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## New Year, new security agreement, new rules

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**CAMP VICTORY** – Along with a new year, the U.S. and Iraq now have a new security agreement which will govern the status of U.S. forces in the country and provide a framework for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

The historic agreement signed in November is an important step in cementing a long-term relationship with the nation of Iraq. It is designed to build on the enormous gains in security since the surge, a time which has seen a dramatic reduction in violence and most of Iraq's provinces taking responsibility for their own security.

The path forward is outlined in two documents, the Strategic Framework Agreement, which establishes broad goals, and the Security Agreement, which defines many of the new rules. Many of the issues in the Security Agreement reinforce transitions already in place, such as the relationship of U.S. troops with Iraqi Security Forces and the new emphasis on the rule of law as a tool in combating insurgents. While the eight-page SFA deals with issues ranging from security and diplomatic relations to improving Iraq's economy and environment, the Security Agreement includes 30 articles, from control of the Green Zone to legal jurisdiction for U.S. Department of Defense contractors.

Article 24 of the Security Agreement states that U.S. forces "shall withdraw from all Iraqi territory no later than December 31, 2011." It also states that combat forces will withdraw from Iraqi cities, villages and localities by June 30, 2009, or as soon as the ISF in those provinces assume full responsibility for security there. The exact plan by which forces will withdraw and where is to be determined later.

Perhaps the next most significant part



Photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Smith

**Iraqi Soldiers, Iraqi Policemen and U.S. Soldiers watch the Iraqi national flag as it is raised above Joint Security Station Salamiyat, west of Baghdad, Jan. 1, 2009. The raising of the flag symbolizes the implementation of the new Security Agreement.**

of the agreement is Article 22, which deals with detention and arrests. Under the new agreement, U.S. forces must obtain warrants in Iraqi courts before arresting and detaining Iraqi citizens. Warrants will also be required to search houses and property. Also, they must turn over information on suspects currently being detained by the Coalition so that Iraqi officials can obtain warrants on them and either take custody or release them. Any suspects arrested by U.S. forces in the future must be turned over to Iraqi authorities within 24 hours.

Although the agreement represents a huge step in Iraqis taking responsibility for their security, commanders have said U.S. forces will still have much the same role and mission as they have always had.

In a December 2008 letter to Ameri-

can Service Members and Contractors, Gen. Ray Odierno said that conditions under the new agreement "will require a subtle shift in how we plan, coordinate and execute missions throughout Iraq." While U.S. troops will still engage in combat operations, he said, they will do so with the cooperation of the Iraqi Government and the ISF. New rules of engagement will be issued, and as specifics are worked out, new techniques, tactics and procedures will be published, Odierno said.

"While we must remain adaptive and steadily reduce our visibility, we must also maintain our effectiveness in accomplishing our objectives," he said. "We will implement the agreement through phased, deliberate steps that preserve security gains, and will complete our mission with honor and success."

# N.C. Guardsmen receive golf clubs from Callaway

By CAPT. KATHERINE ZYLA  
TF 449 PUBLIC AFFAIRS



BAGHDAD— Soldiers with Task Force 449 are starting off the new year with new golf clubs recently donated by Callaway Golf Company.

Callaway donated more than 700 assorted men's and ladies' golf clubs and 50 dozen golf balls to the North Carolina Guardsmen serving in Iraq. Two shipments arrived in Iraq before Christmas; the boxes included putters, drivers and pitching wedges, golf balls and gloves.

"I had absolutely no expectation of getting so many golf clubs; 400 putters is unbelievable," said Warrant Officer Terry E. Westbrook, TF 449's property book officer and one of the people responsible for initiating this program for the unit.

"The excitement of the Soldiers was unimaginable when they opened the two boxes full of gifts and had an opportunity to select a golf club to remember the deployment."

Spc. Jeremy C. Stancil, an intelligence analyst, has a set of 20-year-old clubs he bought from his uncle; he said he is eager to play with his new Callaway putter. The Winder, Ga., native said he is considering buying a complete set of Callaway golf clubs when he returns from the deployment.

"It's got me excited to go out and play more and improve my game," said Stancil, "This donation shows a lot of support from Callaway and helps us bond as a unit here (in Iraq) and will give us another opportunity to socialize together when we return home."

Westbrook said he thought the Callaway program would be a great boost for morale, and Soldiers would be delighted knowing a company such as Callaway is supporting them.

The donation came about after Westbrook made a phone call in September. He hoped to get a small golf club donation for the unit, based out of Morrisville, N.C., to use while deployed.

"I like helping Soldiers and doing extracurricular things for the unit," said Westbrook, a Raleigh, N.C. native. "Everyone has something he or she can do, and this is something I know how to do and can give back to the Soldiers."

Westbrook diligently corresponded with Callaway and developed a formal request from Col. Paul Barbee, TF 449 commander. Callaway quickly approved and said a donation would be

sent once the unit arrived in theater. Westbrook followed up with Callaway in November, gave the company Task Force 449's address, and boxes arrived just in time for Christmas.

Stancil said getting a Callaway putter was a nice surprise that made his Christmas overseas memorable.

Callaway's donation has not only touched the Hurricanes but will also have a lasting impact on the Soldiers in Iraq.

The remaining golf clubs and balls will be donated to a driving range for all service members to use. Additional putters will be used to possibly outfit a putt-putt golf course in the near future.

"As long as TF 449 and the Soldiers are happy and have an opportunity to participate in something neat, such as golf in Iraq, then I have done my job," said Westbrook. "If it's a good start for a bigger project, such as an MWR (Morale Welfare Recreation) club house that the Army is proud of, then it's a bonus."

Task Force 449 Soldiers expressed their gratitude to Callaway Golf Company by taking photos with their new gear and will fly an American flag on one of their Black Hawk missions over Iraq. The unit plans to present Callaway with a certificate of appreciation and shadow box with the flag.



Photo by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

North Carolina National Guardsmen at Camp Striker show off their new Callaway golf clubs. Callaway Golf Company donated more than 700 golf clubs to Task Force 449, and each Soldier had an opportunity to select a club. The remainder of the clubs will be donated to a local military driving range for all service members to use.

## THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



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# Civil Affairs training enhances Soldiers' skills

By SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON  
41ST FIRES BDE.



FOB DELTA – The efforts of Iraqi civilian and military leaders to rebuild their nation's government and infrastructure is enhanced by the expertise of Coalition forces' civil affairs Soldiers.

Recognizing the importance of these skills in today's operating environment, the civil affairs team from the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Dallas, shared their experiences and knowledge with fellow Soldiers in a two-day class on Forward Operating Base Delta.

"Our main focus here is to make sure we give them some main tools to help them out with their information gathering," said Staff Sgt. Jason Arnold, 490th CA Bn.

"They will go out and meet with mayors, (director generals), sheikhs and respected village people. We want to make sure they get the most information from them and bring it back," said Arnold, of Abilene, Texas.

The 37 Soldiers attending the class came from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment and the 1st Bn., 77th FA Regt., both of which operate in Wasit province. Many of the 2-20 FA Regt. Soldiers are manning the joint security stations outside of Kut, and the 1-77 FA Regt. Soldiers are stationed in western Wasit.

"I haven't had any civil affairs training before," said 1st Lt. James Eoff, Battery A, 1-77 FA Regt., and a native of Allendale, N.J. "When we did our rotation to Grafenwoehr Training Area in Germany, we did a little key leader engagement training, but this is the first time I have done anything formally with civil affairs."

The training incorporated classroom instruction and practical exer-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

**Maj. Michael Whitescarver explains what the next class will be to Soldiers from 2-20 and 1-77 FA regiments at the civil affairs training on FOB Delta Dec. 27.**

cises, which required the Soldiers to apply the instruction received during the class.

In one scenario, Soldiers conducted a key leader engagement with a Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team interpreter playing the role of the key leader, forcing the Soldiers to practice using their own interpreter to communicate with the leader.

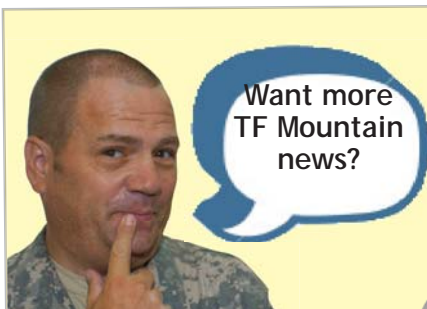
"The engagements are also important for you to see because it refreshes your mind on what to do and what not to do," said Eoff.

Major Michael Whitescarver, 490th CA Bn., from Heidelberg, Germany, was the officer-in-charge of the training and said that it is important for the Soldiers in the field to collect the

information that the different sections of the PRT need, in order to facilitate helping the people in Wasit.

"Hopefully this can become a training tool where maybe once a month or once every two months, they can come back in; and they can tell us about problems or issues they are having; and we can direct the training to focus more on what they need," said Whitescarver, who also serves as the Wasit PRT operations officer.

"I think ultimately the better the information that these Soldiers at the JSSs bring back to us so (that) we can analyze that information and use it; (it) will help make the mission a bigger success and maybe bring us home quicker," said Arnold.



Looking for back issues you might have missed?  
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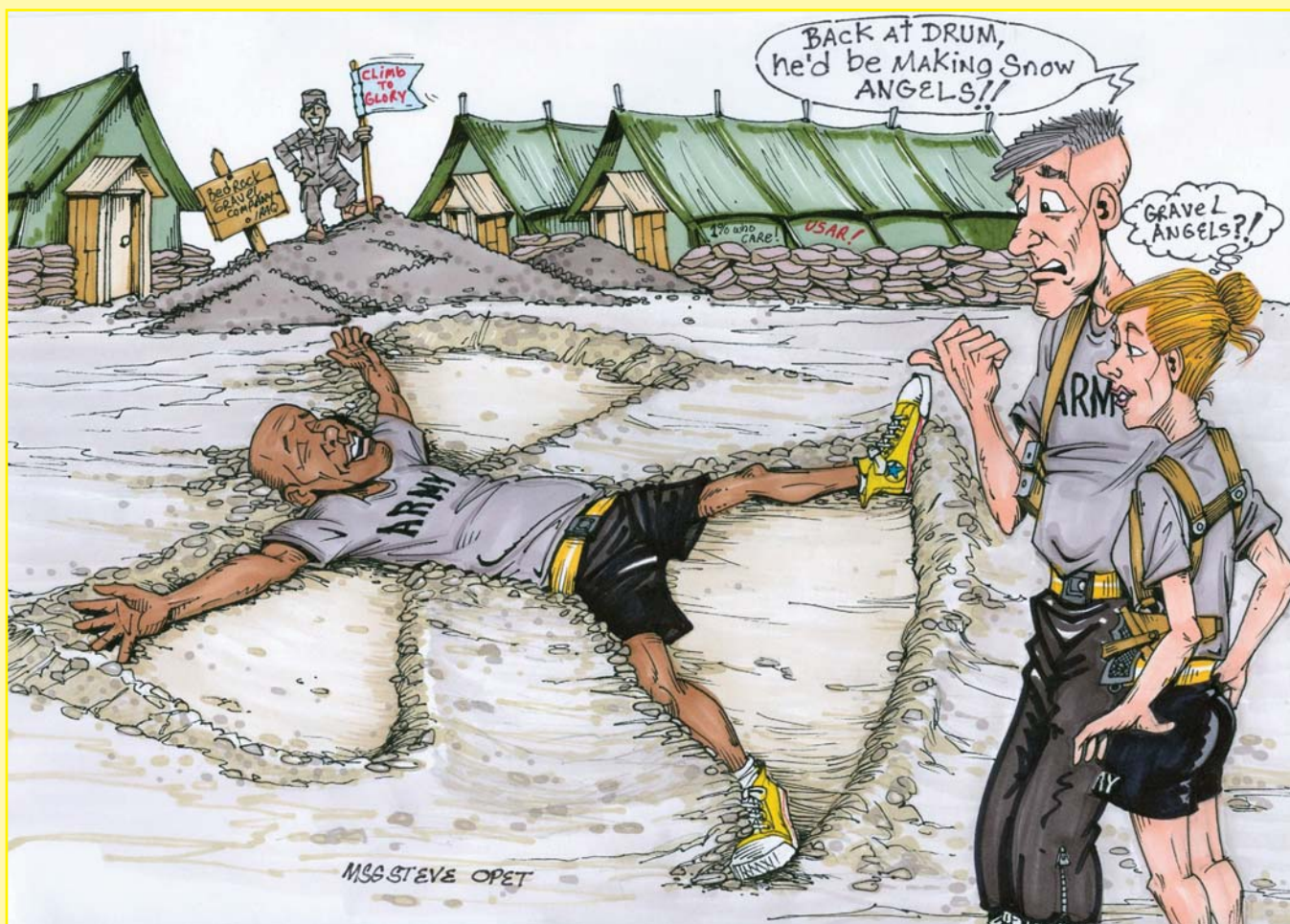
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# Headline Round-up

## World News:

Israeli tanks and troops swept across the border into Gaza Jan. 3, opening a ground war against the militant group Hamas after a week of intense airstrikes. Israel's stated goal was to destroy the infrastructure of Hamas, the militant Islamic group that controls Gaza's government, and the military warned that the campaign could take "many long days." The assault brings new risks and the prospect of many new casualties on both sides in a confrontation that, before this phase began, had already cost the lives of more than 430 Palestinians and 4 Israelis.

## U.S. News:

A new federal mining rule requires operators to provide hardened safe rooms where miners can await rescue if they are trapped underground by a cave-in, fire or other accident. Mine operators must also make coal mine conveyor belts flame-resistant. The rules, which will be implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety Health Administration, are the latest in a series of mining safety regulation changes prompted by a series of deadly accidents that killed 47 miners in 2006.

## Entertainment:

Surviving members of the Grateful Dead say they'll regroup for a 19-city tour, their first since 2004, beginning April 12 in Greensboro, N.C. The group, which now just calls itself The Dead, announced its plans Thursday. Original band members Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann have toured sporadically since the 1995 death of guitarist Jerry Garcia, but struggled to get along personally and artistically. They told Rolling Stone in November that they've worked out their differences, aided by a successful October benefit concert in Pennsylvania for then-presidential candidate Barack Obama. Warren Haynes joins the Dead on lead guitar, and Jeff Chimenti will play keyboards.

## Art:

The annual post-holiday doldrums in the New York City theater district are proving particularly doleful in 2009, as more than a dozen plays and musicals — almost half of the current lineup — get ready to close by the end of January.

## Quote of the Day

*"It's never just a game when you're winning."* — George Carlin

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## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?



Photo by Spc. Sophia R. Lopez

**"'Imitation of Life' because it's a good movie about race and being raised a mixed child,"** said Spc. Marion Fort, of Detroit, human resource specialist, Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Spc. Sophia R. Lopez

**"'Paper Moon' because my mom, sister and I used to watch it together a lot, and 'Riding in Cars with Boys' because the story can happen to anybody,"** said Pfc. Sara Catlin, of Victorville, Calif., human resource specialist, Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division.