

Vol. II, Iss. III

July 1, 2008

THE RALLY POINT



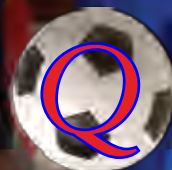
Serving the men
and women

of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division
Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom



Rashid Olympics begin

14 communities unite to crown champion



The Rucksack

What's in the bag ...

The Leader's Handbook ... pg. 3

Rashid Olympics begin, Soccer uniforms handed out to 14 communities ... pg.4

"Regulars" mission is Iraqi Security Forces ... pg. 8

"Straight Arrows" Battalion secures different area of Iraq ... pg. 10

FRONT SIGHT POST: Raider Brigade Edition ... pg. 12

"Beast" Company trains ISF for future route clearance operations ... pg. 14

Raider Brigade's top enlisted visits Iraqi NCO corps ... pg. 16

Iraqi Army leads clearance ops in Rashid, Regulars MITT in advisory position ... pg. 17

Raider Brigade commemorates D-Day ... pg. 18

GOP / JSS life ... pg. 19

India Co., 4th Supt. Bn., maintains Rashid's detainees ... pg. 20

"Tuskers" Battalion lights way for Saydiyah citizens ... pg. 21

Raider Family stays Army Strong ... pg. 22

For God and Country / Raider Safe ... pg. 23



The future of the Iraqi National Team gathers at the opening ceremony for the Rashid Summer Olympics in southern Baghdad's Rashid district June 14. During the next three months, more than 330 soccer teams from 14 communities will compete in the tournament. The tournament winner will be crowned at the closing ceremony in September. Minutes before the start of the youth soccer game the Iraqi National Team defeated China in the Asia Championship soccer tournament.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

THE RALLY POINT

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond
4th Infantry Division Commander
Multi-National Division - Baghdad

Col. Ted Martin
1st BCT Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb
1st BCT Command Sergeant Major

Maj. David Olson
1st BCT Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT Public Affairs NCOIC

Spc. David Hodge
Staff Writer

Sgt. Vin Stevens
Broadcast NCO



July 1
2008
VOL. II,
ISS. III



The Rally Point is published monthly in the interest of the Families and Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the Armed Forces deployed in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The Rally Point is a U.S. Army funded publication authorized for the members of the Armed Forces, under the provision of AR 360-1.

The views in The Rally Point are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army.

To contribute to Raider Brigade's The Rally Point, contact the 1st BCT Public Affairs Office or send stories, photos and information to david.j.olson1@us.army.mil or brent.michael.williams@us.army.mil.

Significant contributors to the July 1, 2008 edition include: Capt. Wesley Smith, Military Transition Team, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.; as well as the men and women serving in support of the Global War on Terror. Thank you!

LEADER'S BOOK



Col. Ted Martin

Welcome to the latest edition of The Rally Point.

Like many of my 4,000 Soldiers, this is my third tour in Iraq. I'm very proud to be the commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom I this brigade was responsible for the capture of Saddam Hussein. It is my job to lead the security effort in Rashid.

I have security partners in both the Iraqi National

Police and the Iraqi Army. Together with the Iraqi Police we work with the area's leaders to provide a safe and secure environment for the estimated 1.5 million of southern Baghdad.

I have seen tremendous changes since 2003. Most of all what I have seen is an improved Iraqi security system. One year ago there was an average of 30 attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces every day. After a year of hard fighting by the two forces, the number has been reduced to three attacks per day. They are truly trained and led by professionals and they are doing a great job in the Rashid district.

Also, we have seen the emergence of the local leaders and district council. I stand in awe of the leadership, who for the past year-and-a-half have had many threats against their lives and didn't back down. They stood up against the insurgents and are also leading the way in the Rashid district. Together with the ISF and district council leadership, we have achieved irreversible momentum on the way to peace.

Many of the recent events in our operating environment show just how well brave men and women accomplish extraordinary achievements. It means that normalcy is returning to Baghdad.

A year ago the future was very bleak. Today it is very bright.

I know all Raider Soldiers work very hard every day and always do their best at their assigned tasks. I am proud of you. Keep up the good work!

To the Raider Families back at Fort Hood and the other regions of the U.S., your husbands, wives, sons, and daughters haven't missed a beat in the first 100 days. Their devotion to duty, and willingness to accomplish the mission has given new meaning to the phrase 'Steadfast and Loyal Soldier.'

When I left command to the Soldiers of the rear detachment I felt confident that those select Soldiers would be able to handle any and all Raider affairs while our forward element set out again to tackle extremism and answer our nation's highest call.

1st Raider Brigade Combat Team Leads the Way!

RAIDER 6

To the men and women serving in support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and Multi-National Division – Baghdad from Forward Operating Base Falcon and the many Joint Security Stations and Combat Outposts spread throughout our operating environment:

I am so very proud to say that our 1st BCT "Raider" Brigade Soldiers are making tremendous progress to ensure the security of the Iraqi people. Our leaders at all levels are able to successfully operate in an ambiguous, dynamic, and politically sensitive environment. Every day they communicate with a variety of personnel, local leaders, civilians, contractors, and people of different cultures.

We must continue to reinforce the view that actions which are counter to Army values and the standards of conduct can compromise the nation's strategic objectives. Although the requirements of our leaders are extensive, they are necessary, given the operating environment we lead in.

Leads by example: Leaders are role models for others. You are viewed as the example and must maintain standards and provide examples of effective behaviors. By modeling the Army Values, you provide tangible evidence of desired behaviors and reinforce verbal guidance by demonstrating commitment and action.

Retention success: Success is a direct indicator of the quality of leadership exhibited



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb

by leaders. Measurements of success include, but are not limited to, waivers, exceptions to policy, and "movement type" options, even in our current operating environment. Continue to encourage our Soldiers to "Stay Army," brief Soldiers on the many options that are now available to them.

Composite Risk Management: Our primary decision-making process for identifying hazards and controlling risks across the operating environment. **Number 8 on the Iron Horse "Big 8,"** CRM enables every leader to "Own the Edge" wherever they're operating. It teaches us how to think - not what to think - and challenges us to be smart about managing risk to protect our Soldiers. It does not matter where or how an injury occurs, the result is the same - decreased combat power or mission effectiveness. So "Own the Edge!"

RAIDER 9

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling, which thinks that nothing is worth war, is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

John Stuart Mill

Rashid Olympics

Story and photos by Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

More than 400 soccer players from across southern Baghdad crowded a chalk-lined soccer field in the Aamel community to kick off the opening ceremony for the Rashid Olympics June 14 only minutes after the Iraqi National team defeated China in the Asia Championship tournament.

Approximately 332 teams from 14 communities began the soccer tournament, which will take place across the district

over the next three months until a champion is crowned at the closing ceremony in September 2008.

"The ceremony went well," said Capt. Thao Reed, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad. "It exceeded expectations and it was all coordinated by the local governances from the areas."

"The champion will gather the hearts and minds of the players because they choose sports instead of violence."

"I believe these kids will be the future of Iraqi soccer."

Habeeb Lafta, Rashid District Council Sports Director

As the military liaison for the event, Reed provided little assistance to the District Council and the Neighborhood Councils in Rashid.

"We are very, very proud of how the district councils coordinated with the Iraqi Security Forces for the opening ceremony," Reed stated. "They planned, secured, and coordinated all aspects of the event. It was a very well-done Iraqi-led event."

There was very little involvement on the part of Coalition Forces, explained Reed.

"What the councils are doing for people is good," Reed explained. "It was a very professional environment and everyone had a good time."

Soldiers from the 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division provided security for the opening ceremony.

"This is the first time that all the communities in the district have gathered together," said Col. Haythm Abedal Khather, the commander of the 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div. "Events like these put hope in the hearts of Iraqis, and makes them united."

The tournament took place on an important day for Iraq because the Iraqi National Team won today, said Habeeb Lafta, the Rashid District Council Sports Director.

"The champion will gather the hearts and minds of the players because they choose the sports instead of violence," Lafta stated. "I believe these kids will be the future of Iraqi soccer."

Before the ceremonial kick off to initiate the game, each team proudly displayed Iraqi flags while chanting the names of their communities.

"We were very glad to get the uniforms, and we are ready to start the tournament," said Arkan Kadhim, a player for the Forat team.

"We are so happy the Iraqi National team won today," added Hesham Kareem, player from the Aamel community.

Events for young girls are tentatively scheduled to begin in July, said Reed.

This winter season in Iraq will bring a few indoor sports to the youths of Rashid, such as ping pong, basketball, and boxing.

Two Iraqi soccer players eye the opposition moments before the beginning of the first game in the Rashid Olympics June 14 in the Aamel community of southern Baghdad. The winner of the soccer tournament will be crowned at the closing ceremony in September. "Events like these put hope in the hearts of Iraqis and makes them united," Col. Haythm Abedal Khather, commander of 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division.



Soccer Tournament kicks-off in 14 communities

District's citizens unite to support summer youth program



Left: A young soccer player circles the field during the opening ceremony of the Rashid Olympics June 14 in the Aamel community of southern Baghdad. Approximately 332 teams from 14 communities gathered together to begin this summer's youth program.

Below: Three young boys stand in front of a group of children waving the Iraqi flag high in the air to support their country and community at the opening ceremony of the Rashid Olympics June 14 in the Aamel community of southern Baghdad.



**We the athletes
use sports to pro-
mote democracy
without violence.**





U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Rashid Youths receive soccer uniforms

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Community leaders from the Rashid district in southern Baghdad met with the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, to oversee the distribution of sports uniforms to Iraqi youth soccer teams June 3.

The event at the Rashid District Council Hall in Doura was the first day in a schedule to distribute approximately 6,500 sports uniforms, complete with jersey, pants, sports socks, shoes and soccer balls, in support of the Rashid Summer Youth Program, said Capt. Thao Reed, commander, HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

"For today, the District Council Youth Director issued 1098 uniforms," said Reed, who hails from Fort Worth, Texas. "He also issued 177 soccer balls – three balls per team."

Reed met with the Aamel and Jaza'ir Hayy district youth directors and head coaches from the local youth soccer teams to begin the distribution of uniforms donated by International Relief and Development, Inc., a non-governmental agency, partnered with the United States Agency for International Development, the federal government organization responsible for providing economic and humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

"It was a great event," Reed said. "The youth have been anticipating getting these uniforms for awhile."

The Rashid DC Youth Director, Mr. Habeeb Lafta, is responsible for distributing uniforms to the local teams that will represent the Hayys, or neighborhoods, participating in the Rashid Summer Youth Program's Olympiad, a series of sports tournaments for Iraqi youths in the Doura and Bayaa communities of southern Baghdad, said Reed.

"The Al Rashid Youth Olympics will be comprised of about 394 teams, engaging a lot of youth for the summer," Reed said.

The Rashid Olympiad will consist of summer and winter sports tournaments, and is tentatively scheduled to begin June 14, explained Reed. The tournaments will host local teams from southern Baghdad communities, competing in soccer, volleyball, basketball, boxing and table tennis.

"The opening ceremony ... will have an expedition game of soccer. The public is invited; it's going to be a great event for everyone in the Rashid district."

An Iraqi youth from the Aamel Soccer Team displays his uniform June 3 at the Rashid District Council Hall in Doura. Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, observed Rashid Youth Directors distribute 1098 uniforms, shoes, and sports socks, donated by the International Relief and Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization, that recently partnered with the United States Agency International Development, to host a Rashid Summer Youth Program for Iraqis in the Doura and Rashid communities of southern Baghdad.

The Aamel community soccer team poses for a picture at the Rashid District Council Hall June 3 in the Doura community of southern Baghdad's Rashid district. More than 1,000 uniforms, shoes, and other articles of clothing were distributed by the International Relief and Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization. Teams from all ages donned their new soccer equipment June 14 for the first Rashid Olympics opening ceremony. The winner of the soccer tournament will be crowned in September at the closing ceremony for the olympics.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vin Stevens



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vin Stevens

Lafta, the Rashid DC Youth Director, said that the event is a good initiative by Iraqi citizens and Coalition Forces to revitalize the youth sports program for the district, and keeping local Iraqi youths actively engaged in sports activities is one of the best measures to combating terrorism in the local communities.

Ira Basim Jasem, a member of the Al Aamel youth soccer team

and one of the first to receive a sports uniform, said that the team is glad for the opportunity and appreciates the Iraqi Security Forces chasing the terrorists out of southern Baghdad.

"We will play like one team, and there is no difference between Sunni, Shia and Christian, as we all complement each other," Jasem said.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vin Stevens



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vin Stevens

Members of an Iraqi youth soccer team from the Aamel community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad, load team uniforms June 3 at the Rashid District Council Hall in Doura. Leaders from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, helped coordinate the distribution with the Rashid District Youth Director and International Relief and Development, Inc., a non-governmental agency that recently partnered with the United States Agency for International Development, to purchase uniforms for the Rashid Summer Youth Program. The 1st "Raider" BCT will also assist in the renovation of local sports facilities and soccer fields in preparation for upcoming sports events; the Rashid Summer Youth Program will bring the Bayaa and Doura districts and neighborhoods together to compete in local summer and winter sports tournaments beginning June 14. "We will play like one team, and there is no difference between Sunni, Shia, and Christian, as we all complement each other," said Ira Basim Jasem, a member of the Al Aamel youth soccer team and one of the first to receive a sports uniform.

Gators: ISF is the mission

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Soldiers of Company A “Gators,” 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, take to the shadows to provide security over watch for the Iraqi Security Volunteers manning a hasty checkpoint June 1 in Baghdad’s Bayaa community.

Meanwhile, National Policemen from the 2nd NP Division, patrolled the darkened streets renowned for improvised explosive devices and violent attacks against Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces.

The Soldiers of the 1st “Regulars” Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., recently began missions such as this one to assist Iraqi Security Forces and provide security and stability to the Bayaa, Aamel and Jihad communities in West Rashid, said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Oben, a platoon leader assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

“The ISF are the mission,” said Oben, an infantry officer from Flushing, Mich. “Improving the Iraqi security

and allowing the Iraqis to take ownership of their own destiny and their own security really is our mission in Iraq.”

The Soldiers conduct combined patrols with the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd NP Div. every day and continue to assist the National Police Forces as it takes the lead in ongoing security efforts in Rashid, he said.

“Capable, well-led, organized, ambitious, and well-disciplined,” were just a few of the words Oben used to describe the National Policemen of the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde.

The ISF is not quite ready to assume control of its area, but it is well on its way to taking over, said Oben, who went on to explain that the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde., is “more than capable, and the way ahead is the NPs operating independently without any Coalition presence.”

The National Police operate checkpoints, conduct security patrols and clearing operations, while talking with local Iraqis in the Aamel and Bayaa communities, looking for weapons and checking

identification cards, said National Policemen Sgt. Areef Nawr, 2nd Bn., 5th Bde.

Nawr said he wants security, peace and something better than what he has seen in his country during the past three years of his service as an NP, and he will continue to work until the ISF gains the trust and understanding of the Iraqi people.

“This is my country,” explained Nawr, as to why he serves in the ISF.

Staff Sgt. Robert Brown, an M2 Bradley section leader, from Lowell, Mass., said he believes the National Police are almost to the point of taking over from U.S. Forces.

“I would like to see the (militants) reduced to a level where they cannot operate, which I believe we are starting to do,” said Brown, an infantryman on his third deployment with Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“With that, I believe the NPs are a big help,” Brown explained. “They know who a lot of the special groups criminals

are, where they operate, where they hide out. It makes the NPs a good asset to have out there because they detain guys we would not expect to be doing bad things.”


Brown also said that the improving security situation in southern Baghdad is due to the Concerned Local Citizens program, the U.S.-backed Sons of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq), who are working to reintegrate the Sunnis back into the Aamel and Bayaa communities.

“The SOI will help move the Sunni families back into their homes and hopefully limit the sectarian violence, where (the communities) can be Shia and Sunni again,” Brown said.

The Soldiers of the 1st “Raider” BCT, working with the local ISF, are going to see the area become more stable with the continued support of the Iraqi community, said Staff



An Iraqi citizen opens his apartment to National Policemen from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, May 31 during a combined patrol in the Bayaa market of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad. The NPs conduct patrols daily in the Bayaa and Aamel communities in Rashid to enforce Iraqi rule of law and protect the Iraqi people. Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, conduct combined patrols with the Iraqi Security Forces and Volunteers two to four times per day.



Sgt. Harold Rodriguez, an infantry squad leader, also from Lowell, Mass., and assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

“When we first got here, we couldn’t see the SOI, but now they are building up their checkpoints and working alongside the Iraqi Police and National Police,” he explained.

The “buzz” on the streets is that the militant group members are quitting, said Rodriguez.

“We have been finding a lot of their caches and arresting a lot of people,” he explained. “The (special groups) leadership is telling the militia to attack, and they are not doing it. They are coming to us for reconciliation.”

In recent months, the Iraqi Security Volunteers, or Sons of Iraq, in the Bayaa and Aamel communities increased to almost 2,000 volunteers – nearly double the numbers from seven months ago, said Spc. Marc Miller, an infantryman, assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, currently attached to Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

“They have been really great as far as giving us tips and helping us out,” said Miller, who hails from Zanesville, Ohio. “We haven’t really seen many improvised-explosive devices or explosively formed projectiles emplaced, and I think a lot of

the credit goes to these guys because they help us out and give us tips; and a lot of times, the tips are even before the IEDs or EFPs get placed.”

Security in the area has improved greatly since the “Regulars” Battalion arrived, said Miller, who has seen several special groups criminals and significant weapons caches taken off the streets in recent weeks.

“I credit it to ... the non-stop patrolling,” Miller said.

Gator Company maintains a presence in the Aamel and Bayaa communities 24 hours-per-day, explained Miller.

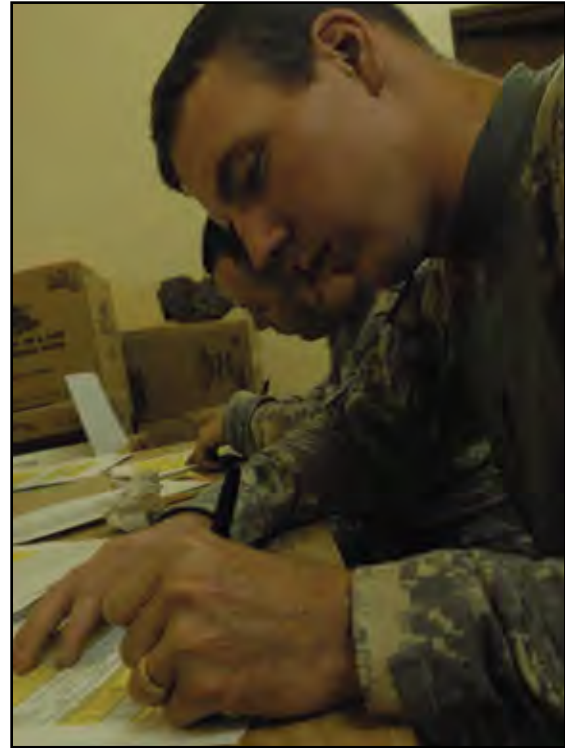
“We constantly have someone out in sector ... for every platoon that is out in sector, as soon as they come back, we have another platoon that is ready to go,” he said.

Working with the ISF increases the unit’s ability to action on tips from concerned citizens and doubles the security forces operating in Baghdad, added Miller, who used a recent operation that resulted in the capture of more than 40 “bad guys” in one day as an example of Regulars recent successes.


“The Soldiers are on top of it,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Guden, who hails from Medford, Wis., and is the senior enlisted leader for the “Regulars” Bn. “They are doing an outstanding job of coaching, mentoring and teaching the ISF while working for the safety and security of the Rashid district, which contributes to the overall stability of Baghdad.”

The 1st “Regulars” Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., is currently deployed to the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

For more photos of Regulars Soldiers and other 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., action visit www.dvidshub.net.



Staff Sgt. Robert Brown and Staff Sgt. Harold Rodriguez, both infantrymen from Lowell, Mass., assigned to Company A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, complete detainee packets May 31 to process suspected criminals who were arrested or detained by Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces for crimes and acts of terrorism. The act of completing the packets is necessary to ensure that the rights of both the suspects and the Soldiers are protected during the due process, and the details of the arrest are accurately recorded, said Brown.



1st Lt. Jeffrey Oben, a platoon leader from Flushing, Mich., assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, meets with Sons of Iraq leaders during the late night hours June 1 at a checkpoint in the Bayaa community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad. The “Gators” of Co. A are providing security over watch for the members of the Concerned Local Citizens program to help integrate them into the local communities and Iraqi Security Forces in their ongoing efforts to provide security and stability to Baghdad.



4-42 FA



Sgt. Jason Young, a field artilleryman assigned to the 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B and an Iraqi Policeman from the Ja'afar Police Station patrol the Karkh district in Baghdad June 3. The combined patrols show the citizens of Karkh that the Iraqi Police are a formidable force and can properly secure the area, said Young, a native of Manassas, Va. The 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., "Straight Arrows" Battalion, is part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, serving a 15-month deployment in support of Operation

Different place, Same mission

Story and photos by Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Upon arriving in Baghdad, the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, began its 15-month deployment in central Baghdad detached from its organic brigade, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, Texas.

Now attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, the "Straight Arrows" Battalion conducts the same mission of providing a safe and secure environment for the Iraqi citizens but in a different operating environment.

"Every Soldier in the Battalion has embraced their mission here in Baghdad with a lot of courage, dedication and motivation," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams, the senior enlisted advisor for the 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B.

Based out of Forward Operating Base Prosperity, the battalion conducts combat patrols and security operations in the south Mansour area and Karkh district directly west of the Tigris River.

"After assessing the size of the area of operation and wondering how we were going to accomplish the mission, the Straight Arrow Soldiers did what they do best and that's tighten up their boot straps and go to work," explained Williams, who hails from Atlanta. "We have done a lot in a short period of time from humanitarian missions to hauling in several high-value individuals in our area."

In the Karkh and Mansour areas the Iraqi Security Forces are very capable of providing security for their fellow Iraqi citizens, said Lt. Col. Robert Kirby, the commander of the 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B.

"It's important for the ISF to have the confidence of their fellow citizens in providing security," explained Kirby, a native of Louisville, Ky. "The ISF know the people and the culture and the problems they face."

The ISF in the communities are highly trained and conduct patrols by themselves or with Coalition Forces, said Sgt. Bruce Eggleston, a battery intelligence noncommissioned officer from Fort Myers, Fla., assigned to Battery A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B.

"The best thing about conducting missions with the ISF is their willingness to take the lead on many of the missions," Williams stated. "They are trying very hard to make Iraq a better and secure place to live."

The Soldiers conduct many missions with the ISF from joint security stations located across the area of operations and find them useful in conducting counter-insurgency operations, said Kirby.

"Joint Security Stations allow us to position our Soldiers among the population to better provide security and day-to-day contact with the population and our ISF counterparts," Kirby said.

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Battery A, "Aztec" Battery, work directly with three different Iraqi Police stations in Karkh and conduct daily dismounted patrols.

"Our platoon's mission is to train the Iraqi Police to make them capable of conducting counter-insurgency operations," stated 1st Lt. Kevin Smith, 2nd Plt. Leader, Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt. "They are mostly doing checkpoints and vehicle inspections, and we want to get them to conduct patrols and combat operations on their own."

At the end of June, Smith said a new IP train-the-trainer program will allow the Iraqi leaders to train entry-level policemen in areas of dismounted and mounted patrolling, car and personnel searches, and advanced marksmanship.

"Since arriving here my guys are doing great," said Smith, a native of Sacramento, Calif. "I have good NCOs that execute everything I hand down. I never have any issues at all – they take care of business."

While on patrol near the Tigris River, the Soldiers of 2nd Plt., "Strong" Platoon, Aztec Battery, encountered an Iraqi man with some information about an underwater cache.

"We were on a dismounted patrol and a local citizen notified us of an underwater cache," said Sgt. Jason Young, a field artilleryman assigned to Strong Plt., Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B. "The citizen showed us where the cache was, produced one of the rounds submerged in the water, and said there were many



Three Iraqi Policemen haul a blanket full of 37 mm high-explosive anti-aircraft rounds up from the bank of the Tigris River June 3 in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad. A concerned Iraqi citizen led Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, "Strong" Platoon, Battery A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B, to the underwater cache.

more."

In all, 340 rounds of 37 mm anti-aircraft munitions emerged from the bottom of the river June 3.

"The Iraqis that live in this area wanted to feel safer in their neighborhood so we took the initiative and seized it for them," said Young, who hails from Manassas, Va.

The Straight Arrows Battalion ultimately wants to transition all responsibility for security to the ISF, said Kirby. The battalion will also continue to assist the local government and neighborhood councils to provide services for the Iraqi people in the remaining months of their deployment.

Straight Arrows



1st Lt. Kevin Smith, 2nd Platoon Leader from Sacramento, Calif., assigned to Battery A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B, passes 37mm anti-aircraft munitions found in the Tigris River up a 70-foot embankment for proper disposal June 3 in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad. Five local citizens fished 340 rounds from the bottom of the river in approximately 35 minutes.



Spec. Dallas Sampey, a combat medic from Baton Rouge, La., assigned to 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B, scans across the Tigris River for enemy activity June 3 in the Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad. The "Straight Arrows" Battalion is part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, serving a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Front Sight Post

2-4 INF



1-22 INF



7-10 CAV



4SB



4-64 AR



1STB



Sgt. Jason Young, a field artilleryman from Manassas, Va., assigned to 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, exits an Iraqi Police station June 3 in the Karkh district of Baghdad. Young and members of “Strong” Plt., work directly with three different IP stations throughout the Karkh area.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Iraqi citizens in the Karkh district of Baghdad use manpower to construct a store June 3. Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, patrol the streets of Karkh daily to ensure a safe and secure environment for the citizens.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, form a human chain to pass munitions up a Tigris River embankment June 3 in the Karkh district of Baghdad. A concerned Iraqi citizen showed Soldiers “Strong” Plt., the location of the cache and produced one of the rounds from the water.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

From the bottom of the Tigris River to the shores of the Karkh community, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, discovered 340 37mm anti-aircraft rounds in an underwater cache June 3.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Iraqi Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, scan the rooftops for enemy activities May 31 during a cordon and search operation in the Jihad community of southern Baghdad. The 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div. Military Transition Team, from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, served in an advisory capacity for the operation.

Sgt. Joe Hudson, an infantry team leader from Charleston, W.V., assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, removes a fluorescent light bulb June 1 to conceal Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces conducting clearing operations in the Bayaa community of Southern Baghdad. The Soldiers of Co. A., “Gator” Company, observed new volunteers of the Concerned Local Citizens program, the Sons of Iraq, maintain a traffic control point on a street renowned for attacks against Coalition Forces.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Humvee gunner Jundi Saif, an Iraqi Army soldier assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, provides security for his fellow soldiers during a cordon and search operation May 31 in the Jihad community of southern Baghdad's Rashid district. The Iraqi soldiers conducted the day-long clearance operation, searching houses, abandoned lots, and vehicles for weapons and contraband as part of ongoing efforts to enforce the Iraqi Rule of Law.

Beast Company trains Nati. Police route clearance

Route clearance for all Rashid

Story and photos by Spc. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Soldiers from Company E, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, move painstakingly slow... up and down the roads, every day, prodding at suspicious debris near the roads with their lengthy mechanical arm-like instrument, searching for the number-one killer of Soldiers in Iraq: the improvised-explosive device.

Multi-National Division – Baghdad route clearance teams play an important part in securing the major thoroughfares in the capital city of Baghdad.

In the Rashid district, Soldiers from Co. E, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, will soon see their Iraqi counterparts assume responsibility of a main stretch of road that divides the district into two halves, said 1st Sgt. Anthony Coker, the senior enlisted leader for Co. E.

“The commander (of 3rd Battalion, 1st National Police Brigade (Mechanized)), Gen. Shakir, plans to dedicate 20 of his finest policemen to Iraq’s first route-clearance platoon by fall of this year,” Coker said.

In April, Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Co. E, “Beast” Company, began conducting combined route-clearance patrols with Baghdad’s first Iraqi route-clearance team, said Coker.

The Soldiers periodically halt clearance operations to stop at the 3rd Bn., 1st NP Bde. Headquarters and conduct platoon-sized IED training with policemen from the route-clearance team.

“The most dangerous weapon in Iraq is the IED,” said Rafid Basam Ali, a policeman assigned to 3rd Bn., 1st NP Bde., the Ministry of Interior’s only mechanized NP unit. “Route clearance is important because it helps keep Iraqi citizens, Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces safe.”





When Beast Soldiers arrived in the Rashid district approximately seven months ago, route clearance and sanitation were the main focus.

"We credit the reduced number of IED strikes to the route sanitation and cache finds in the district," Coker said.

In the near future, the NP route-clearance team will train on new vehicles and equipment to defeat IEDs in Rashid.

Coker said he believes that by spring of

next year, Iraqi route-clearance teams should have complete control of operations in the Rashid district.

The transition of authority in route-clearance operations is one step in the process of handing complete control over to the Iraqis, he added.



Above: Pfc Brandon Bevins, a combat engineer from Long Beach, Calif., assigned to Co. E, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., demonstrates the proper handling of a M240B weapon during route clearance vehicle familiarization training June 16 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.

Top Left: 1st Lt. Matt Miller, 2nd Platoon Leader from Tallahassee, Fla., assigned to Co. E, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., gives Iraqi National Policemen training material for route clearance training May 30.

Left: Sgt. Franklin Myers, a combat engineer from Columbia, S.C., assigned to Co., E, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., shows Iraqi National Policemen the finer points of a Buffalo vehicle during route clearance training June 16 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.

RAIDER BDE. CSM VISITS IRAQI NCO CORPS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE RANKS

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Deployed for a 15-month tour in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the senior command sergeant major of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is interested in more than just inspecting Iraqi Security Forces and their checkpoints.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, the Raider BCT's senior noncommissioned officer, met with the Iraqi leaders and soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, May 28 to take a look at the development of the Iraqi noncommissioned officer.

Bobb met with the 2nd Bn., 1st Mech. Bde. Command Sgt. Maj. Hussein to propose a new incentive for the Iraqi Ministry of Interior's only mechanized National Police

unit.

The Raider BCT is establishing good working relations with the four ISF brigades responsible for maintaining security for the estimated 1.2 million Iraqis living in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad, said Bobb, a combat veteran with more than 27 years of service in the U.S. Army.

Uniforms, standards and discipline were amongst the key topics of discussion the Iraqi and American command sergeants major discussed as they visited five NP checkpoints across the Rashid district.

"We are culturing and mentoring these soldiers and NCOs as they are mirroring how our Corps of Noncommissioned Officers is set up – from training, to day-to-day operations in Baghdad," said Bobb, who hails from the Islands of Trinidad.

Throughout the month of June, the

Raider BCT will recognize Iraqi battalion command sergeants major and outstanding ISF to reward discipline, uniformity and hard work in the ranks of the enlisted leaders, he explained.

"We are offering an incentive plan for each of our Iraqi brigades that adhere and develop to the same uniform and standards that the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade and Multi-National Forces – Iraq follow," he said. "In the upcoming months, we will begin to recognize these outstanding Iraqi soldiers; and their units, like the Iraqi National Police of the 2nd NP Div."

Bobb, who has two combat deployments and more than seven years' experience working as a command sergeant major, conducts battlefield circulations, visits ISF checkpoints and inspects ISF NCOs, checking for uniformity of standards and discipline.

"The NCOs set the example," Bobb said to Hussein. "Leaders ensure that Soldiers are in the proper uniform and meet the standards everyday, and the Iraqi Soldiers will be rewarded for their efforts."

At the end of the month, the two command sergeants major will select outstanding Iraqi NCOs and their soldiers who meet and exceed the standards.

Hussein said the ideal is a good one and will motivate his soldiers to do their best.

Col. Da'ood, the commander of the 2nd Bn., 1st Mech. Bde., told Bobb that he would be happy to enforce uniformity at the checkpoints to improve the level of professionalism and ultimately security for the Iraqi people.

"Iraqi leaders have expectations," Da'ood told Bobb. "They know what to expect, and they know what leaders should be like."

"They know what the Iraqi Corps of the NCO should be like," said Da'ood, who began his military career in the Iraqi Army under Saddam Hussein.

Da'ood asked Bobb to help him bring drill instructors comparable to the U.S. Army standards and "train the trainer" programs to the National Policemen of his battalion.

Da'ood, who would like to see the Iraqi NCO Corps developed more like when he initially entered the Iraqi Army, also said that the training would benefit his junior officers as well as his sergeants.

"MND-B has asked us to do our part, and we will do whatever we can to help the Iraqi Corps of the NCO grow," Bobb promised the Iraqi leaders.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, joined Iraqi National Policemen from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, May 28 to conduct inspections of Iraqi Security Forces checkpoints in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

An Iraqi National Policeman from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, inspects a vehicle at a checkpoint in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The top enlisted leader for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, visited numerous traffic control points throughout Rashid May 28.



IRAQI ARMY TAKES COMMAND IN RASHID, REGULARS Bn., MITT ADVISES FROM AFAR

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

The Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Military Transition Team do not collect weapons. The MiTT assigned to the 43rd Bde., 11th Iraqi Army Div., did not deploy to the Rashid district in southern Baghdad to capture detainees either.

Nor do they have to – thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Security Forces working with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers, said Maj. Mark Thompson, operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

“The Iraqi Army is a lot better than the last time we were here, and we are going out there to continue that; so that sometime in the near future the IA soldiers will be fully capable of operating without our support,” Thompson said before the start of a cordon and search operation led by the 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div., May 30 in the Jihad community of west Rashid.

The team of select officers and enlisted Soldiers participated in the day-long event to coach and advise the Iraqi Army and call for indirect fire support and close air support if needed, said Thompson, an armor officer who hails from Phoenix, Ariz.

The “Regulars” Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., are currently partnered with 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div. and National Policemen from the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd National Police Division operating in the Bayaa, Aamel and Jihad communities of the Rashid district, said Thompson, a graduate of West Point, Class of 1995.

“The Iraqi Army has stood up to become for all intents and purposes an Army; while the NPs are modeled after the Italian Arma dei Carabinieri (Military Police), responding to natural disasters, civil disorders and emergencies of that nature,” he explained. “Right now the two are working West Rashid in the same capacity: to enforce security and

Iraqi Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, carry suspected improvised explosive device materials while conducting a clearance operation in the Jihad community of southern Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

enhance stability for the Iraqi people.”

The 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div. assumed responsibility for the west Rashid district approximately six months ago, said Staff Sgt. Floyd Getchell, MiTT team chief, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

The 43rd Bde. planned, coordinated and conducted the operation, which allowed the MiTT team to serve strictly as observers, said Getchell, a 16-year combat veteran from Phoenix, Ariz.

“This was a small operation for the unit, but an opportunity for them to cut their teeth,” he said.

Getchell, who worked on a brigade MiTT team during his last deployment in support Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006, said that his initial impressions of the IA unit’s operation were good, and that the job of the MiTTs is progressively getting easier.

“They understand the movement as a unit,” he said. “They are working to get on line and sweep an area, organizing to clear out a row of buildings.”

Getchell said that his team of noncommissioned officers will be working with the Iraqi NCO Corps throughout the next year to build an officer/NCO dual-leadership role that is present in the U.S. Army’s chain of command.

“I have been working with some really outstanding Iraqi NCOs, and if they can be an example to others, I think they can go a long way in taking some of the load off the officers, helping to run things to standard,” Getchell said.

According to Getchell, the biggest change to the ISF is their level of competency, understanding that they are in charge, and charismatic leaders, who are taking charge of the situation.

“It used to be if Iraqi soldiers screwed something up in Saddam’s army, they would find themselves in the bottom of a grave,” said Getchell. “Now, we’re getting them to realize that they are in the lead. They have the ability to make decisions, and no longer have to ask permission to make things happen.”

Getchell said that while the operation only yielded a few weapons discovered in an abandoned house, the message the IA soldiers sent to the residents of the muhalla – one of stability and security – made the event a far greater success.

“The 2nd Bn. seems to be very professional,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Elledge, commander of the 1st “Regulars” Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. “I am pretty proud of what they are doing so far.”

The Iraqi Army soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th Iraqi Army Div., are treating the Iraqi people with respect, working with the community and addressing issues as they work to secure the neighborhoods, and clear weapons and contraband from the Jihad community, said Elledge, who hails from Dexter, Mo.

“They were a little rough around the edges when we got them, but I think they are starting to gel into a good combat force,” he said.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Iraqi Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, conduct a cordon and knock clearing operation June 15 in the Jihad community of southern Baghdad with Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

RAIDERS commemorate D-Day invasion

Raider Public Affairs Team
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Spirit of the American Soldier

Sixty-four years ago, Allied Forces from the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Poland came together along the shorelines of France to liberate a continent from a dictator and a Nazi Germany.

On June 4, 1944, U.S. Soldiers embarked on amphibious landing craft and assaulted a series of objectives, five sectors in four beachheads, along approximately 50 miles of shoreline of the Normandy Coast in France. Units from the 4th Infantry Division were among the first American Forces charged to break the fortified German defenses and open a gateway to occupied Europe.

Approximately 130,000 Allied Soldiers would land at the fortified beaches of Normandy in what would become the turning point for the Allied Forces Campaign in World War II. Their actions during the Normandy Invasion would leave behind a legacy for future generations of Soldiers in the Armed Forces to emulate.

The entire 4th Division, under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the assistant commander of the 4th Div., landed at Utah beach within the first 15 hours of the assault on Normandy. By the night of June 6, 20,000 men and 1,700 vehicles were on shore.

According to the United States Army's Center of Military History, the most difficult of the 4th Division's missions belonged to the 22nd Infantry Regiment, led by Col. Harvey Tribolet, as it assaulted along the division's right flank.

The three battalions of the 22nd Infantry Regiment began their landings around 10 a.m., moving through the flooded fields and marshlands to rally at their objectives in the Northwest, moving toward St. Germain de

Varreville.

In the fighting that ensued, the 22nd Infantry comprised the right flank for the 4th Division during its attack north, facing pointed fighting to take its objectives and removing fortified enemy positions along the way.

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, "Regulars, by God!" continues in Baghdad, said Col. Ted Martin, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div., Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

"In the 1st BCT, that same regiment, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., is currently in Baghdad taking the fight to the enemy, much the same way they did in 1944," said Martin, a native of Jacksonville Beach, Fla. "As part of the world's premier fighting force, the Raider Brigade is working to assist the Iraqi people in securing Baghdad. The eyes of the World are also upon these brave Soldiers."

Like the veterans of WWII, today's Soldiers are led by a capable, trained and experienced corps of officers and noncommissioned officers, said Martin.

"Their service to our nation continues to serve as a shining example to everyone around the world due in part to the enduring efforts and sacrifices of America's veterans, especially on that day, on those beaches off the coast of France, where our fathers and grandfathers broke through the lines of the Axis," Martin said.

Although technically and tactically advanced from yesteryear's Army, the level of discipline and leadership are a reflection of the behavior that today's most trained and well equipped Soldiers possess, said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

"I think the concept is pretty much the same," Bobb said. "The 'Backbone of the Army' must still be capable, confident leaders with the ability to pass all necessary information to their Soldiers."

From the massive M1A2 Abrams tank to the recently employed unmanned aerial vehicles, the technical expertise required to effectively manipulate the operating systems has grown exponentially, said Bobb, who hails from Trinidad.

"Soldiering still requires a degree of skill, but there were less technological skills required by Soldiers during WWII," Bobb explained.

During basic rifle marksmanship

The Allied ground force of the Normandy Invasion, proved to be the largest landing force ever to assemble on an objective.



Courtesy photo

training, today's standard M4 carbine rifle can be equipped with advanced optics, leading to more target hits, said Bobb.

"Back then, a Soldier had to trust his life on his ability to shoot with iron sights," he added. "The United States has given our Soldiers the best equipment that money can buy – and our morale is high because of that."

Both eras of Soldiers completed their mission, answering the call of duty by recognizing there is something far greater to fight for than individual wants or needs – fighting for freedom from the tyranny of oppression, explained Bobb.

"I am sure that the values our Soldiers serve under today are very similar to those who landed on Utah Beach," Bobb said. "The bravery revealed by the Soldiers landing on Normandy Beach in June of 1944 is comparable to the Warriors of today; just like the two pressed metal identification tags worn around the neck."

Soldiers like Spc. Ross Andrew McGinnis, said Bobb, about the Soldier recently nominated for a Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions with Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, out of Schweinfurt, Germany, when he sacrificed his life, throwing himself onto a hand grenade in late 2007 to save the lives of four of his comrades – friends – brothers-in-arms.

The manuals may change from generation to generation, but the Army Values – Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage – remain the same, even under enemy fire, said Bobb.

The Allied ground force of the Normandy Invasion, proved to be the largest landing force ever to assemble on an objective, and even in the face of more than 10,000 casualties on what would be known as the "longest day in history," the operation would prove to be a significant victory for American Soldiers in the name of freedom and democracy.



Courtesy photo

On June 4, 1944 units from the 4th Infantry Division were amongst the first American Forces charged to break the fortified German defenses and open a gateway to an occupied Europe.

COP / JSS LIFE

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Much like a police headquarters in a major U.S. city employs separate precincts for a better grip on would-be public offenders; the same idea is used by Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in Iraq to facilitate operations in the urban environment.

In the Rashid district of southern Baghdad, Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers launch operations from the Joint Security Stations and Combat Outposts enabling them to work closely with the Iraqi National Police, Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and a key factor in defeating the insurgency – the citizens of Iraq.

“A JSS consists of representatives from the IA, Iraqi NPs, IPs, and Coalition Forces,” said Capt. Brent Reno, the officer-in-charge of the JSS Doura tactical center, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B.

Reno and his Soldiers man the 24-hour command post, which acts as a liaison between the two security forces. He coordinates with different components to react to and support any missions that take place.

“I ensure the ISF and CF are on the same page when it comes to security in the Doura community,” said Reno, who hails from Omaha, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Griffin, an infantryman and operations noncommissioned officer for the JSS Doura tactical center assigned to HHC, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, works as a liaison between the ISF and CF to ensure both forces are aware of exactly what is happening on the battlefield.

“The Joint Security Stations build cohesion through combined efforts and battlefield tracking,” said Griffin, a Chicago-native. “I think they are a success. Many tips have come through the ISF, and it helps us out very much. We have captured a few wanted criminals with their help.”

Normally the existing COP or JSS started as an abandoned building in which Soldiers inhabited and fortified for security, said Spc. Brian Tran, an infantryman with the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Transition Team, assigned to the 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

“It’s like an urbanized observation point for Soldiers,” stated Tran, who hails from Westminster, Calif. “It is similar to a police station in the U.S. and allows us to localize with the citizens. A benefit of the JSSs and COPs are instead of traveling for 30 minutes to get to an objective, the outposts allow Soldiers to be stationed in a closer proximity.”

The forward outposts allow Soldiers freedom of movement and 24-hour presence inside the neighborhoods.

“We are here for nothing but good things for the citizens of Iraq,” said Sgt. James Murray, an infantryman and team leader assigned to Company C, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. “A COP provides us that immediate presence in the areas of operation.”

Although the COPs amenities are better now than in recent years, it is the hardships that bring Soldiers closer together, said Murray, who hails from Alexander, N.Y.

“This COP has two well-prepared meals each day and some new gym equipment,” Murray added. “As long as I have air conditioning, I don’t need much to get by.”

Tran said he believes the quality of life is better for him because the environment is more austere than life on the forward operating base.

“We get to have the real fun,” explained Tran, “We get hot chow twice a day, roll out on missions, and get to enjoy the internet and weight room when we have down time.”

The JSSs and COPs in the Rashid district offer Soldiers the latest amenities while continuing to better serve the people of Iraq by aiding the ISF in providing a safe and secure environment.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Sgt. Leonardo Avalos, an infantryman assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, works his way down the chow line May 18 at a combat outpost in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Two Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, play a friendly game of table tennis May 18 at a combat outpost in southern Baghdad’s Rashid district.

MANAGING RASHID'S DETAINEES

CREATED FOR DHAA OPERATIONS

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Located at Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad's International Zone, the detainee holding area sits encircled in mountainous concrete T-walls housing the majority of the Rashid district's suspected criminals.

Before the deployment, many of the Soldiers from Company I, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, never worked as military policeman or corrections specialist.

Created Feb. 1 to lead the mission of the 1st BCT, "Raider" Brigade, Detainee Holding Area Annex, "India" Company is comprised of approximately six different enlisted Military Occupational Specialties and two commissioned officer branches.

"In the holding area, we house all detainees that come in throughout the brigade and other units that operate in our area," said Capt. Katherine Williams, the commander of Co. I, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. "We escort the detainees through the initial screening process

to determine if they go to a higher command or are released."

After two months of full-swing operations, Co. I, has processed more than 100 detainees, said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Byrd, the first sergeant assigned to Co. I.

"At one point, more than 30 detainees came in at one time for processing," said Byrd.

"Before that, the most we had encountered was about five or six.

When large groups of suspected criminals arrive for processing, operations inside must continue to be accomplished.

"It's a constant operation," said Byrd, who hails from Copperas Cove, Texas. "Just because a large group comes in doesn't mean the other areas just stop operations."

During the days between large groups, the Soldiers get to catch their breath and assess their performance.

"It's a continuous process," explained Byrd. "Through the process of (after-action reviews) and feedback, the company shortened processing time by more than five hours between the first and second large group."

"We want to make sure the detainees and guards are safe and secure while at the DHAA," said Williams, a native of Minneapolis. "The Soldiers have all been successful."

Soldiers work to ensure the detainees get medical exams, clean laundry, food and bathroom breaks throughout the day and night.

To facilitate day-to-day operations and cover down for Soldiers on environmental leave, the Soldiers learn many different



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Spc. Shavonna Gonzales, a medic from Gulf Shores, Ala., assigned to Co. I, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, inspects the urine sample of a detainee for a kidney infection during a medical examination June 2 at the Detainee Holding Area Annex at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Baghdad.

duties within the DHAA.

"Having Soldiers cross-trained on all the operations here is priceless," Byrd said. "It helps out tremendously."

Co. I is unique because traditionally detainee holding areas are staffed by military police or correctional specialists.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Cox, a military policeman with a secondary MOS as a corrections officer is attached to Co. I, provides mentorship and guidance on detainee handling procedures.

"I conduct checks throughout the complex and make sure the Soldiers are completing everything to standard," said Cox, a member of the 367th Military Police Company, 324th MP Battalion, 744th MP Brigade.

"I also work with the commander and leadership to coordinate training for the Soldiers," added the Boston-native.

After two inspections from the Inspector General's Office, the detainee holding operations are getting better and better, said Byrd.

The history of this profession in Iraq shows how important proper detainee handling is, added Byrd.

"I tell my Soldiers not to think just because they don't go outside the wire or get shot at that their job isn't important."

For more photos of India Co. and other 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., action visit www.dvidshub.net



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Pfc. Jacob Morell, a petroleum supply specialist from Tucson, Ariz., assigned to Co. I, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, stuffs detainee laundry into a bag June 2 at the Detainee Holding Area Annex at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Baghdad.

INDIA COMPANY

Tuskers light way for Saydiyah citizens



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vin Stevens, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Lt. Col. Johnnie Johnson, the commander of the 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, eats dinner with Iraqi citizens of the Rashid district's Saydiyah neighborhood May 30. The "Tuskers" Battalion, worked with the Neighborhood Support Council and other organizations to bring positive change to the community.



Sgt. Vin Stevens, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

A 500-Kilowatt generator, with colorful decorations, supplies power to streetlights on Tejara Street, the main road, and half of the businesses along its path May 30 in the Saydiyah community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

Story by Spc. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

From sunset to sunrise, a noticeable difference on southern Baghdad's Tejara Street will serve a variety of purposes for the residents of Saydiyah and the Multi-National Division — Baghdad Soldiers who patrol the area once stricken with violence.

During the evening of May 30, Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B, along with members of the local support council, held a streetlamp lighting dedication in the Rashid

district.

"The streetlight dedication will have a great and positive effect on the Saydiyah community," said Lt. Col. Johnnie Johnson, the commander of the 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt. "Tuskers" Battalion. "There have been no streetlights in Saydiyah for the past 12 months, and this is a huge step forward in bringing a normal life back to the people."

With the flip of a switch and a sudden flicker of light, the citizens gathered around in numbers to witness the new 500-Kilowatt generator illuminate the streetlights in the median

and approximately half of the businesses along Saydiyah's main street.

"Tonight was a very exciting night for the citizens because now they are able to keep their stores open later and that increases commerce," said Johnson, a native of Tampa, Fla. "This event highlighted one of the major projects the Tuskers Battalion and Neighborhood Support Council were working on."

The lights serve more purposes than commerce, said Johnson. It allows the citizens and Soldiers freedom of movement after sunset. "There is more of a feeling of freedom

and life in the area for the Iraqi citizens," Johnson added. "It also augments security for us as we patrol the streets with the Iraqi Security Forces."

"Saydiyah is a peaceful neighborhood," said Dr. Luthi al-Abbosi, the president of the World of Brotherhood and Peace Organization. "The citizens are willing to come back here."

Abbosi's organization provides community services to Iraqis throughout the Saydiyah community.

"The lights give us hope and brings the power and security back," Abbosi explained. "With the security

and power comes the commercial industries, and then comes the encouragement for the people to come back to their homes."

Johnson said he believes more streets will receive power in his area of operation during his stay in Saydiyah.

"The key to our success and the Iraqi citizens' success is security," Johnson stated. "With security comes progress, and with that comes prosperity. Today was a big step forward for Saydiyah and we are looking forward to spreading that progress to other parts as well."

RAIDER SOLDIERS STAY ARMY STRONG RAIDER STRONG - FAMILY STRONG

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

A pair of Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers raised their right hands to signify their commitment to their country during a ceremony here May 26 on Memorial Day.

The reciting of the Oath of Enlistment is not the first instance these Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, have made a life-changing pledge standing next to each other.

Upon completion of their Advanced Individual Training, Spc. Joshua McCoy, a multi-channel transmission systems operator assigned to Company B, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT, and Pfc. Sarah Beth McCoy, an information systems operator assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, left for different home stations to begin their U.S. Army careers.

After a couple of months apart, the separated couple decided to get married and started the paperwork to reassign Sarah Beth to Fort Hood, Texas.

Sarah Beth became a “Raider” Brigade Soldier like her husband only weeks before the unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We made sure with this reenlistment we were able to be stationed together,” Sarah Beth said, who hails from Lewisville,

Texas, “because that is really important to us.”

“We went to our separate battalion career counselors on the same day,” said Joshua, who maintains line-of-sight communication antennas for the 1st “Raider” Brigade. “We didn’t realize it would happen on Memorial Day. It just worked out like that.”

After attending a reenlistment briefing by Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, the senior enlisted leader for 1st BCT, in May, the McCoy’s decided the Army is the best place for their futures.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Bobb made a lot of good points during his briefing,” said Joshua, a native of Charleston, S.C. “We didn’t want to go home and not be able to find a job, so we decided our best bet to have a successful future was to reenlist.”

The Raider Brigade couple received a tax-free bonus, a four-day pass to Qatar, and an education option offered by the 4th Inf. Div., thanks to the hard-working retention noncommissioned officers within

the two battalions.

It takes a special Soldier to raise his or her hand while serving in a combat zone, said Sgt. Raymond Escoto, battalion retention officer, 1st “Phoenix” STB, 1st BCT.

“The McCoy’s are a perfect example of the commitment and dedication it takes to be an Army Strong Family,” Escoto added. “These are Soldiers that new entrants into the Army can learn from and give them the correct types of training and guidance they might not get anywhere else.”

With their reenlistment, the couple reaffirmed their commitment to serve their country in a time of war, he added.

“The unique thing about their reenlistment is they will be able to say to their grandchildren ‘we reenlisted together in Iraq’ as they swing from their front porch swing,” Escoto explained. “That is something they will treasure forever.”

Civilian education is as important to the McCoy’s as serving their country, and the couple is currently enrolled in online college courses. Joshua is studying criminal justice, and Sarah Beth is studying psychology.

“Serving my country means giving someone, from the elderly to the children, the chance to have the freedoms many take for granted every day,” Joshua explained.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Spc. Joshua McCoy, a multi-channel transmission systems operator assigned to Company B, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and his wife, Pfc. Sarah Beth McCoy, an information systems operator assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, display their reenlistment papers minutes after making a six-year commitment to continue military service with the “Raider” Brigade.



Maj. Trenton E. Lewis
Raider Brigade Chaplain

One of the most significant challenges men and women face every day is to know and do the will of God. Many, when faced with upheavals in life, find it difficult to overcome them because they often lose heart in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. But I caution you to remember the question scripture posed to Sarah when told that she would bear a child for Abraham despite her barren condition: "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14) The answer to this rhetorical quip is, nay, there is not one thing too hard for the LORD.

This article affirms that upheavals come and go, and some seem insurmountable, but with God's help one can overcome what appears to be an insurmountable obstacle. However, this comes only through a commitment to prayer and fasting. The HOLY WRIT is replete with scriptural passages in support of this, (e.g. Psalm 35:13; Daniel 9:3; Matthews 17:21; Mark 9:29 and 1 Corinthians 7:5).

I call on all who read this article to commit to praying. The answer to your prayer ushers in changes in things: both physically and spiritually. Praying people receive power to overcome obstacles long thought insurmountable from a human perspective.

Perhaps an even more poignant point is to understand that "... the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous [person] availeth much" (James 5:16). To clarify this point a little further, the scripture reveals to us this awesome principle that one should pray when they are in trouble. When you "... call upon [God] in the day of trouble; [God] will deliver you, and you will honor [God]" (Psalm 50:15). And not only will God deliver you when you pray; HE will also heal you and forgive your sins.

Praying people rule well in their home, because they understand that a family that prays together stays together. They understand that without inviting God into every aspect of their

lives their human effort would produce failure and dissatisfaction with everything they attempt to accomplish. One can ill afford to fail at home because the consequences of such failure can last for untold generations.

What a powerful tool prayer can be in the life of people if they become and/or remain people who pray. It is through a committed prayer life that one gains insight into knowing the will of God and receives strength for the journey to do God's will everyday. I close this month's article with a poem by Alice M. Kyle from the "Leaves of Gold."

THY WILL

To know Thy will, Lord of the seeking mind,
To learn Thy way for me, Thy purpose kind,
Thy path to follow and Thy guide find—

For this I pray.

To do Thy will, Lord of the eager soul,
To bring my restlessness 'neath Thy control,
To give Thee, not a part, but all—the whole—

For this I pray.

To love Thy will, Lord of the ardent heart,
To bid all selfishness, all sloth depart,
To share with gladness all Thou dost and art—

For this I pray.

Raider Safe

Bob Topolewski
Raider Safety Officer

Handling a weapon safely is the mark of a true professional Soldier. As the Raider BCT enters the fifth month of deployment it has become second nature for Raiders to carry a weapon everywhere they go. When handling a weapon becomes a thoughtless routine accidents will occur.

Understanding how a Soldier's assigned weapon operates and how to maintain it are two of the most critical tasks all Soldiers must accomplish. A Soldier has to know your weapon's clearing procedures and practice them until they are

engrained in memory. Understand how to safely load a weapon and the proper way to take immediate action for a malfunction. Soldiers must ensure that they are an expert with regard to their assigned weapon prior to taking part in any combat operation.

Soldiers must perform daily maintenance on their weapon, magazines and ammunition even if they never left the forward operating base that day. Ensure the weapon is always at the proper status (Green, Amber or Red) depending on the situation. Always treat a weapon like it is loaded and never point the muzzle in the direction of another Soldier.

If any Soldier sees an unsafe weapons act do not ignore it; at the same time,

appreciate the fact when someone takes the time and effort to assist with the clearing of a weapon. This is part of operating as a safe team.

Noncommissioned officers have the weapons expertise and experience acquired from years of practical weapons handling. All weapons must be cleared by an NCO; allowing an NCO to check the weapon is a safe, smart way to prevent accidents.

The weather is growing hotter; the tendency is to try to take short cuts to move out of the sun. Soldiers must maintain their discipline every day. Take the time to load, handle and clear all weapons like a professional and they will never have a negligent discharge.



ARMY STRONG

Maj. Dave Olson
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

There are many types of freedom that Americans cherish: financial, religious, political and the list continues.

Growing up in a small, rural community in the Midwest, I did not fully understand the meaning of freedom until I gave mine away for a greater cause. I lived in blissful ignorance of the cost of the freedoms I enjoyed. I was aware that service members died in our nation's wars to guarantee my lifestyle, but they were faceless phantoms to me.

When a young person joins the military, they give up their individual freedoms to provide that same gift to others. For example, when I joined the

U.S. Army in the early 1980s and reported to basic training, I gave up some of my individual freedoms and accepted the values of the organization that I swore allegiance.

In basic training, I had to obey and follow the instructions the drill sergeants told me to do. I had to wear the specified uniform and show up on time to the proper location for training. If I decided to do my own thing and disobey the instructions, I would invite some unwanted personal attention from a drill sergeant.

Twenty-five years later, I must still follow the instructions of my boss or I will invite his wrath. I must still be at the proper location on time wearing the specified uniform.

Though the standards of military life have not changed, my understanding of freedom has. Instead of the faceless phantoms from past wars, I now clearly see the faces of those who paid the ultimate price for my freedom and the freedoms that my fellow Americans enjoy. I remember the face of my

friend Capt. Drew Pearson from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, who died April 30 in the Rashid district of Baghdad and Capt. Ian Weikel from Troop A, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, who was mortally wounded near Saab al Bour on April 18, 2006. There are other faces that I know as well.

Freedom is expensive when people I know paid the price for it. However, I know they gave willingly, because they too loved freedom.