Force needs to be in place. Iraqis are taking a larger role in the stability of their country each day, said Sgt. 1st Class David Acosta, section sergeant, Mortar Platoon, Troop A.

During a joint patrol the first week of October, Soldiers from Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and counterparts from the Iraqi army's 3rd Brigade, 5th Division conducted a cordon and search and a hasty traffic control point in this northern region of Diyala

Province.

"We're putting them in the front so they can take charge," said Acosta.

Coalition Forces are taking a less active role in this region as evidenced by the recent ceremony that saw the 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, take control of the stability of the northern region of Diyala Province.

"We're not here to occupy; we're not here to impose our customs and our beliefs," Acosta said. "Once we leave Iraq, eventually, it's the Iraqi people that are going to handle this. It's going to be left to them."

During the mission, the joint patrol set up a traffic control point to search for illegal weapons and other forbidden items.

As each vehicle approached, the Soldiers, both Iraqi and American, were wary of the occupants inside. Even

with gun trucks covering their every move, worse case training scenarios are often at the forefront of the Soldiers' minds.

"I'd say you have to be a little nervous; it keeps you on your toes and it makes you do the right thing," said Spc. Joshua Toller, a driver with the Mortar Platoon, Troop A. "It's always easier to do the easy right over the hard wrong."

While the checkpoint on the patrol yielded no weapons, it put the terrorists on notice that the ISF was in the area and lets the citizens know their troops are active in protecting them.

"We have to deny the enemy freedom of movement," Acosta said. "They're doing things that affect the government to move forward to progress. We have to recon constantly to keep them off the streets."

MND-B transfers control of FOB Duke to ISF

Story by Maj. Anna Friederich
2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FOB KALSU, Iraq – Iraqi officials and Multi-National Division – Baghdad leaders transferred responsibility of Forward Operating Base Duke to Iraqi Security Forces during a press conference at the FOB Duke Oct. 1.

Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, officially signed documents to sign the FOB to the Ministry of Interior, which was represented by Maj. Gen. Hussein Aooyiz Al Ghazali, commander, 5th Department of Border Enforcement, and Asaad Sultan Abu Gelal, the Najaf governor.

The transfer of the FOB follows an Iraqi in the Lead ceremony during the past week in which Iraqi Security Forces assumed operational control for the northern Babil province and security of the cities of Al Iskandariyah, Haswah and Al Khudi from 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT.

The FOB and operational area transitions are part of a plan to eventually turn over all southern provinces to the Iraqi government and military control as the ISF continues to grow into a viable force, said Maj. Jeff Avolio, ISF liaison officer, 2nd BCT.

“The turn over of these FOBs and operational areas is a key indicator of ISF success,” he added.

Before the press conference began, Tully and Hussein signed a property release, which signifies the beginning of 5th DBE’s ownership and assuming responsibility for the security of the FOB as well as the border security of areas that extend from the Iraq-Saudi Arabian border, to the southern portion of the An-Anbar province, and through the Najaf and Al Muthanna provinces, ending at the Iraq and Kuwait border.

The FOB transfers mark significant steps towards normalcy and the transition to full Iraqi control, especially with the large area the 5th DBE is responsible for, said Tully.

“This is a significant step in the ISF stepping to the

lead in the Najaf province,” he said. “The turnover of FOB Duke to the border patrol shows the ISF is strong and able to handle the security of Najaf. The Najaf province continues to be an example for the rest of Iraq because of its leadership, like Governor Assad and Gen Hussein.”

Coalition Forces will not have a permanent presence in the province, but will continue to help train and equip the ISF on a weekly basis so it can continue growing stronger, Tully concluded.

Assad echoed Tully’s confidence in the ability of the ISF to provide security in the province, saying the ceremony is a historical day and it stands as proof that CF are confident in the ISF’s ability to secure the province on its own.

Assad asked the sons of Najaf to stand with ISF and provide a new life, free from the oppression of the old regime, and to support the prime minister.

“We are the Najaf people. We support them, and we stand with them against the terrorists,” he concluded.

IA unit takes lead in another section of the ‘Warhorse’ area of operations

Story and photos by
Maj. Anna Friederich
2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

FOB KALSU, Iraq – On a very austere camp on the southeast side of Forward Operating Base Iskandariyah in the northern Babil province, Iraqi Soldiers assembled for an event that would have been unlikely three years ago.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, unfurled their colors Sept. 28 during a ceremony to celebrate taking the lead in another section of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division’s area of operations.

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., transferred security operations in the cities of Al Iskandariyah, Haswah and Al Khudir, a 90 square-mile area, to Iraqi control after months of mentoring and training of the battalion.

The Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., took over the task of training the fledgling unit just under a year ago. During that time, the unit reached a “Level 2” Training Readiness Assessment rating, meaning that the IA has assumed the lead in combat operations in its designated area with Multi-National Division – Baghdad forces maintaining a supportive role.

The IA battalion has shown an ability to decisively engage and defeat the terrorist organizations and bring security to the local people on its own during numerous operations, said Maj. Austin Appleton, IA liaison officer, 2nd BCT. Additionally, the unit has shown the flexibility to quickly support the local people through the distribution of water, humanitarian aids and other civil military programs.

A year ago, seven battalions owned operational area. There are now two IA divisions, nine IA brigades, and 24 IA battalions in the lead within MND-B’s area of operations. Although security efforts in the area are now the responsibility of 2nd Bn., 4th Bde., 8th IAD, MND-B Soldiers will continue coaching and mentoring the



FOB KALSU, Iraq – Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Brig. Gen. Imad Majhool, commander, 4th Bde., 8th Iraqi Army Division, “troop the line” during an Iraqi in the Lead ceremony Sept. 28 at the 2nd Battalion, 4th Bde., 8th IAD compound near Forward Operating Base Iskandariyah in the northern Babil province.

unit.

The ceremony kicked off with a reading from the Quran by a local cleric and an inspection of troops by Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd BCT, and Brig. Gen. Imad Majhool, commander, 4th Bde., 8th IAD.

Hasoon Al Fatlawi, the deputy governor of Babil Province, was the first to praise the progress of the battalion in a speech, citing the diligence and dedication by the soldiers and leaders. Hasoon said he was very proud of every officer, sergeant and soldier, and he feels the battalion was able to reach this point through

the efforts and hard work of every member of the unit.

“This battalion has proven itself many times over in operations alongside and independent of Coalition Forces, and I am confident our successes will multiply as we take control of security operations in the area,” he said.

Tully also praised the battalion’s performance over the past year.

“Today is a significant step on the Iraqi army’s journey to bring peace and stability to Iraq,” he said. “It marks a step closer to normalcy and eventual transition to full civilian control.

“Today’s transition does not mean the Coalition Forces go away. It means the Iraqi Army is in the lead and that we move to a support role. We remain team members and partners; the time is right for the Iraqi army to take the lead in north Babil,” said Tully.

The Iraqi army is growing stronger every day, he added.

The ceremony concluded with a presentation of gifts to CFs from IA soldiers and a pass and review by the soldiers of 2nd Bn, 8th IAD, before the audience of ISF and MND-B leadership, town council members and well-wishers.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Capt. Keith Powell, physician assistant, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, checks the temperature of a young Iraqi boy Sept. 25 at a medical operation in Mushada.

1st BCT Soldiers offer medical aid in Mushada

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –
As the Iraqi police provided security, Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, along with an Iraqi doctor and an Iraqi nurse, conducted a medical operation Sept. 25 in Mushada community north of Baghdad.

During the operation, more than 300 residents were seen by the medical staff for a variety of ailments and were given free pharmaceuticals to help curb the type of ailments the patients were experiencing.

“This is the first MedOp I’ve been on since I’ve been stationed at Camp Taji,” said Pfc. Hugo Paiz, medic, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, which is attached to the 1st BCT. “A lot of what I’m seeing today is boys with skinned knees and elbows. Mostly, it’s from running around and falling. All I do for them is pretty much clean up the wound, bandage it and then send them on their way.”

Not only did Paiz take care of skinned knees and elbows, he was part of a team

of medics and physician’s that helped stabilize a young Iraqi girl who was run over by a truck just right up the road from the operation.

The young girl suffered a broken leg and multiple contusions when a truck struck a roadside bomb and steered out of

control and hit her. Locals rushed her to the medical operation, where she was stabilized and medically evacuated to Baghdad for further treatment.

The parents of the girl were notified their daughter had been hurt and where she was taken after she was medically

evacuated.

Many were grateful the medical operation was going on so close to the accident.

“I’m so glad the doctors were close when that girl got hurt,” said a local Mushada woman at the operation. “They really did save her life. These medical operations are a blessing.

“I heard about the operation yesterday, so I brought all my kids in today,” she added. “This is really great, and I appreciate it when the American doctors come and take a look at my kids. They even gave us some free medicine.”

The brigade has been conducting medical operations such as this since it set foot in Iraq nine months ago. Many believe they are starting to make a real difference in the communities where they are held.

“I believe these operations are helping the communities in this area,” said Capt. Lee Howard, team chief, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Bn., which is attached to the 1st BCT. “At least that is the feedback I’m getting from the sheiks. Most (Iraqis) have very high expectations from American medics and doctors. What a lot of people are doing is waiting for the Americans to come to their community.”



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Pvt. Tramaine Lyons, medic, Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, checks the heartbeat of an Iraqi baby Sept. 25 at a medical operation in Mushada.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Spc. Seth Sutch, medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, treats a local man from Assyria Village Sept. 20 during a Community Health Outreach Program conducted alongside local Iraqi police officers.

IPs, MND-B Soldiers conduct MedOp in Assyria

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –

Leading a hand to their neighbors, Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment; the 4th Support Battalion; and Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, conducted a Community Health Outreach Program Sept. 20 at the Women's Center in Assyria Village located next to Camp Taji.

As medical providers from the brigade provided care alongside a local Iraqi nurse, Soldiers from the 414th CA Bn. handed out humanitarian assistance items to the people in attendance; local Iraqi police officers helped hand out supplies, provided security and maintained crowd control on site.

"The goal was to get as many people through the medical and humanitarian points as possible while assessing the needs of the community," said Maj. James Frick, plans and operations officer, HHB, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt. "Also, we wanted to let the people see the Iraqi police involved in providing medical and humanitarian aid."

The Women's Center in Assyria provided a centralized

location to organize the event and allowed the Soldiers to provide treatment to local nationals in a timely and orderly manner. The month-old building is the culmination of a recent project designed to support the women of the Assyria community on a daily basis.

"This is the beginning of the program, but the women seem to appreciate it," said Rahman Mohammed, managing director of the center. "Right now we have sewing classes for women to help them make clothes. This event is very good for the local people here with the cooperation of Coalition Forces."

Hundreds of people moved through the Women's Center and received treatment and assistance items. The crowd, which consists of mostly women and children, seemed to appreciate the care they received from 1st Lt. Les Bartow, a physicians' assistant from 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., and 1st Lt. Saibatu Mansaray, from Co. C, 4th Support. Bn.

"Most of the patients were pretty jovial. They get along with us pretty well," said Spc. Seth Sutch, medic, HHB, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt. "We had some kids that came in with their parents for checkups, and we even had some female patients come see Lt. Bartow. It was surprising that they actually felt comfortable enough to see a male doctor during the operation."

As the deployment for 1st BCT enters its tenth month,

the medical care providers are racking up quite a few missions in providing care to the Iraqi people.

"During this operation, we saw a lot of skeletal, muscular, intestinal and urinary tract problem in the patients," said Mansaray. "This is about the twelfth operation I've done, and I have two more coming up. Our unit gets tasked to provide a female health care provider, and I am one of the two in our unit."

The 414th CA Bn., which provided more than \$8,000 in humanitarian and medical supplies for the event, continues to operate in the Taji and Baghdad areas.

"We've been on the ground operating since April," said Capt. Mario Tovar, interim team chief, Team 1, 414th CA Bn. "It seems like we average about one medical operation a month, but we have had three in September. Since we've been operating in the Taji area, we've helped build and refurbish schools, repaired water networks, and we are about to complete a new qada building in Taji for the local council."

The medical operations are part of an overall mission to show local Iraqis a glimpse of the future for a democratic Iraq.

"Despite the fact that this area is very pro-Coalition, we want people to see what they can gain by supporting the government and how they will personally benefit," he added.

DCG-S visits essential services project sites

Story and photo by Sgt. Kristin Kemplin
363rd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Only months away from completion, the pump tanks at “RT3” are still empty as Iraqi workers put the finishing touches on the high-tech water treatment facility that will distribute clean, fresh water to millions of Baghdad area residents at the astonishing pace of 30 million gallons per day.

The water treatment facility in a Baghdad neighborhood outside Sadr City is one of two on-going projects visited by Brig. Gen. David Halverson, deputy commanding general – support for Multi-National Division – Baghdad, to gauge the status of essential services in the impoverished neighborhoods Sept. 29.

The state-of-the-art facility is comparable to water treatment plants in the United States, said Halverson, who added that clean water pumped from the facility should have a huge positive impact on the health of residents of the area.

The project, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has had its ups and downs. The plant was originally scheduled to open in October but the original contractor was unable to complete the work. USACE and a new contractor are now at the helm and the project is on track, scheduled to open only two months past the original deadline, said Lt. Col. Christopher Hall, commander, Brigade Troops Battalion, 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

When the facility opens in December, it is expected to provide sanitary drinking water for 3.2 million people in Baghdad, Hall said.

The project is one of many essential services projects meant to bring “normalcy to some of the people that were affected (negatively) under the Saddam regime,” explained Halverson.

Halverson then visited an electrical switching station in nearby Adamiyah, also a neighborhood suburb of Baghdad. The station pushes power received from a larger sub-station down to local power generators in the area.

“We’re trying to get the network back



ADAMIYAH, Iraq – Lt. Col. Christopher Hall, commander, Brigade Troops Battalion, 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, talks with Brig. Gen. David Halverson, deputy commanding general – support for Multi-National Division – Baghdad, inside an electric switching station here Sept. 29. The two spent the day visiting essential services projects in the area and gathering feedback from residents.

online so that they can have sustained power,” said Hall. The area has been without power, or on greatly reduced power, for approximately three months as MND-B Soldiers, working with USACE, have been striving to restore service to residents.

Part of the mission to restore power involves tracing and identifying the problems in the overall network, explained Hall.

“This station here provides power to those local networks and if there is a break in any point in that chain of circuits, then power doesn’t get to the homes,” he said.

To alleviate the stress on families, many of whom are not receiving more than two to four hours of power per day, if any at all, MND-B Soldiers brought generators into the neighborhoods that lack stable power.

Each generator provides power for up to

40 families, noted Hall.

“If the city provides (Iraqis) three to four hours of power, then (the residents) can turn the local generators on for another four hours so they can have eight hours of power,” explained Halverson.

For now, the goal is to provide most residents with eight hours of power a day, but Halverson predicted that within eight months most of Baghdad could have consistent electrical power.

Halverson, who spent the day talking with Iraqi workers and families, said as these two key essential services projects continue to progress, it is evident that Iraqis are thankful.

The water treatment plant, an Iraqi-built facility, has employed between 250 and 300 Iraqi workers during the construction phase, said Hall. Both the water treatment

facility and the electric power station will be Iraqi-run once they enter the operating phase.

Halverson said the emphasis on creating Iraqi-built and Iraqi-run facilities is part of MND-B’s mission “to get skilled labor back into the Iraqi work force.”

In the coming months, it is estimated clean water will flow into at least one-half the neighborhoods in Baghdad and electricity will be restored to homes that have gone without power, or with greatly reduced power, for most of the summer.

Although the 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers and the majority of the Soldiers in MND-B will have redeployed by the time many of these improvements occur, the memory of their efforts will remain in the hearts of Iraqis who are already grateful for the promise of working lights and clean running water.



MND-B hosts Iraqi medics competition

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

FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq –

Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, hosted an Iraqi field medic competition for Iraqi medics from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division here Sept. 18-19.

Sixteen of the 5th Bde.'s best medics were chosen to compete in the two-day event, during which the Iraqi medics were put into two-man teams to compete against each other in a variety of different medical scenarios.

The Iraqi Field Medic Competition, the first competition of its kind within the reconstructed Iraqi army, was modeled after the U.S. Army Expert Field Medical Badge Competition, said Col. Todd Dombroski, battalion surgeon, 1st Bn., 12th Inf. Regt.

The Iraqi medics were graded in eight different areas. Timed events varied from casualty extraction from buildings and vehicles to successful completion of intravenous injections while simultaneously moving around obstacles and reacting to simulated small-arms fire.

Other tested events included cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and preliminary medical treatment procedures. The medics were also required to complete a physical fitness test in accordance with U.S. Army standards and to display knowledge of their personal weapons.

"The competition was a pilot program to be used at other sites to recognize the best medics throughout the Iraqi army," said Dombroski, a native of Washington D.C. "The event was a fun way of recognizing 'the best of the best' and should encourage the other Iraqi medics to hone their skills for the next competition."

The event was sanctioned by the Iraqi Surgeon General and has also begun to gain prominence within the Iraqi Ministry of Defense as it looks to expand the program. Dombroski said he hopes this competition will be the model for others like it throughout the Iraqi army.

The competition not only helped the Iraqi medics improve, it also validated the training the 4th BCT medics provided the Iraqi soldiers throughout the course of the year, said Staff Sgt. Andre Brown, medical treatment noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 12th Inf. Regt.

To date, more than 70 Iraqi medics from the 5th Bde. have been trained by medics and Military Transition Teams from the 1st Bn., 12th Inf. Regt.

"The great thing is they've all done excellent," said Brown, a native of San Diego, referring to the Iraqi medics' performance throughout the contest. "They have all met the standard, so we feel like our training has been validated."

"This is my third deployment to Iraq. During my first deployment, there was no Iraqi army, so to be able to come out here and know I'm making a difference and watch these guys get better is a great feeling," he said.

The competition played an important role in the improvement of his men's training and also gave leaders an idea of what areas needed improvement, agreed 1st Lt. Gawad Ali, medic operations officer-in-charge, 5th Bde., 6th IAD.

Going into the competition, Ali said he felt his men needed more training on extraction and evacuation of a



FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq – An Iraqi medic from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, performs cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to a mannequin during an Iraqi medic competition here Sept. 19. The competition was hosted by medics from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

casualty. Later however, he said he was surprised and impressed of how well his men performed the tasks during the event.

He attributed their success to the countless hours of training the 1st Bn., 12th Inf. Regt. medics and MTT teams provided to his Soldiers during the year.

"All the Soldiers from our brigade that competed wanted to be the best, and that was something that was great to see. That was the best part of being here today," he said before the awards ceremony. I hope we can continue to plan competitions like this in the future. The

competitive nature of this contest brought the best out of my men, and they performed great."

All competitors received a certificate of participation and a set of trauma sheers. The winning team was also presented with a stethoscope by Lt. Col. Mark Estey, commander, 1st Bn., 12th Inf. Regt., and Brig. Gen. Abdul Razat, commander, 5th Bde., 6th IAD.

Estey also presented separate awards to the team that achieved the highest combined physical fitness test score. Each team member received a 1st Bn., 12th Inf. Regt. commander's coin.

COMMANDO.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

the sector by gaining the confidence of people."

2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment uncased its colors for the third time on Iraqi soil, and many Soldiers of the unit are now on their third tour here.

"1st Battalion, 502nd (Infantry Regiment) did a great job keeping the insurgents at bay," said Capt. Dan

McConnell, personnel officer in charge for 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., a native of Fairfax, Va. "We're going to pick up where they left off, building the confidence of the locals so they can be self-sufficient and not need American presence anymore."

Maj. Anthony Haycock, a native of Delavan, Ill., who serves as the battalion executive officer for the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, echoed those thoughts.

"We had a very smooth transition," he

said. "The (2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.) was very helpful and we look forward to building on their foundation and supporting the brigade with all our logistical assets."

Task Force Vigilant, an ad-hoc group created to provide security around the Victory Base Camp, unveiled a sign in honor of the transition, and Maj. Brett Kessler, commander, expressed faith in the troops despite their difficult calling. He is from Flagstaff, Ariz.

The task force also will provide security for three towns in the immediate vicinity of the camp.

"We're patrolling in our sector of responsibility outside the wire," said 2nd Lt. Curtis Lowry, a native of Martinsburg, W.Va., who serves as a battle captain with the task force.

The brigade officially took over operations as of the 20th of September, with high hopes for operations in south Baghdad.



MND-B So

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad's Troop A, 4th Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, pull security as local children w



LEFT: BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Christian Ferrell, a native of Long Island, N.Y., who serves as a video journalist with the 363rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad, pulls security Oct. 1 in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad.

RIGHT: BAGHDAD – School children in the Karkh muhalla of Baghdad take a break from their studies to mug for the camera Oct. 1 during a reconnaissance mission conducted by Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad's Troop A, 4th Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, to meet with key community leaders to discuss their security concerns.



Soldiers connect with Karkh community

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Kevin Lovel
363rd MPAD

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad’s Troop A, 4th Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, conducted a reconnaissance mission in the Karkh district of Baghdad Oct. 1 to foster a working relationship with local residents.

The Soldiers met with key community leaders, Iraqi policemen and residents throughout Karkh to build positive relationships and to get their input on improving security in the district.

“Basically, we’re trying to better the security in the area with the Iraqi army and the Iraqi police,” said Capt. Duane Waits, platoon leader, Troop A, 4th Bn., 14th Cav. Regt., 172nd SBCT, who hails from Little Rock, Ark.

“We were here for two or three days about four weeks ago,” he said. “The people were responsive and liked to provide us with information. We’ve improved their perception of (Coalition Forces). We try to gather as much information on the area as possible. We identify key buildings, schools and mosques, where we can correspond with key (community) leaders.”

Fostering a positive relationship between the Iraqi police, army and local citizens is a key goal for the 172nd Soldiers.

“We’re trying to do an initial linkup with the Iraqi police in Karkh,” explained Capt. Matt Eberhart, commander, Troop A, who hails from Lincoln, Neb. “We take care of initial introductions and ask them about what is going well, as well as things they could use help with.”

The 4th Bn., 14th Cav. Regt. served at Camp Rawah, Mosul and Hadditha dur-

ing the first year of its deployment, said Waits.

Some Soldiers in the unit expressed the opinion that the current mission in Baghdad is similar to what they accomplished in other areas of operation.

Soldiers must maintain constant situational awareness, said Staff Sgt. Justin Nelson, cavalry scout, 4th Bn., 14th Cav. Regt.

“If you get a little relaxed, that’s when bad things can happen,” he added.

The Soldiers said they are proud of the unit’s accomplishments in Iraq and feel it has made a positive impact.

“I enjoy doing real-world missions. I feel like I’m making a difference,” said Staff Sgt. John Pitts, cavalry scout, Troop A, whose hometown is Knox, Indiana.

The Soldiers strive to ensure all Iraqi customs and traditions are honored while on missions and plan ahead for cultural sensitivities, said Staff Sgt. Patty Arnold-Carney, motor transport specialist, Troop A, who hails from Waverly, N.Y.

“When I first started here, I was the female searcher while we finished clearing houses,” said Arnold-Carney. “The unit kept us (females) on to help women we may encounter on our missions feel more at ease.”

Waits met with schoolmasters, IPs and community leaders on the trip. He also met with Mahmud Al Khalf, director, Iraqi Ministry of Culture, and Aladdin Sadiq Al-Khanak, director general, Iraqi Railways Company, for their insights on current conditions.

“Sometimes we need urgent help with the security,” said Al-Khanak, referring to terrorist activity that has occurred in the past in the area surrounding the train station and the company’s offices.

“You can help us (by using the tip hotline), and we can help you to better the area,” Waits told the community leaders.



Children walk to school in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad Oct. 1.



BAGHDAD – A Soldier from Multi-National Division – Baghdad’s Troop A, 4th Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, shares a light-hearted moment with local school children Oct. 1 during a reconnaissance mission in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad.

ISF, MND-B leaders discuss Shaab, Ur phase of Operation Together Forward

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

BAGHDAD – Maj. Gen. Bashar Mahmood Ayob, commander, 9th Iraqi Army Division; Brig. Gen. Emad Ismail Ali, commander, Adhamiyah Iraqi Police Station; and Col. Michael Shields, commander of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, discussed operations in Shaab and Ur during a press conference Sept. 26 at the old Ministry of Defense complex near Adhamiyah.

The Shaab and Ur clearance portion of Operation Together Forward began Sept. 14 and continues to improve the lives of Iraqis in the Baghdad area.

In the past two weeks, Iraqi Security Forces, along with MND-B Soldiers in support, have searched and cleared 36,835 houses and businesses and 23 mosques. The operation resulted in the discovery of five weapons

and the seizure of nearly 500 illegal weapons.

Operation Together Forward is an Iraqi-led operation to help bring security and prosperity to the citizens of Baghdad.

"I believe it's very simple because Baghdad is the capital. The leadership is in Baghdad and, for that reason, the terrorists are trying to show that the leadership is weak," said Bashar.

"For that reason, the security of Baghdad has priority over all Iraq," he said.

The neighborhoods of Shaab and Ur encompass the second area to be cleared in east Baghdad in support of Operation Together Forward. The clearing phase of this operation was led by Iraqi Security Forces and the Alaska-based 172nd SBCT.

"Together, we performed clearing operations to provide increased security and stability for the people of Shaab and Ur," said Shields. "Great support was provided

by the Iraqi police throughout the operation."

Leading the charge of the protect and build phase is the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, MND-B, along with the Iraqi army, Iraqi police and the Shaab and Ur Neighborhood Councils.

The protect and build phase includes starting infrastructure projects and adding more security checkpoints to keep the terrorists from moving back into the neighborhood.

Infrastructure projects include things like rebuilding sewers, getting water running and restoring other basic services, said Maj. Philip McIntire, commander, Company A, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, serving with 506th RCT, 101st Abn. Div.

"True Iraqis will hope to live in peace and prosperity and condemn criminal acts," said Emad, referring to the need for cooperation from citizens to sustain the gains from Operation Together Forward.

MND-B Soldiers work with MoH to care for Ghazaliyah residents

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

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, worked Oct. 1 to increase the overall quality of health care provided to Iraqi citizens at a medical operation in Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood.

Local doctors, who work at a centrally located clinic in Ghazaliyah, treated residents with support from MND-B personnel as part of Operation Together Forward.

The medical operation was the third offered to the residents of Ghazaliyah since Operation Together Forward brought Soldiers attached to 1st Armored Division into the area August 13.

This operation was notably different from those that preceded it.

"This operation (was) entirely Iraqi run," said Maj. Huy Luu, a surgeon attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn. "It was arranged by the Iraqi army. Our intention is to stand back and allow the doctors to provide their routine care, and if they have any extra needs with medications or diagnosis, we'll be able to help with that."

"This clinic can serve about 1,000 people per week," said Capt. Ray McGuire, Company A, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion. "We're including the Ministry of Health into the process of planning and speaking with the Iraqi doctors and the Iraqi Security Forces in assessing the needs of the local population."

According to 1st Bn., 23rd Inf. Regt. leaders, approximately 429 Ghazaliyah residents attended the medical event with eight local doctors providing care. The 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, and the Iraqi National Police provided patient screening, inner-cordon security and crowd management.

Sgt. Marie Scott, Co. A., 412th CA Bn., said that the MND-B Soldiers were able to provide basic medications, such as antibiotics, vitamins, eye drops and basic dermatology ointments.



BAGHDAD – Maj. Huy Luu, a surgeon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division – Baghdad, explains how to take medication provided to a local Iraqi woman during a medical operation held in a clinic in Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood Oct. 1. The operation was conducted in conjunction with the Iraqi Ministry of Health and included working with local Iraqi doctors to assess the needs of the local population.

506th RCT, 101st Abn. Div. units free kidnap victims in east Baghdad

Story by Maj. James Lowe
506th RCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.

FOB RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers have recently been instrumental in working with local Iraqi citizens to prevent kidnappings and round up suspected perpetrators.

In the first incident, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division attached to 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, assisted Iraqis who interrupted a kidnapping attempt in New Baghdad Sept. 25.

The Soldiers from Company A, 3-67th Armor, searched a white car that was observed to be abandoned in haste by a local national at 11:33 a.m. in front of the military convoy. Citizens in the area reported that the driver and three other men had attempted to kidnap people from the street and the citizens had stopped them. Soldiers from Co. A searched the vehicle and recovered a pistol holder and a driver's license.

The Soldiers then organized a search of the area and cleared a house where the four men had been observed to flee initially, but did not catch them. This incident is under investigation by Iraqi Security Forces.

In another foiled kidnapping attempt, Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st BCT, 1st Inf. Div. serving with the 506th RCT in east Baghdad, freed two men found with their hands restrained in the Adhamiyah neighborhood Sept. 26.

Soldiers from the 3rd Platoon, Co. A, 1-26th Inf. Soldiers detained three men believed to be related to kidnappings in the area. This incident remains under investigation by Coalition and Iraqi Security forces.

IA, MND-B Soldiers detain 25 terrorist suspects near Yusufiyah

Story by Maj. Web Wright
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mnt. Div.

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Iraqi army soldiers from 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, along with Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, detained 25 suspected terrorists and seized a cache of weapons near Yusufiyah Sept. 23.

The combined forces captured nine 60mm mortar rounds, a 60mm mortar system, a Dishka heavy machinegun, three rocket propelled grenade launchers, a Katusha rocket and multiple AK-47 assault rifles during Operation Hurricane Wind, which targeted a mortar cell in Janabi Village, southwest of Yusufiyah.

The 4th Brigade is partnered with 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., which recently arrived in the area of operations south of Baghdad.

USAREUR commander visits troops in Baghdad



Photo by Robert Foster Jr., 2nd BCT, 1st Arm. Div.
FOB JUSTICE, Iraq – Gen. David McKiernan, commanding general, United States Army Europe, meets with Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, during a visit to Germany-based Soldiers and leaders Sept. 23 Baghdad.

BUFFALO.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

ment, the Soldiers of 5th Eng. Bn., based out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and assigned to Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 16th Engineer Brigade, have found 310 IEDs while patrolling the streets of Baghdad.

The teams thwarted a complex attack effort by terrorists Sept. 27 when they discovered three IEDs and an unexploded ordnance along a single street in western Baghdad.

The three IEDs were found by the Soldiers from 2nd Plt., Co. B, who were attacked by terrorists using small-arms fire after the Soldiers discovered the second roadside bomb.

"We go out every day looking for bombs," said Staff Sgt. Ramon Martinez, squad leader, 2nd Plt., Co. B. The battalion is only one of the units that provide daily route clearance within Multi-National Division – Baghdad's area of operations, he added.

Route clearance is undeniably one of the most dangerous jobs in Iraq. The Soldiers perform their missions every day, day in and day out. Some days they locate IEDs, but some are just a long, hot ride around the streets of Baghdad, though their very presence acts as a deterrent to terrorist emplacement of IEDs. For those "easy" days, the crews say they are just thankful everyone came home in one piece.

The Soldiers of 2nd Plt., Co. B have found 40 IEDs during their deployment, which adds to their company's total of 118 finds – the highest in 5th Eng. Bn.

"I've been through 18 blasts myself," he said proudly, not long before another blast rocked the Buffalo and the Soldiers felt the concussion "like a thud in your chest." That brought his tally up to 19 blasts.

The blast came from one of the IEDs after it was discovered and unearthed. The platoon immediately began clearing the market street of civilians and set out to prevent traffic from coming close to the area. The Buffalo crew was attacked by small arms-fire moments before the blast, but due to their professionalism and safety procedures, no one was hurt and the damage was contained.

The remaining two IEDs were also cordoned off and an MND-B Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was dispatched.

The bombs could have done serious damage along the

crowded market street of shops, schools and homes, said Martinez soberly, as he looked out the window at a group of school kids watching from a distance and shook his head.

"But thankfully, we found them," he said.

The crew members have seen the effects and devastation IED attacks can inflict, which is why they are so committed to minimizing their threat.

"I want to go out there and find bombs," said Martinez, a native of Yuma, Ariz. "It's our job to look for, and contain, bombs. We get hit hard sometimes, but we still continue to sweep. We take it upon ourselves to look at every little thing.

"You get an attitude that comes from (terrorists) trying to blow you up. When (terrorists) put an IED out there, I'm gonna find it! That's my contribution to this war."

The whole crew echoed the sentiment and said they are all committed to finding IEDs before they can cause damage to their fellow Soldiers and Iraqi citizens.

"We help the Iraqis by making it safer for them to walk the streets," said Sgt. Antwon Holmes, team leader, 2nd Plt., Co. B, who hails from Waco, Texas.

After the blast, another Soldier looked out the window at the school children held back by the cordon. "I think about my little boys, and I think about the children that are out here," said Spc. Chris Kochenash, truck commander and Buffalo arm operator, 2nd Plt., Co. B, also from Yuma, Ariz. "I'm out here not only for the American Soldiers but for the Iraqi people as well."

Their job helps save other people's lives, added Sgt. Andrew Milczakowskyj, squad leader, 2nd Plt., Co. B. "The pressure of a blast could hurt a lot of people. Even something small could decimate five or six people."

He said that responsibility keeps the team dedicated to the job and drives them on to work hard at hunting IEDs.

One reason the platoon has been so successful at finding IEDs comes from Army training, said Cerceau. On top of all the combat and survival training, he said the Soldiers have studied IEDs and the conditions typical of where and how IEDs are placed. The education is constantly updated to remain current.

Another reason they continue to find IEDs rests upon their extensive experience, said Kochenash. They have learned to be constantly vigilant for any signs of anything out of the ordinary or any suspicious behavior in potential

bomb-triggermen and gunmen.

The crew members said they use their perception and experience, but instinct is also important.

"It's like Spidey-sense," Kochenash said. "Sometimes you just know that something is going to happen." He added that they have learned to trust their instincts.

This leads to another reason for their success – the crew's unwavering trust in one other.

"We don't second-guess each other," said Cerceau. "We trust each other."

If one crewmember feels suspicious about something, even if another crewmember might not agree, they don't argue about it, said Cerceau. Rather, they err on the side of caution and check it out.

"This group is so much tighter than any I've ever been with," Cerceau added.

He said they have shared experiences being attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, small-arms fire, exploding IEDs and vehicle-borne IEDs. They have also shared the satisfaction of finding IEDs and thwarting terrorist plots.

"When we find an IED, it pisses (the terrorists) off," concluded Kochenash. "We disrupt their attacks and save lives. That's our job."

And though these brothers-in-arms have dedicated close to a year to hunting IEDs, they are happy to be redeploying home in October and handing over the reins to other Soldiers just as dedicated.



Photo by Spc. Rodney Foliente, 4th Inf. Div. PAO
BAGHDAD – Sgt. Andrew Milczakowskyj, a team leader from 2nd Platoon, Company B, 5th Engineer Battalion, attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 16th Engineer Brigade, points at a suspicious pile of rubble as the platoon hunts for roadside bombs during a route clearance mission Sept. 27 in western Baghdad.



BIAP renovations nearing completion

Story by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central District,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD –

After 21 months of extensive renovations, Baghdad International Airport has the welcome mat fully extended for travelers entering or exiting the country.

It could be an international airport anywhere but this one connects the world to Iraq. Walking from its coffee shop with its inviting aromas to its duty-free store where a new Harley Davidson Road King is parked inside, it's hard to believe one is still in Baghdad.

The ceilings of the main terminal are designed with a striking motif representing Iraq's favorite tree ... the date palm. Allan Nelson, quality assurance representative, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has been overseeing the \$13 million in improvements there for nearly two years and said that work is finally drawing near completion.

According to Nelson, when he started the project, none of the air-conditioning units functioned, the sewer lines were blocked and water was pouring from the bathrooms out into the corridors.

Nelson has been involved with virtually all phases of the rebuilding. This includes three lift stations, repairing the plumbing, getting a new potable water filtration system installed, renovating three electric substations on site, having new street lights erected for the section of highway leading to the airport, a new fire detection system, paint-

ing the walls and even cleaning the carpets.

"We put in two new 2,400-ton chillers and rebuilt the two existing 1,700-ton chillers," Nelson said. "Today, there's plenty of air-conditioning capacity." Currently, Nelson is working with the contractor, placing new 33kV feeder lines to provide a more stable source of electric power to the area.

"The airport was built in the early 1980s, and little was invested on routine maintenance over the years. Much of the infrastructure there was nonfunctional when I arrived," said Nelson.

A total of 2,600 new runway light fixtures were replaced along with 350 kilometers of cable. "The tower now has a new control panel and all the new runway signs and lights can be turned on or off from that one location," explained Nelson.

Baghdad International Airport, which employs 1,200 Iraqis, currently has 20 flights daily transporting 2,000 passengers to and from locations outside Iraq. "With the improvements, it has the capability for 10 times that amount," noted Nelson.

BIA plans to open the newly rehabilitated Terminal D next month and will then temporarily close Terminal C for routine cleaning.

Nelson, from Hager City, Wis., works out of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District. The 54-year-old has three daughters and will be returning stateside next summer. There he plans to retire to the family's 40-acre farm near a trout stream and "find time to do a little fish-

ing" with his two grandchildren.

Nelson said appreciated the opportunity to serve in Iraq and help with the BIA project. "I find it tremendously satisfying to walk through the terminals today and see this great facility back to being fully operational."



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BAGHDAD – The ceilings of the Baghdad International Airport main terminal are designed with a striking motif representing Iraq's favorite tree ... the date palm.

New Iraqi Army Combat Arms Branch School opens in eastern Baghdad

Story courtesy of
Gulf Region Central District,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD –

The U.S. Corps of Engineers provided guidance and oversight on a recently completed \$10.9 million design and build project for the Iraqi Army Combat Arms Branch School constructed in Mada' in Al Nahrawan, eastern Baghdad.

The complex is a fenced facility and consists of a Headquarters, the Combat Branch School, student and staff billeting, laundry, dining facility and kitchen, cold and dry goods storage rooms, an armory, central issue, training equipment storage, guard towers, guard shack with drop arm, vehicle maintenance yard and fueling station.

In addition to the buildings, site

improvement included gravel roads, parking sun-shade structures, sidewalks, a soccer field with sun-shade bleachers, fencing, berms, generators to produce electricity and water and sewage storage tank structures.

The primary contractor was Watkinson L.L.C. of Houston; sub-contractors included Black Tiger Security, CVL Design, Al Sakhis Group, Al-Najji Bureau,

Atlantic Construction, Al Shakis Group, Cheppard, Besha Engineering Company and Abu Sajad.

Construction started in early October 2005 and was completed in mid-2006. More than 200 Iraqi citizens were employed on the work crews.

The school will soon graduate its first class from the new multi-faceted structure.

School revamped for start of school year



BAGHDAD – This newly renovated classroom is just one of the improvements made to the Al Hayan School in the Zafaraniya area of Baghdad's Karadah District. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with a local contractor, Al Dhaan Company, completed the project July 22, in time for the start of fall classes.

Story and photos courtesy of
Gulf Region Central District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD – Approximately 1,800 Iraqi children attending kindergarten through sixth grade at Al Hayan School in the Karadah District, Zafaraniya area of Baghdad, have been enjoying the benefit of a recent renewal of their school.

A local Baghdad company received the \$90,895 Commander's Emergency Relief Program-funded contract to renovate the school building.

The work included a new room for the administrative staff, revamping the schools electrical system and establishing a 400 amp, three-phase electrical service, installing a new septic tank, repairing the elevated water storage, installing a new commercial water heater, renovating the bathrooms and supplying new furniture, a computer and copy machine.

Al Dhaan Company of Baghdad was awarded the contract and employed a crew of approximately 20 local Iraqis on the project which began Oct. 26 and was completed July 22 in time for the start of this year's fall classes.



BAGHDAD – Prior to the renovation which were completed July 22, schoolchildren sit at their desks at the Al Hayan School in the Zafaraniya area of Baghdad's Karadah District.

Iron Gunners lend firepower to FOB Scania

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Malec

Fires Bde. PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq –

Soldiers of Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, were called upon Sept. 1 to deploy to Forward Operating Base Scania in support of Operation Constant Solidarity, a combined effort between the 8th Iraqi Army Division and MND-B Soldiers to weed out more than 2,000 terrorists in and around the city of Diwaniyah.

The brigade received its marching orders from MND-B to deploy Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System crews from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment.

The Iron Gunners showcased their hustle by setting up a fully operational tactical operations center, fire direction and support center, along with emplacing MLRS crews on standby, ready to fire in under 24 hours.

“The 4th Infantry Division did an analysis with V Corps and it was determined that some resources that we had in Fires Brigade were possibly going to be needed for a contingency mission,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, deputy commander, Fires Bde., 4th Inf. Div.

One key brigade element joining the fight was the 589th Brigade Support Battalion, whose Soldiers showed off their might by employing their heavy-wheeled vehicles to transport the lethal launchers from Camp Liberty to FOB Scania.

Battery A, 26th Field Artillery Regiment, Fires Bde. Soldiers performed around-the-clock security for the MLRS crews while a small group from the 324th Network Support Company established a rapid and dependable communication network based out of the headquarters building housing the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Strike, an Army National Guard unit deployed from New Ulm, Minn.

“It really makes you proud to see our National Guard Soldiers do such a terrific job, and it’s getting to the point now in our armed forces where there is really no difference between them and the active force,” said Daugherty.

Out at the launcher sites, the Soldiers of Battery B stood by, ready to do their part.

“We’re over here, and we’re trying to get this mission accomplished to give the Iraqi people a safe place to live,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Stovall, MLRS Crew Chief, Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 20th FA Regt., who first joined the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam Scarr, Fires Bde., 4th Inf. Div.
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Vehicles from the Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, line up in front of the 589th Brigade Support Battalion headquarters in preparation for a convoy south from Camp Liberty to Forward Operating Base Scania Sept. 1. The convoy relied on heavy wheeled transportation assets from the 589th BSB, which transported the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems employed by the Soldiers of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, Fires Bde., 4th Inf. Div.

Army National Guard as a welder back in his hometown of McKinney, Texas in 1988.

“Our purpose as a whole is to help the Iraqi people take care of themselves, and help them reestablish their government while we’re standing by, in case they need help,” said Sgt. Jason Anderson, MLRS Gunner, Btry. B, who like Stovall, also served in the Army National Guard before joining the active force in his hometown of Chino, Calif. in October 2003.

“Mission success is to turn the country back to the Iraqi people, it’s their country. I’d rather see it in their hands, rather than in someone else’s hands,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Young, MLRS Crew Chief, Btry. B., 2nd Bn.,

20th FA Regt., and a native of Mitchell, S.D.

“It feels like I’m actually doing something,” said Spc. James Carusetta, MLRS Gunner, Btry. B., 2nd Bn., 20th FA Regt., who hails from San Antonio.

“I get to support other people, and make sure that they are okay. I get to give them artillery support – it’s great,” added Carusetta.

“Once you start leveraging MLRS, you never know when you are going to use it or not,” said Daugherty. “But sometimes just having those resources there is the catalyst that can cause the enemy to make some decisions before you have to hurt someone, and that’s what you’d rather have.”

**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**

<h1 style="margin: 0;">October</h1> Division MWR Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
15 <small>Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.</small>	16 <small>Poker Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	17 <small>Pool Tourney @ 8 p.m.</small>	18 <small>Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	19 <small>Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	20 <small>R&B Night @ 9 p.m.</small>	21
22	23 <small>Poker Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	24	25 <small>Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	26 <small>Flag Football Capt. Meeting @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	27 <small>R&B Night @ 9 p.m.</small>	28 <small>Flag Football Tourney (TBA)</small>
29 <small>Closest to the Pin @ 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.</small>	30 <small>Poker Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	31 <small>SRCC Rock Show @ 8 p.m.</small> HALLOWEEN	1 <small>Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	2 <small>Basketball Capt. Meeting @ 6 p.m. Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	3 <small>R&B Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	4 <small>Basketball Tourney (TBA)</small>
5	6 <small>Poker Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	7 <small>Dominos Tourney @ 8 p.m. Pool Tourney @ 8 p.m.</small>	8 <small>Karaoke Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	9 <small>Salsa Night @ 8 p.m.</small>	10	11 Veteran's Day

GUIDANCE

Don't let stress get you down

Recently, there has been a disturbing trend identified by the Veterans Health Administration – a tenfold increase in the last 18 months of veterans seeking medical treatment for symptoms of stress and for mental disorders.

The reasons are obvious. There are numerous veterans returning from single or multiple tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan after participating in highly stressful continuous operations and being exposed to traumatic sights and situations.

So far, 56,000 troops, or roughly 10 percent of those deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, have been diagnosed with a mental health problem. Many cases go undiagnosed, so this percentage is an underestimate of those who will suffer temporary or long-term mental health problems.

One estimate is that about 30 percent of men or women who spend time in a combat zone will experience symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder.

The old axiom that "you can't fix it if you don't know what's broken," underscores the importance of doing mental health screening for deployed Soldiers to identify those who are feeling stressed and may be at risk for problems. This gives the military chain of command, and health care providers, an opportunity to intervene and prevent symptoms from worsening or becoming chronic.

In the real world, no matter how tough people really are – or think they are – if exposed to too much stress for too long, they will develop stress-related problems, such as sleep disturbances, social problems or alcoholism.

We are all susceptible to mental health problems.

Unfortunately, in some parts of our military culture, seeking help for mental stress is looked down upon as sign of weakness of character. For instance, the use of stress cards in Basic Combat Training is frequently laughed at by the old timers with a "suck it up and drive on" philosophy. However, the use of such cards may have prevented several suicides, allowed many recruits a little breather while adjusting to the stress of military life and prevented them from having to do the duffle bag drag down Washout Lane.

Because of the potential stigma, many



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

Soldiers are reluctant to seek medical help or counseling and are concerned that doing so could adversely affect their military careers.

For those reluctant Soldiers, there is now a Web site that allows them to take anonymous mental health screening tests online and receive immediate feedback. The Web site is the Mental Health Self-Assessment Program at:

<http://www.militarymentalhealth.org>.

This site has screening tests and links for PTSD, depression, mood and anxiety disorders and alcoholism. The following screening questions were taken directly from their Web site.

Post-traumatic stress disorder screening questions:

If you have experienced, witnessed or were confronted with an event that involved actual or threatened death, abuse or serious injury in which you felt intense fear, helplessness or horror, then:

1. Have you been bothered by unwanted memories, nightmares or reminders of this event in the past week?
2. Have you been making an effort to avoid thinking or talking about this event or doing things that remind you of what happened in the past week?
3. Have you lost enjoyment for things, kept your distance from people or found it difficult to experience feelings in the past week?
4. Have you been bothered by poor sleep, poor concentration, jumpiness, irritability or feeling watchful around you in the past week?

Mood disorder or depression screening questions:

Have you:

1. Been feeling low in energy, slowed down?
2. Been blaming yourself for things?
3. Had poor appetite?
4. Had difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep?
5. Been feeling hopeless about the future?
6. Been feeling blue?
7. Been feeling no interest in things?
8. Had feelings of worthlessness?
9. Thought about or wanted to commit suicide?
10. Had difficulty concentrating or making decisions?
11. Have you ever had a week or more of sustained, unusually elevated mood, like a "high," out-of-control behavior



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Mott, 363rd MPAD

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -- A memorial to the memory of fallen Soldier-combat medic, Sgt. Johnny Joe Peralez, Jr., stands at the entrance to the Peralez Combat Medic Training School here. The loss of Soldier-comrades is one of the major stressors that Soldiers must face while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(such as risky sex, over-spending), racing thoughts and little need for sleep?

12. Have you ever had a week or more of sustained, excessively irritable mood, with anger, arguments or breaking things that led to difficulties with others?

13. Have you ever had any close blood relative (parent, child, sister, brother) with depression, bipolar disorder, alcohol abuse, or who was psychiatrically hospitalized?

Generalized anxiety disorder screening questions:

Answers are "yes and no:"

1. Most days I feel very nervous.
2. Most days I worry about lots of things.
3. Most days I cannot stop worrying.
4. Most days my worry is hard to control.
5. I feel restless, keyed up or on edge.
6. I get tired easily.
7. I have trouble concentrating.

8. I am easily annoyed or irritated.

9. My muscles are tense and tight.

10. I have trouble sleeping.

11. Did things you noted above affect your daily life or cause you a lot of stress?

12. Were the things you noted above bad enough that you thought about getting help for them?

If feedback from the online screening suggests you may be at risk for one of these mental health problems, discuss the results with a health care provider and ensure that it gets documented in your Post Deployment Health Assessment prior to leaving Iraq. This will help assure that you get the appropriate follow-up, and if necessary, provide some documentation for disability claims that may be made in the future.

For more information on PTSD, visit the National Center for PTSD Web site at: <http://www.ncptsd.va.gov>



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



Culture Experts

Remembering the glory of Baghdad

Baghdad is the largest city in Iraq, with an estimated population of 5,772,000 (as of 2003). It is the second-largest city in Southwest Asia after Tehran and the second-largest city in the Arab world after Cairo. The river Tigris splits Baghdad into two halves; the eastern half is known as 'al-Rusafah' and the western half is known as 'al-Karkh.'

The city of Baghdad is often said to have been founded on the west bank of the Tigris on 30 July 762 by the Abbasid dynasty, led by caliph al-Mansur; however, the city of Baghdad is mentioned in pre-Islamic texts, including the Talmud. Al-Mansur's modern

Baghdad was probably built on the site of this earlier city, which was located 50 miles north of Babylon (Babil). The origin of the city's name is most likely from the Kurdish or Persian meaning "God-given" derived from "bagh" (God) and "dad" (given).

The city was originally designed as a circle about 2 kilometers in diameter known as the "Round City." The circular design of the city was a direct reflection of the traditional Persian Sasanian design. This is hardly surprising because the two designers who were hired by Caliph al-Mansur to plan the city's design were both Persian converts to Islam; Naubakht was a former Zoroastrian, and Mashallah was a former Jew.

Soon after its founding, Baghdad became the hub of learning and commerce in the Middle East, and one of the most significant in world history. One of the most historically significant cultural establishments in Baghdad was the House of Wisdom, which was dedicated to the translation of Greek, Middle Persian and Syriac works. Some of the translations made at the House of Wisdom became the

Jake Lester
Cultural and
Political Expert



Jake Lester's term with Multi-National Division-Baghdad officially ended on Aug. 31. He will continue to contribute to the Ivy Leaf until TOA. To send questions to Jake, contact the Ivy Leaf's editor at mary.mott@mnd-b.army.mil.

sole source for Greek wisdom in later centuries, and it is from the Arabic translations of these works that many translations were made into Western European languages.

It is believed that Baghdad was the largest city in the world from 775 to 935. It may have been the first city with a population above 1,000,000. Baghdad's early meteoric growth later slowed due to troubles within the Caliphate and periods of political domination by the Iranian Buwayhids and the Seljuk Turks. Nevertheless, the city remained one of the cultural and commercial hubs of the Islamic world until February 10, 1258, when it was sacked by the Mongols under Hulagu

Khan. The Mongols massacred 800,000 of the city's inhabitants, including the Abbasid Caliph Al-Musta'sim, and destroyed large sections of the city including the canals and dykes forming the city's water supply system. The sack of Baghdad put an end to the Abbasid

Caliphate, a blow from which the Islamic civilization never fully recovered. It is said that the Tigris ran blue from the ink flowing from the manuscripts thrown into the river by the Mongols.

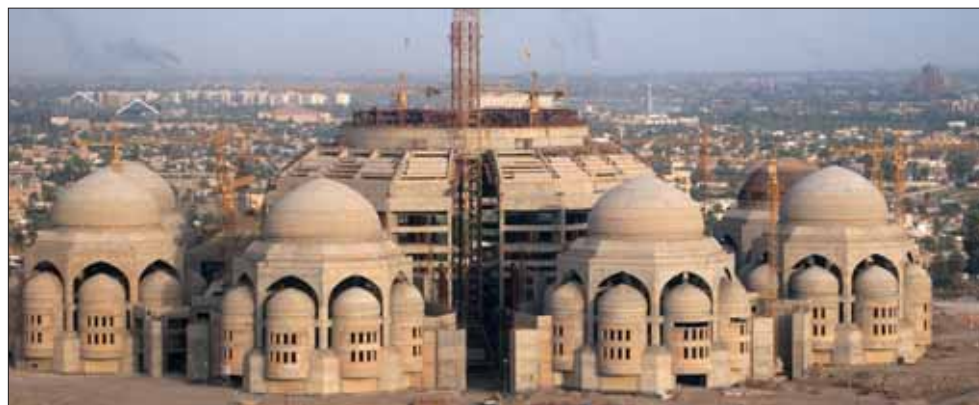
In 1401 Baghdad was sacked again by Tamerlane. In 1534 Baghdad was conquered by the Ottoman Turks. Under the Ottomans, Baghdad fell into a period of decline, partially as a result of the enmity between its rulers and Persia. Baghdad had been the largest city in the Middle East before being overtaken by Constantinople in the 16th century.

Baghdad remained under Ottoman rule until the establishment of the kingdom under British control in 1921. Iraq was given formal independence in 1932, but true independence was not to be had until 1958 when the Iraqi people deposed the last king, Faisal II.

The City of Baghdad has 89 official neighborhoods within 9 districts. These official subdivisions of the city served as administrative centers for the delivery of municipal services but until 2003 had no political function. Beginning in April 2003, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) began the process of creating democratic local government institutions. Once all 88 (later increased to 89) neighborhood councils were in place, each neighborhood council elected representatives from among their members to serve

on one of the city's nine district councils. Each of the nine district councils then elected representatives from their membership to serve on the 37 member Baghdad City Council. The same process was used to provide representative councils for the other communities in Baghdad Province outside of the City itself. There, local councils were elected from 20 neighborhoods (Nahia) and these councils elected representatives from their members to serve on six district councils (Qada). As within the City, the district councils then elected representatives from among their members to serve on the 35 member Baghdad Regional Council. The final step in the establishment of the system of local government for Baghdad Province was the election of the Baghdad Provincial Council. As before, the representatives to the Provincial Council were elected from the lower councils in numbers proportional to the population of the districts they represent. The 41 member Provincial Council took office in February, 2004 and served until National elections held in January 2005, when a new Provincial Council was elected.

Although this system of 127 separate councils may seem overly cumbersome, Baghdad Province is home to approximately seven million people. At the lowest level, each neighborhood council represents an average of 74,000 people.



BAGHDAD – The Al Samad Mosque in Baghdad, when completed, will be the largest Muslim mosque in the world.

Photo by Sgt. Kristin Kemplin, 363rd MPAD

**BEYOND ARMED
BEYOND READY**

Knowledge changes everything.



**OWN THE
EDGE**
Composite Risk Management

GUIDANCE

Chaplain's Corner: The BIG questions

The Greek philosopher Socrates once stated that the unexamined life is not worth living.

His point was that we need to reflect on the "big questions" that involve the meaning and purpose of human life, e.g., the inherent dignity of human beings, one's social responsibilities, the nature of true education, the role of the spiritual in the human experience, our legacy to future generations, etc. These are but a few of the subjects about which we need to develop a sound understanding.

There is another "big question" that every American citizen, especially members of the military, need to reflect upon: the purpose and need for military action in today's world. Since the 20th century, the U.S. has assumed a role of world leadership that has been exercised in various ways – diplomatic, economic, scientific and military.

America's use of its military power has been responsible for some of its greatest impact on world history. It has been one



Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Roetzel, 2nd BCT chaplain 1st Arm. Div.

of the most controversial aspects of its leadership as well, for reasons that are easily understood.

Military force, used to accomplish national goals, frequently involves a great cost in terms of human lives and resources. And this, I believe, means that anyone

who participates in the profession of arms must think seriously about why he or she feels justified in doing so.

Historically there have always been those who have rejected the use of military force, either completely or selectively, based on philosophical and/or religious reasons.

Those of us who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces obviously disagree with these opinions. But my point here is that each of us should clearly understand "why" we disagree. I don't think it's suffi-

cient for any of us to respond to such objections simply by saying "I'm in the military to learn a skill," or "I'm here to earn the GI Bill for schooling when I ETS."

While there is nothing wrong with those reasons per se, they fail to address what is usually a military objector's fundamental assertion – namely, that the military profession is incompatible with ethical and/or religious values. This is the "big question" you need to reflect upon and be able to answer for those who would challenge you.

My purpose in this brief article is not to define precisely what your personal answer to this important question ought to be, but rather to

strongly argue that, as a professional, you need to have an answer to such objections.

As a result of my own exploration of this question over the course of many

years, I have arrived at an understanding that I believe responsibly addresses the religious and ethical issues involved.

It is an understanding based in large part on my religious tradition's perspective, which is the result of a long process of prayerful discernment begun in the earliest years of Christianity.

I will close by sharing the following summary of part of that perspective for your consideration, as you continue to discern and refine your own understanding:

"As long as the danger of war persists and there is no international authority with the necessary competence and power, governments cannot be denied to right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed. Those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations. If they carry out their duty honorably, they truly contribute to the common good of the nation and the maintenance of peace." (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Socrates' point is well taken by the military profession – ours is indeed too serious an endeavor to be undertaken in an unexamined manner.

You belong to a vital profession of the American nation – that is a fact.

You need a strong conviction why you should be part of that profession – that is essential.

"Those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations. If they carry out their duty honorably, they truly contribute to the common good of the nation and the maintenance of peace."

—from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

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	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
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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	Sunday 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)
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CAMP VICTORY CHAPEL, BLDG 2

Sunday 9 a.m. Orthodox Liturgy 4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass 7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday 4 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass 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
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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
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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
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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 6 p.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
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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

Successful reunion begins now! – part 3

The Reunion Times is a series of articles designed to help deployed personnel prepare for redeployment. The Army core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage are matched in these articles with some important family values of Listening, Demonstrating Care, Rekindling Relationships, Sensitivity, Honesty, Intimacy and Patience.



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

halfway on issues.

- Agree to disagree on some issues without anger.
- Never compare your spouse or your marriage to another negatively.
- Seek out marriage mentors, a couple that demonstrates a healthy relationship and learn what makes them "tick" so well.

Self and other awareness:

Years ago, I was part of a workshop on couple's communication. I recall a discussion on the four styles of communication. I had never thought about "styles" of communication before, but the things I learned have helped me understand people a bit better. The styles were:

Chit-chat – An informal, friendly style that addresses no serious issues and requires very little investment in relationship. It is the cocktail party conversation, bus or plane passenger chat, the "how-was-your-day-dear" talk that keeps things friendly and light.

Information or instructional – A style characterized by exchange of data and information. This style can be formal or informal and requires little emotional investment. Teachers, trainers and newscasters use this as their primary style of communication.

Directive or coercive – A style that is corrective and/or directive in nature seeks to change another person's action or behavior or thinking. A parent to a child uses this style frequently. Scolding, praising and complimenting are directive. Sometimes there is high emotional investment in this style.

Self and other awareness – This style takes into account what you see and hear, what you think, what you feel and what you intend to do regarding an issue. That is the "self" part. It also takes into account your partner's sensing, thinking, feeling and intent – the "other" part. This style involves much effort and energy and requires sensitivity and careful listening. Now, all of these styles are needed daily. They are good and useful. However, when handling serious issues between husband and wife or children, the most effective style of communication is the self and other awareness style ... but it is also the most work.

In this issue: sensitivity; self and other awareness; honesty; and key steps in establishing trust.

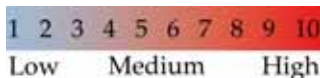
Sensitivity:

"There's two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither one works." Will Rogers Well, Old Will was a pretty wise man. I learned early on in my life from my mother that his statement had some merit. I'm sure I'd have learned the same thing from my wife, if I'd ever argued with her, ... however, I suspect that most women feel the same way about men.

The point is that there are some things worth falling on your sword for but, for the most part, a lot of arguments at home or at work are more about egos than principles. The truth is, most of the time we care more about being proved right than about doing the right thing. As we begin transitioning here in crowded conditions and anticipate reintegration back home, think about what you'll say, why you're saying it and how you'll say it before you pull the lanyard.

"It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel." Proverbs 20:3

On a scale of one to 10, how sensitive are you?



Some dos and don'ts:

- Never joke at your partner's expense.
- When disagreeing, never attack self-esteem of your partner.
- View issue from your partner's perspective.
- Be willing to compromise or meet



Photo courtesy of 4th Inf. Div. Web site

For more redeployment tips, visit the 4th Infantry Division Web site at: <http://www.hood.army.mil/4ID/index.html>

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

Can I be honest with you?

One of the biggest challenges facing families today is honest communication. Without a doubt, honesty begins within understanding and accepting who WE are. We sometimes hide behind a façade, perhaps a "make believe" person that we wish to be.

In family relationships, honesty is absolutely vital. Ideally, the family is the place where we can be ourselves with total acceptance and appreciation for differences and uniqueness without fear of rejection.

Some great quotes on honesty:

"Level with your child by being honest. Nobody spots a phony quicker than a child." Mary MacCracken

"Honesty is the rarest wealth anyone can possess, and yet all the honesty in the world ain't lawful tender for a loaf of bread." Josh Billings

"Look a man in the eye and say what you really think, don't just smile at him and say what you're supposed to think." Anonymous

"A boy doesn't have to go to war to be a hero; he can say he doesn't like pie when he sees there isn't enough to go around." Edgar Watson Howe

"Son, always tell the truth. Then you'll never have to remember what you said the last time." Sam Rayburn

Honesty in relationships:

I think it would be fair to say that

many relationships begin without full disclosure and even some deception.

After all, when we first meet someone, we often go to great lengths to hide both our physical and personality "blemishes." We do not want this new, important person in our life rejecting us or finding fault with us.

It is only natural that we allow them to believe an illusion – at least until we get to know them better. Then we can let them know the "real me." Right?

When it comes to honesty in our family relationships, probably the greatest single challenge is overcoming pride.

Selfish pride and arrogance are obstacles in honest communication. Marriage is a journey that has detours, roadblocks and breakdowns, so most of us stay aware that we can learn other ways to enrich our relationship.

There are some key steps in establishing trust and building strong, solid, honest relationships:

- Have honest self-evaluation, faults and all.
- Openly share your goals, values and dreams.
- Accept your partner as a person.
- Be willingness to grow, learn and change.
- Exercise clear and careful communication.
- Practice tolerance and patience.
- Be forgiving and gracious.

It's not always easy to get on the same sheet of music, but don't give up.

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.



ENTERTAINMENT

Soldiers rocked by final deployment performance of the 'Average Joes'



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Mott, 363rd MPAD
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Michael Agee (left), from Englewood, Ohio, and Spc. Cindy Lowrey, from Santa Cruz and Salinas, Calif., put their all into a song at the final performance of "Average Joes," a rock and variety band, Sept. 30 at the East LSA Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here. Sgt. Bradford Bailey, of Las Vegas, a guitar player and singer, is in the background, wearing his helmet and goggles as part of the group's light-hearted comedy thrust.

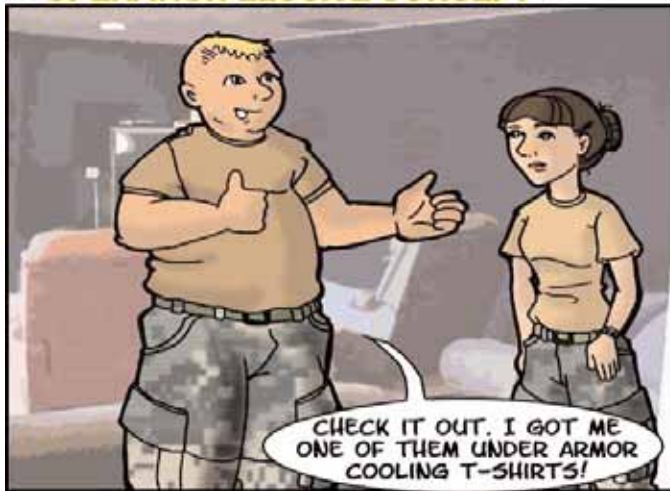


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Mott, 363rd MPAD
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – An appreciative audience at the East LSA Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here laughs at the antics of the "Average Joes," a rock and variety ensemble, part of the 4th Infantry Division Band, which is on its second deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The group gave its final performance of the deployment Sept. 30.

CARTOON CORNER

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BY CHRIS ASHBY - WWW.ELUSIVE-CONCEPT.COM



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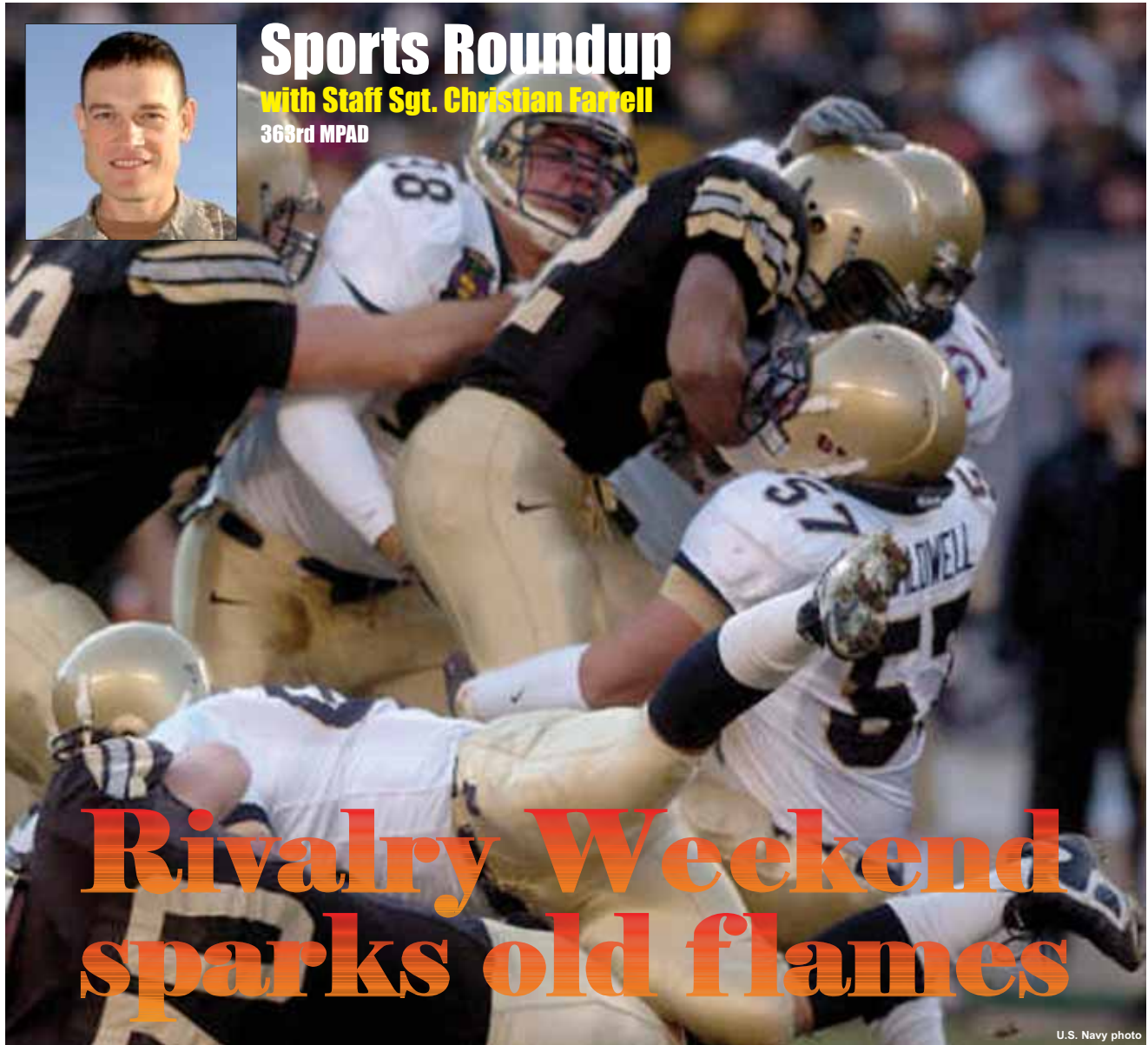
BY CHRIS ASHBY - WWW.ELUSIVE-CONCEPT.COM





Sports Roundup

with Staff Sgt. Christian Farrell
368rd MPAD



U.S. Navy photo

Rivalry Weekend sparks old flames

Listen up! Stop asking when ... BECAUSE ... I've got the answer. The answer to what so many Soldiers want to know. Are you ready? NOVEMBER 18 ... yep, that's the big day! Oh, it brings a smile to my face just to say it so I'll say it again - NOVEMBER 18. It should make all of you Soldier-sports fans happy as well. We've waited along time for this day.

What was that you said? Did you say November 18 is not the day? Are you trying to tell me the day I've had circled on my calendar seemingly forever isn't correct? Well, I'm telling you it is. Have I ever steered you wrong before? Trust me on this one, folks. The third Saturday of November is, indeed, "The Big Day." It's certainly "My Big Day," and it should be "Your Big Day."

Let's clear up some confusion - "the Big Day" has nothing to do with leaving Baghdad and everything to do with college football. College football, I know all

you Soldiers-sports fanatics will agree, is a heck of a lot more important than some "fly-day" for fleeing the hot, dusty and dangerous country we've spent the last year of our lives in! It's time to start making plans for what is easily one of my top three days of the year (ranking only behind Christmas and probably the Super Bowl). It's "Rivalry Weekend."

Traditionally, for many college football teams rivalry weekend occurs the last Saturday of the regular season, usually sometime in November ... this year my fellow Soldiers, RW happens to be November 18.

RW consists of dozens of games between teams that, to put it mildly, don't like each other! Auburn vs. Alabama, Kansas vs. Kansas State, Washington vs. Washington State, just to name just a few. Why the strong hatred (and I'm not even sure that hatred really goes far enough when describing the intense negative feeling that a college football fan has for his

or her school's true rival)? The reasons for such loathing often is composed of one of the following reasons. First, proximity between the schools (UCLA vs. USC or Florida vs. Florida State); second, a longstanding opponent (Army vs. Navy, a rivalry that dates back to 1890; West Virginia vs. Pitt, teams that also began playing each other in 1890; Michigan vs. Ohio State, going back to 1897; and Yale vs. Harvard which dates to its fledgling game in 1875); or third, a theme (the Notre Dame vs. Miami rivalry from 1988 - 1990 was referred to as the "Catholics vs. the Convicts").

My favorite rivalry is the one that is very simply titled, "The Game." That would be the Michigan Wolverines vs. the Ohio State Buckeyes. Christmas comes about a month early for me each time the Wolverines beat Ohio State on a gray Saturday in November. Although, honestly, not even Santa Claus can deliver to me a present that brings me such joy! And

perhaps the best thing about beating your rival is the year-long bragging rights that come with the win. Unfortunately, the last few years I've also learned about the year-long abuse associated with a loss to aforementioned very "Luck-eyes."

In recent years, television, against my wishes, has spread out the season-ending rivalry games over several weekends. But this year NOVEMBER 18 is the true RW. A win on RW can catapult a good season to greatness, or it can salvage a disappointing season from the dumps. If there's one certainty, though, for college football fans on that last weekend of the regular season when so much is on the line, it's that a team's previous wins and losses matter little entering the game. Spirited team play and rabid team support have been known to propel an underdog State U. to victory over its rival on more than one occasion.

So, all I have left to say is enjoy the upcoming weekend, and "Go Blue!"

FACES AND PLACES



Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd HBCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.
 MUQDADIYA, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class David Acosta, section sergeant, Mortar Platoon, Apache Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, uses his sight to search the area around a traffic control point for suspicious activity Oct. 3. Acosta, a Panama City, Panama, native, works with his fellow Apache troops to help the Iraqi army secure its country.



Photo by Spc. Rodney Foliente, 4th Inf. Div. PAO



Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd HBCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.
 ABOVE: FOB WARHORSE, Iraq – Gen. George Casey, commanding general, Multi-National Forces – Iraq, motions to the gathered command and staff from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during a briefing Sept. 27 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. Casey visited the base near Baqubah for an operational update on the Striker Brigade's maneuvers in Diyala Province.
 LEFT: BAGHDAD – After Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company B, 5th Engineer Battalion, assigned to Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 16th Engineer Brigade, discovered an improvised-explosive device while hunting for IEDs during a route-clearance mission, it harmlessly detonates behind a cordon after an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team arrived on site Sept. 27 in western Baghdad.