

# Long Knife News

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A Salute  
to Maysan's  
Long Knife  
Heroes



# Commander's Corner

*By Col. Philip Battaglia  
4th BCT Commander*

Long Knife Troopers,

You are unquestionably working extremely hard and making a difference in southern Iraq in the relatively short time we have been here.

When we arrived in theater, the locations we now call Forward Operating Base Garryowen and FOB Hunter were nothing more than patches of dirt. The Long Knife Brigade, battalions, squadrons and attachments have been steadily working around the clock to improve force protection, living facilities and the quality of life at those new bases. We will continue to add amenities to all of our bases in our area of operations.

Our mission is among the most important in Iraq right now. With security gains in the major



**Col. Philip Battaglia**

cities, our job is to lessen the last remaining threat to Iraq: the smuggling of weapons and munitions used to attack Coalition

Forces and innocent Iraqi civilians. This past month, in partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces, we took thousands of munitions off the streets of Iraq - including 250 explosively formed penetrators in a single weapon cache near Amarah.

Because of your efforts and successes interdicting these munitions and apprehending criminals, Iraq is a bit safer.

I urge you to continue to partner with the Iraqi Security

Forces and make them better. Our great Soldiers are our credentials and their professionalism will set the example to the Iraqi Security Forces.

Continue to watch out for each other. So far, we have had minimal accidents and that is a tribute to your common sense, safety vigilance and sound leadership. Keep it up!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Sgt. 1st Class George Staniel, an engineer attached to us and our first casualty during this rotation.

Let us all remember his service and honor him by relentlessly pursuing the criminals who committed this cowardly attack and who are still trying to do us harm. Be vigilant, be prepared and stay safe!

Long Knife 6 out! 🇺🇸

## Long Knife News

### FROM THE EDGE



Local leaders salute during a relief in place/transfer of authority ceremony for the Romanian Army stationed at COB Adder Aug. 21. Long Knife photo by Maj. Chad Carroll



Command Sgt. Maj. George Zamudio, the enlisted leader of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, greets Iraqi children in the streets of Amarah, Iraq, July 7. Courtesy photo

- Col. Philip Battaglia ..... 4th BCT Commander
- CSM Edwin Rodriguez ..... 4th BCT CSM
- Maj. Chad Carroll ..... Public Affairs Officer
- Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore ..... PAO NCOIC
- Spc. Creighton Holub ..... Editor
- Pfc. Terence Ewings ..... Photojournalist
- Pfc. Rebekah Lampman ..... TV Journalist

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# Long Knives wake to boom, aid injured during rocket attack

By *Spc. Creighton Holub*  
4th BCT PAO

**AMARAH, Iraq** – Waking up to a bang has more meaning to cavalry scout Sgt. Javier Reyes now.

After the first of six 107mm rockets woke up the Phoenix, native, and the other Long Knife Brigade Soldiers sleeping in his tent at approximately 5 a.m., he threw an interpreter to the floor twice so he wouldn't get injured, then low crawled to his tent's entrance to see what was happening just as another rocket smashed into the ground 10 paces in front him, throwing him back into his tent Aug. 19.

He was miraculously uninjured, except for crashing onto another Soldier's cot. Ironically, a piece of the rocket's shrapnel cut through the bottom of Reyes' cot and would have injured him if he had still been laying on it.

The rocket damaged the tent across from him and injured three Soldiers. The combat veteran on his third tour in Iraq beckoned for the brigade commander's personal security detachment medic who was located at the opposite end of the tent.

Sgt. Nicolas King, the combat medic from North Richland Hills, Texas, and another three-tour veteran, started making his way from the back of the pitch-black tent and to the injured troops outside.

"I was sound asleep, probably having a good dream, but I woke up to a couple of bangs," King recalled. "The first thing that came to mind was 'where's the bunker?'"

A five to 10 second pause between rocket strikes allowed the troops to move around long enough to start donning their body armor in preparation to tactically move out of

the area and to their up-armored vehicles outside.

"I know what artillery rounds sound like," explained Sgt. Steven Robinson, an artillery forward observer by trade in the security detachment. "I've heard rounds impact before, but never that close before – that was a new experience."

That morning he learned that the rockets sound worse than the damage they caused that morning.

"They don't throw a lot of shrapnel," Robinson explained. "From where that round impacted you'd get a lot more damage out of a hand grenade than you would that rocket. Plus, the gravel absorbed a lot of the impact – I'd rather get hit by a bunch of little rocks than the shrapnel."

Regardless, the troops did not know what type of munitions was being used while the attack occurred.

"Being in a tent was not where I wanted my Soldiers to be," explained Robinson, who is one of the junior leaders in the commander's personal security detachment. "I got accountability of my guys and made sure they were geared up. I sent them to the (up armored) humvees with another sergeant."

However, the duo of King and Reyes bolted out the door to help the injured troops before the rest could exit the tent.

King said Reyes' echoing "MEDIC!" lit a fire in him as he groped around the far end of the tent looking for his aid bag.

"I saw the (first) tent was demolished, but the cries for help were coming from the next tent and I popped my head inside," King explained. "The injured Soldier's squad leader was applying buddy care to

him on the floor with a lot of blood."

Reyes recalled King's next act: "He opened his aid bag like a ninja."

Later that day, King couldn't remember the number of times his combat medic skills have been called into duty over the years. But at the decisive moment he remembered his instinct-like skills and put them into action: applying bandages to the first wounded Soldier he found.

While treating his newfound patient, he realized his condition was worsening and that he needed more medical attention immediately.

"Then my main concern was to get him to the clinic," Reyes explained. "We grabbed the guy and put him on the cot – then we thought 'we need a litter' – the light bulb came on and we realized that we just put him on a (field expedient) litter."

Reyes, King and the injured Soldier's squad leader picked up the cot and ran toward the field surgical team's clinic approximately a football field's distance away. There was a protective concrete barrier separating the housing area from the dirt road and the clinic on the other side.

"As we were running, I distinctly heard a couple of mortar or missile rounds coming in: 'Swish, swoosh!'" Reyes said. "They felt like they landed pretty close, but I don't know where they landed. All I remember at that point was dragging that guy because the blood was causing the cot to slip out of my hands and the cot was hitting me on the back of my legs."

Robinson was just clearing the area when he saw the trio moving the Soldier on the cot.

"I saw that they needed a  
———HEROES *continued on page 5*

# Building FOB Hunter from scratch

By Spc. Creighton Holub  
4th BCT PAO

**FOB HUNTER** – The Long Knife Brigade is building its second forward operating base from scratch in the first few months of its deployment to Iraq.

The two bases, FOB Garryowen and FOB Hunter are the two largest posts in an otherwise desert wasteland that weapon and contraband smugglers have transported lethal goods from Iran to large population centers such as Baghdad.

While FOB Garryowen, the first new Long Knife base, is adjacent

to an Iraqi Army compound, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's FOB Hunter is being built on an old Iraqi airfield with only bombed-out aircraft hangers supplying shade for the Soldiers assigned to the Head Hunter Squadron.

FOB Garryowen became the default logistical hub for not only FOB Hunter, but also smaller bases such as the Head Hunter's A Troop at Al Sheeb on the Iraq-Iran border.

"They bring supplies here, then we load up our trucks and bring it to FOB Hunter," explained 1st Lt.

Robert Duane, the leader of D Troop's distribution platoon. "We also provide security for civilian truckers so our troops can get supplies. This way they're not living from shipment to shipment."


Those Head Hunter Soldiers are surviving in what a four-time combat veteran called "pre-OIF I" conditions.

"When we moved out here this time, we had nothing," said Sgt. Martin Borgers, one of D Troop's refuelers. "Some of bunkers are from the Iraq-Iran war in the '80s." 🇮🇶



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

**Army construction engineers build a Hesco barrier wall at Forward Operating Base Hunter in southeastern Iraq, Aug. 28. The Soldiers fill the barriers with dirt to provide a higher level of security at the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's new base. The squadron recently left Convoy Support Center Scania and is moving troops to the new base as it is built up from scratch.**

 Knowing is  
half the battle!  
Read the Long Knife News



# Long Knives help locals with electricity issues

By Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore  
4th BCT PAO NCOIC

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – Approximately 5,000 Iraqi citizens in Nasiriyah can now flip on their lights and cook hot meals in their homes thanks to the local government's installation of electrical transformers throughout the city.

"The people within the neighborhoods of al Beneen and al Askiri were really happy they could use their electricity," said Capt. Matthew Guevara, the civil military officer for 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"The electricity not

only enables the people here to power their appliances, but it also powers

their water purification systems."

The Long Knife Brigade's

Soldiers partnered with the local government to assist Iraqi families in improving their communities.

"The electric transformers that were installed in these areas convert power and allow the people to use it immediately," said Guevara, a native of Bellmore, N.Y.

One electric transformer can provide power for approximately 1,000 Iraqi homes.

The local government recently installed five transformers in Nasiriyah and has plans to build approximately 20 additional electrical transformers. 🇺🇸



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

**Citizens of Nasiriyah and Long Knife Brigade Soldiers inspect a recently emplaced electrical transformer.**

## HEROES from page 3

hand and I helped them out," he added. "I'm sure someone else would have done it. But I'm the kind of guy who wants to help out. It made me feel good knowing that I helped this guy get there and get to treatment."

The troops handed over their injured comrade to the medical facility for care.

"We got him to the clinic and the docs there took over," Reyes continued. "My part as a caretaker was done."

Upon returning to help more possibly injured troops, King came across an injured master sergeant with minor head and facial wounds. However, a large rucksack, that was positioned a couple feet away from the rocket's impact point, took the blunt of the damage, sparing the senior non-commissioned officer from more injuries.

"Someone upstairs likes him," King explained. "He was lucky – He was right where the rocket landed. He

was right there and all he caught was a superficial wound. He was bandaged up by the time I got back. The other guy was the only one I didn't get to (tend to), but his wounds were all superficial.

"Those guys at the FST did a tremendous job," King concluded.

A rocket at a different location

killed Sgt. 1st Class George Staniel, assigned to the 54th Engineer Battalion's forward support company stationed out of Warner Barracks, Germany.

Al-

though the injured troops were in the medical practitioners' capable hands, the personal security detachment's mission wasn't over yet. Their next

mission was to roll out and attack the criminals who launched the rocket attack.

"We were ready to go," Robinson added. "We got to the trucks and mounted our weapons."

King made it to the combat vehicles with boots, body armor, a re-supplied medical kit and his personal

weapon system, but underneath he was still wearing a physical training uniform that he just rinsed blood off of. Despite the improvised combat uniform, he rolled out the gates with his comrades to find

*Someone upstairs likes him. He was right there and all he caught was a superficial wound.*

*Sgt. Nicolas King  
Long Knife PSD Combat Medic*

and engage the criminals.

"Once the colonel was ready, we went to the point of origin to find

—— JUSTICE *continued on page 7*

# Iraqis learn from U.S. medics

By 2nd Lt. Melanie Kwan  
27th Brigade Support Battalion

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – A group of Iraqi Army medics completed medical training at Camp Mittica, near Tallil, with Long Knife medics July 30.

Soldiers of the 10th IA Division and the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, partnered to improve not only critical combat skills, but also valuable skills, such as medical support.

“I really like to train with the U.S. Army and train on their equipment,” said Iraqi Army Pfc. Chassid Borhan, a combat medic. “We like to learn their ways of medical care so we

can make ours better.”


American combat medics taught advanced medical skills, such as combat casualty care, aid station operations and basic pharmacology to the Iraqi Soldiers. The extensive 10-day training also involved evacuating casualties by ground and air, managing obstructed airways and techniques to control bleeding.

In order to complete the course successfully, medics were required to successfully pass written and hands-on tests.

“The Iraqi Army medics seem anxious to learn medical skills,” said Staff Sgt. Junior St. Hilaire, a native of Baytown, Texas.

The collaboration between the Iraqi and Long Knife medics not only cultivates a positive and constructive relationship, but it also contributes to the Iraqi Army’s ability to sustain their own force and strengthen their medical capabilities.

“(Their willingness to work) helps us train them because they want to learn and retain the training,” said Staff Sgt. Willie Gray of Greenville, N.C.

The 27th BSB scheduled future medical classes, which will incorporate more advanced techniques for patient care, such as chest tube training and an advanced pharmacology class. 



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Army soldiers graduating medic training pose with 2nd Lt. Melanie Kwan, Staff Sgt. Willie Gray, 27th Brigade Support Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Lockamy, 27th BSB commander Lt. Col. Mark Simerly, Staff Sgt. Junior St. Hilaire, Sgt. John Schmidt, and Sgt. 1st Class Sean Stephens.





Long Knife photo by 1st Lt. Andy Fong

**Capt. James Zoizack presents a soccer referee with a medal during a ceremony at a soccer game Aug. 7.**

## Red Legs enjoy Iraqi soccer game

By 1st Lt. Andy Fong  
5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

**BALAD, Iraq** – Several hundred Iraqis gathered in western Shomali at the Euphrates High School soccer field to watch a championship match between two neighborhood favorites.

They weren't the only spectators at the hot – and heated - match. Battery B, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, accepted an invitation from Iraqi Police Chief Maj. Rathman, to take a quick break from dismounted operations, sit back and enjoy a soccer game.

“I knew if (the American Soldiers) came to the soccer game, it would be a great opportunity for the

unit to show support for the community and get to know some of the ‘grass roots’ locals,” Rathman said regarding the invitation he extended to the Long Knife Brigade's Soldiers.

The 110-degree heat did not deter the excitement of the match. When the convoy of humvees and IP vehicles rolled to a stop, local children eager to practice their English with the Americans swarmed them.

After greeting the local leaders and interacting with a myriad of children, Capt. James Zoizack and the other Soldiers moved to midfield seats with the local citizens to enjoy the game.

“I couldn't help but root for the red team because red is our color,”

said Zoizack, the battery's operations officer. The Harker Heights, Texas, native, explained the artillery branch's color is red.

“But it was a good match, and it meant a lot to our Soldiers,” he said.

The competition excited the crowd and exuberant cheers were heard throughout the stadium. Soldiers stood side-by-side with the locals, rooting for either the red or white team, as the game came to an exciting finish.

Fortunately for Zoizack, the red team won the championship game. IP Lt. Mohammed presented medals to players from both teams, commending their sportsmanship and conduct throughout the entire season. 🏆

**JUSTICE from page 5**

out where it was coming from,” said Robinson, a native of Barre, Mass.

The team found the rockets' launchers and called in an explosive ordnance disposal team to destroy them. The local Iraqi Army troops detained a small group of perpetrators nearby.

All the junior leaders learned several lessons they want to teach the next generation of Soldiers.

For King, it was for non-medical personnel to continue focusing on first responder-level skills. Robinson said for troops to make sure they check on not only themselves, but their fellow Soldiers too.

Reyes explained that although these were not the only Soldiers he's helped out in tough times, he will continue doing what he can to guard his fellow Soldiers wherever he's at. 🏆



**Cavalry scouts Spc. Caleb Johnson, a native of Cresco, Iowa, and Spc. Jacob Meyer, from Wauzeka, Wis., are promoted at the border base of al Sheeb, Iraq, as Capt. Paul Tomlinson, the commander of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, looks on.**

Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

**An Iraqi boy salutes a Long Knife Soldier assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, during a patrol in the Iraq-Iran border city of Amarah Aug. 7.**

Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings





An American Soldier collects biometric data on an Iraqi Police officer during a joint training session in Amarah, Iraq, Aug. 6. Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings



Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, reenlists Long Knife Brigade Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Garryowen, near Amarah, Iraq, July 30. Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

# Long Knives demonstrate tactics to IPs

By Maj. Chad Carroll  
4th BCT PAO OIC

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – The provincial directorates of police for Maysan, Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces met with the Coalition Forces and military police leaders here Aug. 21.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hosted Maj. Gen. Saad Ali Ati, from Maysan, Brig. Gen. Sabah Saeed Mohsin al-Fatlawi, from Dhi Qar, and Brig. Gen. Kathoum Abu al-Heal, from Muthanna, to discuss information sharing, police techniques and the security situation across the three provinces. The three provinces are inside the Long Knife Brigade's area of operations in southern Iraq.

"We have a lot of things to coordinate be-

tween us and the Coalition," Sabah explained. "We share information and intelligence, and it's working."

After the morning discussion, the participants moved outside and observed police training techniques, such as vehicle and personnel searches, evidence collection and robotics designed to counter improvised explosive devices.

"This is the first time we saw the robot and how the controls work inside the vehicles – this will help us avoid IEDs," Sabah said. "We need to have training on searching vehicles because the United States has different techniques so we need to learn the same techniques."

Personnel in the Maysan province have



Long Knife photo by Maj. Chad Carroll

**Provincial Directorates of Iraqi Police from Maysan, Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces observe a demonstration of an anti-IED robot at Contingency Operating Base Adder near Nasiriyah, Iraq, Aug. 21.**

been particularly successful in the last few weeks during which they seized numerous caches and detained several individuals.

Ongoing operations throughout the area require continuous train-

ing.

"We're going to have special training at Combat Outpost 6 in the future to help us with security in our province," Kathoum said. "We know we can rely on the (Long Knife Brigade) for future training."

U.S. Army Sgt. Jeffrey Rodgers, a military policeman assigned to the Long Knife Brigade, conducted the vehicle and personnel search demonstration for the Iraqi Police leaders.

"It lets the Iraqis know what we do, and introduces our systems," the Payson, Ariz., native said. "It feels good to know that we did something that's larger than what's going on in our unit to make the Iraqis' lives a little better."

The last part of the conference included planning for future training. ♣



Long Knife photo by Maj. Chad Carroll

**Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sabah Saeed Mohsin al-Fatlawi, from Dhi Qar; Maj. Gen. Saad Ali Ati, from Maysan; and Brig. Gen. Kathoum Abu al-Heal, from Muthanna, discuss techniques with American military policemen from the Long Knife Brigade in Tallil, Iraq, Aug 21.**



**Pfc. Doug Hensel, an infantryman assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, from Lakewood, Colo., uses a knife to cut the grand opening ribbon for Forward Operating Base Garryowen's new MWR facility as 1st Sgt. Robert Bowman, the battalion headquarters company's senior enlisted leader, holds the ribbon Aug. 16.**

## New MWR facility opens at forward base

*By 1st Lt. Dave Collins  
2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.*

**AMARAH, Iraq** – Every day at Forward Operating Base Garryowen, near Amarah, seems to bring a subtle improvement to the quality of life for the Soldiers stationed there.

The main unit at the base, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, opened a Morale, Welfare and Recreational computer and satellite phone facility here Aug. 16.

“This is a great morale booster for me,” said Pfc. Doug Hensel, a Soldier assigned to the battalion headquarters near the Iraq-Iran border, who offered his carpentry

skills to build the facility's tables and privacy walls. “I was happy to help.”

The facility has nine computers with internet connections and eight SPAWAR satellite phones the troops may use 24/7 to contact their Families and friends back home in the United States.


The facility is a soft-shelled tent, just like the majority of buildings on the base. However, the tents are insulated and have air conditioning to keep the troops cool when they are not working outside.

U.S. Air Force engineers assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Detach-

ment 3 built the base's infrastructure and erected the tents.

The battalion's computer technicians coordinated and pieced together the network despite weather holding up flights for the multiple trips to and from the brigade headquarters' base, Contingency Operating Base Adder at Tallil Air Base.

“This is a great opportunity for our Soldiers to keep in touch with their loved ones back home,” explained 1st Sgt. Robert Bowman, the battalion headquarters company's head enlisted leader.

“We're happy to be able to provide it to the hard working troops here,” Bowman said. 

# Football Fathoms

## Cowboy Mojo

Editorial

By Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore  
4th BCT PAO NCOIC

It's time for the football season to officially begin back home and for many of the Long Knife Soldiers here in southern Iraq, the season could not have come soon enough.

"I can't wait to see my Cardinals beat up on your Cowboys this season," said Sgt. 1st Class James Gilbreath, assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team's headquarters element at Forward Operating Base Garryowen, near Amarah. His FOB is approximately two months old and doesn't have many luxuries, such as military television programming, that are available at more robust bases. "We don't have the American Forces Network here, but I can definitely keep up on the internet."

The Long Knife Brigade has been on this deployment for three months now, and it has sort of felt like three days for me. The days go by like lightning, and the weeks immediately follow.

I guess that's a good thing, but it's nice to have something come around that sort of makes you stop and pay attention.

"Everyone in my family watches the games on Sundays and it's always enjoyable," explained Spc.

Daniel Arnold, assigned to the 5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, currently stationed at Balad, north of Baghdad. "Being able to watch part or a whole game here helps remind me of that."

Although the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., is stationed at the remote FOB Garryowen, Pfc. Richard Coborn remains pumped about his favorite football team.

"Being a Texan myself, I'm going to have to say the 'Horns (Texas Longhorns) are gonna kick butt this year,'" Coborn said.

And speaking of Texas teams, I was talking to Pfc. Ryan Lindsay about the NFC East-champion Dallas Cowboys just the other day.

"Yeah, we need to learn how to wake up at three in the morning, so we can see the games," said Lindsay, the 20-year-old Soldier assigned to the brigade's headquarters.

Lindsay, along with many of the Long Knives who are deployed for the first time, will quickly realize that the trick to watching the games on AFN is to wait for the re-broadcast the next day, and hope no one tells

you the final score before you get to watch.

Then there's the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., whose Soldiers are also stationed at COB Adder.

"I can't wait," said Capt. Robin Worch, the officer in charge of the battalion's human resources office. "It gives me something to look forward to on the weekends."


While out at FOB Garryowen, I also had a chance to speak to Capt. Nick Lucas. He's the supply officer assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th

Cav. Regt., which is also called the Head Hunter Squadron.

"We have to take this deployment in segments," Lucas said. "This football season will definitely

help get us through the next three months."

The Head Hunter Soldiers are also building a new base on the southeastern border of Iraq called FOB Hunter. Construction there started approximately two weeks ago.

But just like Coborn at FOB Garryowen, many of the squadron's Soldiers are excited about good ol' American football. 

*"I'm going to have to say the (University of Texas) 'Horns are gonna kick butt this year."*

*Pfc. Richard Coborn  
Soldier in the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.*

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# Long Knife Soldier reenlists for T-shirt

## Artilleryman receives \$7,500 bonus to stay in till 2013

By Spc. Creighton Holub  
4th BCT PAO

**AMARAH, Iraq** – Forget money. Forget pick of duty station. But be sure to get the T-shirt for reenlisting on the front lines.

For signing up for an additional few years of his young Army career, Pfc. Jacob McHenry only wanted a T-shirt.

“The Army is too easy for me and I have no reason to get out,” said the 18-year-old forward observer from Monroe, La., assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “But it’s really hard to change my MOS, because there’s not a lot of people in my MOS.”

However, the artilleryman said his job is not the run-of-the-mill artillery job. When attack aviation assets are around, he is the automatic go-to guy.

“This is completely different than doing anything in ‘normal’ artillery,” McHenry added. “Talking to Longbow Apache helicopter pilots is different than anything else in the artillery branch. I have to take into con-

sideration air-to-ground integration and put myself into the pilot’s position. I have to create a clear picture in their minds before they can attack the

can pass it down to my other Soldiers as well.”

In addition the \$7,500 cash bonus he received for reenlisting through July 2013, he also reaped brigade-specific reenlistment incentives such as picking his own guaranteed vacation time, a pair of four-day trips to Qatar and getting the first flight home at the end of the deployment. He also has the opportunity to complete some more civilian education upon returning to Fort Hood.

However, McHenry knows that he will be on the front lines guarding everyone back home from the evils wrought by the criminals here in Iraq. “Everyone supports the infantry,” he concluded. “I’m on

the ground with them, doing their job and my artillery job.”

The leaders in his unit also know they have a dedicated trooper in their ranks assisting the Iraqis as they take the undisputed lead in combat operations out on the streets of Amarah.

“He’s extended his time in the Army, so we know he’s committed to doing what he’s here for,” Jones concluded. 🇺🇸



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

**Pfc. Jacob McHenry, a forward observer assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, drinks bottled water in the desert city of Amarah during a 'cordon and dig' weapon cache mission July 31.**

enemy.”

His artillery background came in handy during a recent Iraqi Army “cordon and dig” as a Co. A, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., platoon leader called it.

“It’s great having him since he has training related to artillery rounds,” said 1st Lt. Trevor Jones, a Houston native and the company’s 3rd Platoon leader. “It helps to have someone who has more knowledge and he

L I V E T H E L E G E N D

# The Doctor is in ...

*By Capt. Alcario Serros  
4th BCT Bde. Surgeon*

You may have heard rumors about Leishmaniasis, but have you ever wondered what it really is? Or how could you 'catch it?' And more importantly how do you avoid it?

Well, leishmaniasis is a protozoan parasite typically transmitted to humans by insects such as sandflies.

There are three manifestations of leishmaniasis: cutaneous, mucocutaneous or visceral disease that can be caused by several species of leishmaniasis.

Cutaneous basically means that wounds and scars occur on the skin. Mucocutaneous means your mouth, nose and moist areas are affected. Visceral means the disease attacks your internal

organs.

Currently more than 12 million cases of leishmaniasis exists in 80 countries, with two million new cases occurring each year. Between August 2002 and April 2004, the Department of Defense reported 522 cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis acquired in Iraq.

Female sandflies transmit the parasite during a bite by vomiting a gel and saliva into your skin or bloodstream. This regurgitation promotes establishment of the parasite within its

human host.

A small pimple-like papule forms at the site of the bite. In cutaneous syndromes (skin only), this papule grows and ulcerates to become the site of the lesion. Most lesions are centrally ulcerated, painless, with red and raised edges.

These lesions can continue to grow and leave permanent scarring even after healing. By contrast, a local ulcer rarely develops in visceral syndromes that going deeper into the body. Treatment of leish-

maniasis includes a number of modalities, but some drugs of choice include pentavalent antimony, amphotericin B, fluconazole, ketoconazole, itraconazole and dapsona.

Prevention of leishmaniasis includes applying DEET on skin exposed outdoors, avoiding activities during dusk and dawn as much as possible, using screens and bed nets that are preferably treated with Premetherin, wearing protective clothing with long sleeves and keeping your area clean of debris and food.

From what has been tested, our battlespace does not contain reservoirs of leishmaniasis. But prevention is always your best defense in combating this non-battle illness. 🦟

*How could you catch it? More importantly, how do you avoid it?*

*Capt. Alcario Serros  
Brigade Surgeon*



## Phase 10

**Spc. Y. "Killer" Khan, a combat medic from Houston, Spc. Zach "Ridiculously Good Looking" Nichols, a combat medic from Huntsville, Texas, and Staff Sgt. Robert "E.B." Eschenbacher, a cavalry scout from Columbia Falls, Mont., all assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's headquarters, play the card game Phase 10 during one of the first breaks they've had since arriving at Forward Operating Base Hunter in southeastern Iraq Aug. 28.**

# Diamonds are Forever

By Pfc. Rebekah Lampman  
4th BCT PAO

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – For one female supply sergeant and her Soldier, the Women's Equality Day held at the base's Warrior Memorial Hall meant a lot more than just an observance Aug. 26.

Staff Sgt. Kimberly McGee, assigned to Long Knife Brigade headquarters, stood in front of a 100-person audience and recited an original poem titled 'Diamonds are Forever.'

In her poem, she spoke about what it would mean to become a female first sergeant.

"When I was in basic training I saw this female first sergeant and I wondered who she was," McGee explained. "She taught me things about being a good leader; that it's a journey not a destination, just like equality for women."

Women's Equality Day was created by U.S. House Rep. Bella Abzug in 1971 and is celebrated

across the United States.

The celebration at Contingency Operations Base Adder con-



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Rebekah Lampman

**Staff Sgt. Kimberly McGee says her poem during Women's Equality Day at COB Adder Aug. 26.**

sisted of an essay contest, a performance by the base's All-Star Band, and McGee's poem reading.

While McGee recited her poem, Pfc. Penny Hall, a 19-year-old native of Gaithersburg, Md., sat in the audience and listened intently to every word from her supervisor.

"We have a day where Women can be recognized for what they do in our society and overall in the world," Hall said. "(McGee) has taught me valuable things, and one day I want to pass the information to my (future) Soldiers."

McGee volunteered to participate in the program because she felt it was her obligation.

"It was a privilege, but also a duty as a woman," she said. "I'm here because of the women who didn't just sit down; they stood up for their rights."

For a young woman like Hall, McGee is an everyday example of everything she wants to strive for. 🇺🇸

## Soldiers can become citizens

By Sgt. Eloy Guzman  
4th BCT Legal NCO

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services created a special program for members of the military serving on active duty to obtain their citizenship while deployed overseas.

The Long Knife Brigade legal office is here to provide assistance to Soldiers, such as verifying Soldiers' military service, reviewing legal documents and making sure they are completed accurately.

Once all of the

forms are completed, the packet is mailed to the Nebraska Service Center to be processed. The Long Knife Brigade will inquire on the Soldier's behalf, that the file is processed as an overseas packet and request the packet be transferred to the Rome Service Center in Italy.

Once the center receives the packet, it is reviewed and an interview is scheduled.

Interviews are typically scheduled four to six months after the Rome of-

fice receives the packet.

The USICS will conduct interviews and naturalization ceremonies on Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Long Knife paralegal specialists coordinate with the Rome Service Center before the process begins to determine which Soldiers are required to have their interviews and attend the ceremony.

Then they coordinate with the Soldiers' chain of command to ensure their presence. 4th BCT paralegal

personnel escort the applicants to their interviews.

Various distinguished Army officials host the military naturalization ceremony. The most recent ceremony here was held in April and 29 candidates from COB Adder become United States citizens.

Please contact myself, for Long Knife Soldiers, or Sgt. Daniel Fortier, for 7th Sustainment Brigade troops, at the COB Adder legal office at DSN (312) 833-1467, Bldg. 209 for assistance. 🇺🇸

# STB Spartans put on combat patches

By Spc. Creighton Holub  
4th BCT PAO

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – If you look back in American history, most generations had a major war which produced combat veterans.

During this generation – sometimes called the Next Great Generation, Operation Iraqi Freedom may be producing some of the best combat veterans America has ever seen.

The 1st Cavalry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team has been deployed in support of OIF for just more than two months, and the Long Knife brigade's Special Troops Battalion officially received their combat patches during a ceremony at Tallil Air Base Aug. 13.

"Becoming a combat veteran feels very good," said Pfc. Roy Bankhead, a Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operator from Detroit.

Bankhead's job is to inform

our infantry troops of what lies beyond that proverbial corner the ground-pounders can't see around, without risking their lives. "I make sure our troops on the ground have what they need information and imagery-wise."

The first-term Soldiers like Bankhead, assigned to the Long Knife Brigade's 4th Special Troops Battalion are proud to wear their first shoulder sleeve insignia - former wartime service patch.

"It's awesome to be a 1st Cav combat veteran," explained Spc. Jessica Robinson, whose company held a special promotion ceremony after the combat patch ceremony for the former-private first class. The signal intelligence analyst assigned to STB's Company A is from the small Illinois town of Table Grove with a population of 400 people. "I feel honored to get promoted at such an honorable event. I'll tell my parents that I'm

proud to serve and defend their way of life."

Although the Spartan Battalion and Long Knife Brigade Soldiers spend every day defending America and rebuilding Iraq, the unit took a moment to recognize those sacrifices the Soldiers are continuing to make.

"This is a very significant day for our Soldiers, especially the ones who haven't been (deployed) before," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Eger, the battalion's senior enlisted leader and a Lilly, Penn., native. "It's not just slapping the patch onto the right shoulder and moving on."

But that's exactly what happened to Spc. Vanessa Fricke during her first deployment in 2006.

"This time, with the Long Knife Brigade, it felt kind of special. I was working in a (detainee holding area) last time and my squad leader slapped the combat patch on my shoulder. He said that I was in a combat zone and that I had earned it," explained the Alexandria, Ind. native and a military police Soldier in the battalion headquarters. "But, this ceremony made me stand proud on the inside. I'm standing prouder than I am tall," the 5-foot-3 military police Soldier joked.

However, the ex-Ivy Division Soldier plans to keep wearing her old unit's combat patch. She plans on wearing her new Cav. Div. combat patch over her 4th Inf. Div. patch.

Many of the Long Knife Brigade's troops deployed with the 4th Infantry Division in 2006. The 4th Inf. Div. is currently deployed in Baghdad in charge of Multi-National Division Baghdad.

"I'll still wear my 4th Inf. Div. patch under my new 1st Cavalry patch because it means that much to me," Fricke said. 🇺🇸



Long Knife photos by Spc. Creighton Holub

**Capt. Glenden Hanun, the company commander of the Long Knife Brigade headquarters, affixes a combat patch to one of his troops during a ceremony Aug. 13. Soldiers assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, receive their former wartime service shoulder sleeve insignias, also called "combat patches," during a battalion ceremony at the Base Defense Operating Center at COB Adder in Tallil, Iraq.**