

# WARHORSE



# RIDER

*Serving the Soldiers, Civilians and Families of 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.*

*Vol. 1, Issue 5*

*Feb. 2009*



***Iraqi Security Forces celebrate  
birthdays of Police, Army***

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## On the Cover:

Iraqi Police bearing their nation's flags march across the parade field during a celebration of IP Day in downtown Diwaniya Jan. 8.

photo by Pfc. Seth Barham,  
2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO

# Warhorse Sends: Movement of Units Update



The Warhorse Brigade is once again in transition to provide combat power where needed in Iraq. The 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment has been notified that they will move from their current locations to Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul.

Mosul has become the main effort for MND-N and the division has chosen 1-67 AR to assist in that effort. The Death Dealers will be moving over the course of the next several weeks. The entire team and I appreciate the support of our Families during this transition.

The quality of life at the new FOB is a definite improvement for our Soldiers and allows the battalion to be located at one location instead of being spread out across three. FOB Marez offers great amenities

such as a large gym, great DFAC and laundry service.

We would ask that families not send mail during this transition. We will notify you once the move is complete, which we currently estimate as being mid-February. This will minimize loss of mail during transition.

We will post the new APO address on the vFRG Website once we receive it. EML Leave could also be affected by this transition. LTC Casey is doing his best to minimize any changes; however he has identified about five leaders that will need to change their EML dates to finish this move.

I appreciate your participation in the monthly Town Halls and encourage you to continue to attend. Our next Town Hall is January 27, 2009 at 1800 in the McMahon Theater.

If you have questions that you would like for me to answer, please e-mail them to [connie.kallerson@conus.army.mil](mailto:connie.kallerson@conus.army.mil).

I will continue to provide updates on the Warhorse Brigade throughout our deployment.

Remember, if you did not hear it from me, the chain of command or the Warhorse Rear Detachment then it is only a rumor. Please continue to visit the Warhorse vFRG website to get the latest information.

We are Warhorse!

HENRY A. KIEVENAAR, III  
COL, AR  
Commander

# WARHORSE



# RIDER

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Do you have a story to share? The *Warhorse Rider* welcomes articles, commentary, and photos from readers.

The *Warhorse Rider* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

Submissions and requests for further information should be emailed to the editor: [carlos.burger@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:carlos.burger@iraq.centcom.mil).



# 204th clerks keep vehicles in the fight

By Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Not all Soldiers deployed in Iraq spend time roaming the streets on patrol or providing assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces.

The Soldiers of Bravo Company, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, don't spend their days winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Instead, they are the unsung heroes, providing the thankless tasks of receiving and distributing parts to keep the vehicles moving.

The prescribed load list, or PLL clerks do ordering, receiving, processing and distribution of repair parts and expendable items for the Battalion, said Sgt. Lucas Waite, shop office noncommissioned officer in charge, and native of Iowa City, Iowa.

The five-member team picks up parts from warehouses and gets them moved to the mechanics. They also support the brigade by completing several hundred work order requests a month, added the 27-year old Waite, who is on his first deployment.

Although their job doesn't get a lot of fanfare, Waite and his team believe in their contribution to the war effort.

"I think what we're doing is important to the fight, because we're a key part in keeping the equipment up to par and it helps the Soldiers so they can do their mission and not have to worry about their equipment breaking down on them," Waite said.

"I think we do a lot for the brigade, we are the ones who get the parts moved around to the FOB. I think if we're not the most important units (in the brigade), we're one of them," added Spc. Leonardo Ochoa, a former Marine turned supply specialist from Colorado Springs, Colo.


One of the factors for this shop's success is that despite the fact that they are a young group, they have come together to accomplish the mission.

"We have a good relationship, we're all very professional, and we don't play around much," said the 33-year-old Ochoa, who is on his second tour in Iraq.

"I thought (doing the job) was gonna be a lot tougher and dangerous than it is, but everyone I work with has made it easier for me. I enjoy it; the team we work with makes things so easy," said Pfc. Venus Ulrich, a

supply clerk from Mobile, Ala.

"We're a tight knit group. We're work hard to get the job done," added Waite.

Although their job isn't as 'glamorous' as others, the PLL clerks of Bravo Co., continue to perform their duties to keep the vehicles moving and supplying the items to keep the warriors focused on the battlefield. 



Chief Warrant Officer Tony Bryant, a battalion maintenance technician, and Spc. Jackie Kinsley, an automated supply clerk, locate a part for a customer. Bryant hails from Iva, S.C., and Kinsley is a native of Colorado Springs, Colo.



**Pfc. Matthew Purcell, Shadow air vehicle operator, completes the final preflight inspection of an RQ-7B Shadow TUAV before takeoff at Forward Operating Base Kalsu. Purcell is a native of Hot Springs Village, Ariz.**

## 2nd STB Soldiers keep TUAVs flying

**By Capt. Andrew Camp**  
2nd STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

**T**actical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are inextricably linked with Army operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although relatively new additions to the Army inventory, TUAVs provide commanders with real-time video to observe targets and determine the position and movements of enemy units on the battlefield.

The TUAV Platoon, Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, operates the RQ-7B Shadow TUAV in support of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in Najaf and Qadisiyah provinces.

“Prior to 2004, Army TUAVs were consolidated at Division level and above,” said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Trayer, TUAV platoon sergeant. “With the Army’s move towards modularity, Shadow TUAV platoons are assigned

to each Brigade’s military intelligence company. This gives the brigade its’ own organic aerial reconnaissance and surveillance assets.”

Since their arrival in September, the platoon has flown over 240 missions in support of not only the 2BCT Soldiers, but also Iraqi Army and Police units. The real-time video provided by the Shadow has been used to support Iraqi patrols, raids and to provide observation for security of major cultural and religious events, such as the Ashura pilgrimages from Najaf to Karbala, said Trayer, a native of Frankfort, Mich..

“Supporting the (Iraqi Security Forces) is one of our most important missions. Until the Iraqi Army fields their own TUAVs, we can continue to provide aerial reconnaissance and surveillance support to meet the intelligence needs of the ISF,” he added.

Shadow operations are conducted from Bobby Mendez Army Airfield at

FOB Kalsu. The site was unofficially named in honor of Company A’s First Sergeant who was killed in an improvised explosive device attack April 27, 2006.

All Shadow operators are enlisted Soldiers, most of whom are in their first two years of military service. The air vehicle operator and the payload operator control all onboard systems from a vehicle-mounted ground control station.

“Although operated remotely, the Shadow is still an aircraft and the operators are pilots in every sense of the word,” said Sgt. Andrew Dickenson, TUAV platoon instructor and operator and a native of Tempe, Ariz. “That’s an incredible responsibility for a young Soldier - to be in control of a US Army aircraft in combat.”







Local Iraqis line up outside of Patrol Base Doria for their chance to be validated and become part of the Sons of Iraq, a system that is changing the face of the country.

## 1-67 provides security through Sol Partnerships

By 1st Lt. Jim Gentile  
1-67AR, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Even though the time spent in Iraq by the Soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has been short, the impact made by these Soldiers gives the impression they have been working with Iraqis for years.

'Team Bonesaw' conducted integration operations in the Rashaad Valley, to the south of Kirkuk City, from Dec. 14 - 21. The focus of the operation was to validate numbers for the Kirkuk Province Sons of Iraq, one of the critical parts to improving security in the region.

The SoI has been tremendously successful in curtailing the frequency of attacks on Coalition Forces while providing a stimulus to the local economy by creating a multitude of jobs. The SoI was first developed as a program funded by Coalition Forces to recruit local Iraqis, many of whom were former insurgents, to help support the fight to secure their country.

The program not only bolstered the security numbers for many areas in Iraq, but it also helped Coalition Forces take some insurgents off the

streets and transform them to the benefit of Iraq.

The SoIs man checkpoints along the roads running throughout the country. Since the inception of this program, people who were once too afraid to travel at night are now traveling feeling more secure from kidnappings, IEDs, and thievery. Usually, a local Sheik serves as the contractor who will manage sometimes several hundred SoI, handling everything from paychecks to security of checkpoints.

"As we patrol our sector, we see these Iraqis standing guard day or night, good weather or bad," said Pfc. Diego Cortez, a gunner for first platoon. "I get the impression that they care as much about security as we do."

Recently, members of Bravo Co., 1st platoon conducted a mission to help improve the security of these checkpoints while making it easier to travel down main highways.


"Putting earth-filled barriers in place along the highways forces traffic to slow down so it can't hurt the security," said Pfc. Andrew Smith. "Our mission to improve the checkpoints essentially made it easier for the Sons of Iraq to inspect vehicles that might be transporting weapons or bombs."

Barriers and towers are positioned

at strategic points along the highways facilitating the SoI's mission to provide security to areas such as the Rashaad Valley. The degree of difficulty that insurgents must go through to accomplish their mission now outweighs the benefits due to the vigilant Sons of Iraq.

"This job gives us a steady income and makes us feel honorable," a SoI member said during a checkup.

While the SoI are currently led and funded by the Coalition Forces, in the coming months, the program will be transitioning over to the control of the Iraqi Army. The transition means that Coalition Forces will no longer fund the SoI nor will they be responsible for helping to maintain and support their operations. These responsibilities will then fall on the Iraqi Army, which is an important step for the status of operations in Iraq. It will show the progress of the IA as they continue to be responsible for more and more of their own security.

Bravo Co. has been patrolling the roads of the Valley for over three months now and continues the fight against the insurgency due to their partnership with the SoI. 

## Soldier Spotlight



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Orellana, maintenance technician for 3-16 FA, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., speaks to one of his Soldiers in the motor pool at CSC Scania Jan. 13.

### 3-16 Soldier finds freedom in U.S., fights for freedom in Iraq

By Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

American Soldiers fight for freedom. It is part of the Soldier's Creed: "I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life." It is more than a word, more than an ideal. It is a way of life.

It is something that all Americans cherish. To much of the world, freedom and America are synonymous. Since the birth of the nation, people have flocked to its shores to taste its freedom. Centuries later, freedom continues marching across the continents, bridging the world, awakening people to new possibilities and brighter futures.

Americans old and new, who understand how priceless it is, find themselves wishing to spread it to places where freedom is still only a whispered thing; a dream. For those who grew up in a world of repression, freedom, once found, can be a powerful inspiration; something to fight for.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Orellana, maintenance technician for 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, currently deployed to Convoy Support Center Scania, found his freedom in the U.S., and now fights so that Iraqis may enjoy what he has come to cherish.

He was born in El Salvador, the son of a successful politician. Life was good. He went to good schools, dressed well, ate well and strived to excel in school for the sake of his father's pride. But his young and sheltered naivety of the world was soon to be taken from him at a painful price.

"Life changed for me very quickly in 1983. I was 13. One day my father came in and told us to pack our stuff because his political party had lost the elections."

He said during that time the political climate was dangerously volatile, and to lose the elections meant that members of the fallen political party often had to flee for their lives.

"Next thing, we're running away from the house and my father got abducted for about 15 days."

After anxious waiting, the Orellana Family received an anonymous call early in the morning telling them where his father was. They found him dead after having been brutally tortured. Young Orellana's world that had begun to topple now shattered.

"My priorities in life changed. I was into revenge: getting back at the bad guys who did that to my dad and split up my family when everybody fled. The main thing after graduating high school at 16 years old was to join the military so I could pay them back. It was purely rage and hate motivated."

His mother had been taking care of him when he joined the military against her advice.

"It's funny because you have plans in life to be this or that. My father never wanted me to be a Soldier. He wanted me to be an intellectual," said Orellana.

"I became a second lieutenant in the infantry in 1986. We trained for about three months. After that they sent us to the jungles." He admitted that being only 16 and having come from a more comfortable background, being sent to combat was somewhat frightening.

"Sometimes as I was coming down in the choppers, dropping into a hot (landing zone), I was thinking: what did I get myself into?" He said it was a turbulent time. Of the 45 officers in his graduating class, only six are still alive. "They were really good guys and I still remember their names like it was yesterday."

A few years after joining, he was wounded.

"I got shot in one of the operations. We were supposed to cordon an area. I had a lead man that didn't want to take point. Instead of disciplining him, I took lead point. There was somebody waiting and I got shot by a 14-year old kid, a guerrilla member. He was a scout and he shot me point blank with a .357."



The boy dropped the weapon after firing. When they later examined the weapon, they found that Orellana took a normal round, whereas the remaining rounds were hollow-point.

“So I got hit with the only bullet that wasn’t hollow-point. It knocked me on my side. I was in extreme pain, in shock. I tried to get up but it was impossible. I was paralyzed for a time. The doctors believed it actually hit my spinal cord. I got hit in the pelvis and the bullet bounced up about an inch off my spinal cord.

“Thank God he saved me from that one. It was an experience.” After he recovered, he said he turned his eyes back to reentering the Army; back to vengeance.

“Just like any other Soldier who is committed, I wanted to go back to my guys, but my mother was tired of all the violence in El Salvador.”

At that point in 1989, his mother had a business in Florida and convinced Orellana to go to the states, at least for a time, to think about his options rather than going back to into the El Salvadorian Army.

“She was right. I came to the states and started going to school and started learning about history. The more I read, the more admiration I had for the United States. I started thinking that if I am willing to put my life on the line for a country that can’t get straight because (it) keeps on changing power, how much can I do for a country that endorses the freedom that any good human being in the world is craving.

“I cannot say enough. Seeing my mother progress economically in the states, I felt it was a duty for me, on behalf of my Family, to go ahead and serve. Due to my father’s ideals, even though he didn’t want me being a Soldier, I always came to the conclusion that you cannot be truly a citizen unless you are willing to put your life on the line to support the country that gives you your freedom and your life.

“I got intoxicated with freedom. I made the states my country. All the freedoms that we have are just amazing. That’s why I serve and put up with not being with my Family. I love my kids and my wife.”

America had been good to him and those he loved. He said he wanted to serve, not because of the hate and revenge that drove his earlier military career, but out of love for his country.

He said the Army also takes care of its own, including the Family members. Because of that reason and his wife’s strength and capabilities, he said he trusts that his Family will be okay. It was also in the states, after joining the Army, that he met his wife, Julie. They have two daughters, 7-year-old Theresa and 3-year-old Isobel. They now call Killeen, Texas, home but currently live in Fountain, Colo.

“I’m here not worrying about my Family down there because she is an excellent wife and mom. Without her I wouldn’t be able to do my mission here. It makes me more

effective and focused on the mission.”

He joined the U.S. Army in 1992 with the rank of private as a fuel and electric repair specialist. He said when he was in Basic Training, he couldn’t sleep for a week, because he was afraid that the drill sergeants would wake them in the middle of the night and beat them to toughen them up, as he experienced in El Salvador. The differences in the two armies amazed him.

“This Army doesn’t (focus) on how weak you were before. It is focused on what you can do now and later.” He said the American Army is strong because it lets its Soldiers be strong and improve for their own sakes as well as the Army’s. “It’s a wonderful Army. It respects human rights (and) opinions.”

He worked his way up to sergeant first class. He was ready to finish his time in service, but opted instead to become a maintenance warrant officer in 2004. He said he has no regrets about his decision and enjoys his job.

From the start of his time in America, he began changing rapidly, letting his old hatred and drive for revenge begin to fade. In America, he also found his faith in God, which washed away his remaining anger and enmity. His faith and the freedom that grants him to follow it, has driven his desire to see other countries experience the fruits of freedom.

He deployed in 2003 with the push into Iraq and operated in Fallujah. In 2005 he was sent to Najaf and Kalsu. This is his third deployment to Iraq.


Orellana spends time almost every day speaking with the Iraqis from around the area. He drinks chai tea and eats with them often, sharing talk about topics that span from their Families to the development of Iraq.

“It gets pretty old, coming year after year,” admitted Orellana, especially since it separates him from his loved ones. “But when you see the progress, it helps you feel good. These people have suffered so much and for them to get more freedom, it’s worth it. We have an enemy committed to our destruction and you know what? They better watch out because we have people more committed to the mission.

“Being a Soldier now is not a job, it’s a commitment. If you don’t see it as a commitment, you’re not going to be good at it. It’s up to you what kind of impact you want to make. You’ve just got to care.

“When you hear them tell you it’s better now for the Iraqis, for the kids and there is more freedom, it makes it better. You kind of get choked up a little bit because you start thinking: I’m part of it. I’m helping to bring freedom,” he said.

He expressed confidence in his hope that after Coalition forces leave Iraq, the Iraqis will live in peace and their freedoms will blossom.

“... And that is priceless,” said Orellana. 





Capt. Adam Clements, commander, Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., reviews a target with Iraqi Highway Patrol leaders during pistol marksmanship training at Combat Outpost 4 in Diwaniya Jan. 4. Clements comes from Fishers, Ind.

## 2-8IN, IHP conduct pistol marksmanship training

By Sgt. Rodney Foliente,  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

Members of the Iraqi Highway Patrol conducted 9 mm pistol marksmanship training at Combat Outpost 4 in Diwaniya Province Jan. 3-4.

Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, assisted in training the IHP noncommissioned officers to coach their fellow Policemen and offered additional advice during the training.

"We're trying to build a basic course for the fundamentals of pistol marksmanship; a solid base for them to start with," said Staff Sgt.

Shawn Cannon, tank commander, 1st Platoon, Co. D, 2-8 IN.

"The training gives a basic fundamental for them, whether they are firing pistols or rifles," he said, emphasizing proper stance, breathing control, trigger squeeze, proper grip of the weapon and sight picture and alignment."

"They're starting to follow our structure with (noncommissioned officers) leading in training them." In the past, he said they always followed a structure where the officers led and trained the other Patrolmen.

"The training went well. The guys we taught will help teach the others in the future," said Cannon, who calls Centerville, Md., home and is a proud member of the American Legion Post 18.

He said that since their platoon began working to professionalize the IHP in December, the overall training and working relationship has been going well.

"Our job is to protect the highway and the (surrounding) areas. We send many patrols to check the area and keep it secure. We protect the travelers along the highway and those who work and live nearby," said Maj. Kassan, an IHP, through a translator.

"This training gives them more practice with the pistol and allows them to progress in their overall Police skills," said Kassan. He said he appreciates working with the 2-8 IN Soldiers and looks forward to continuing working together.

The IHP is getting better and better, but still need the additional training



they are receiving from U.S. Soldiers, said Sgt. Hassan, an IHP, through a translator. He said the Iraqi people know that when the Americans train the Iraqi Security Forces, those forces become better and the local people trust those ISF units more.

"When the Iraqi people see us working with the Americans, they respect us more because they know we are getting better at our jobs," said Hassan, who fired a pistol for the first time during the training.

The training offered the first opportunity for many of the IHP to fire a pistol, since the AK-47 rifle is their primary weapon and pistols were primarily used by only the officers under Saddam's regime.

"The training is very good, because it helps us to be more prepared to deal with bad guys," said Hassan. He said that now he feels more confident in firing a pistol and better understands the advantages and disadvantages of the AK-47 and pistol.

In different situations, one would be

more preferable to the other. Also, understanding the weapons better allows him to know more of what to expect from an attacker presenting either weapon, said Hassan.


All of these factors better equip him to do his job as a protector of the Iraqi people, he said.

"This training helps us protect our people, fellow Policemen and ourselves against terrorists and criminals," agreed Sgt. Faras, an IHP, through a translator. "We want to arrest the bad guys and keep the peace." This was his second time to fire a pistol.

"I became a Patrolman to protect my country and keep the people safe,"

said Faras. He said he is happy to serve his people and for the job security. He said Iraqis who want to serve, improve their country and need work, should look into joining one of the Police branches.

He said Iraqis must be the ones who ultimately clean up Iraq and that it will take the cooperation of the people to maintain peace and build a prosperous future. He has been a Patrolman for five years. Prior to that, he used to sell produce in the markets.

"I like doing my job, protecting my country and my people," said Hassan. "We are all working to build a better Iraq, and I am sure Iraq will continue to get better, safer and (more quiet)." 

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***"The training gives basic fundamentals for them, whether they are firing pistols or rifles. They're starting to follow our structure with (noncommissioned officers) leading in training them."***

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*Staff Sgt. Shawn Cannon  
tank commander, 1st Platoon, Co. D, 2-8 IN.*

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Smoke and brass shells fly as members of the Iraqi Highway Patrol fire 9 mm pistols during training at Combat Outpost 4 in Diwaniya Province Jan. 3. The training is a part of a train-the-trainer program for the NCOs to teach their fellow patrolmen the basic fundamentals of pistol marksmanship.



Photo by Pfc. Seth Barham, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Hamid Musa Amad al-Khudari, governor of Quadisyah province, speaks to the Iraqi people during Iraqi Police Day Jan. 8.

# IRAQI SECURITY FORCES CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF IRAQI ARMY, POLICE

By Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II & Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

Leaders from Quadisyah province, the 8th Iraqi Army Division, and Coalition Forces came together to celebrate the Iraqi Army's 88th birthday at Camp Diwaniya Jan. 6.

"Today is the anniversary of establishing the army of Iraq. In this celebration, we stand against terrorism in all its categories and remember all those who sacrificed their lives for the country," said

Brig. Gen. Jamil Kamil Abda Allh, 8th IA Div., deputy commander during his remarks. Hamid Musa Amad al-Khudari, governor of Quadisyah province served as one of ceremony's guest speakers.

"Generally, it is a great occasion and I pray to Allah to bless us and you during this ninth day of Ashura," he said.

Col. Butch Kievenaar, commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division also spoke during the ceremony.

"We are honored to be able to

partner with you and to continue to develop our friendship and strategic partnership as you protect the people of Iraq. In our Army, when Soldiers share together in battle, their partnership is never broken. No matter where we are or where we go, from this day forward, we will always be brothers in arms," he said.

During the ceremony, the IA Soldiers read scriptures from the Qur'an and recited poetry. Jamil also received a plaque, on behalf of the IA, from Khudari to commemorate the occasion.



## **Iraqi Police Day celebrated**

The city of Diwaniya held a celebration for Iraqi Police Day at the downtown parade field Jan. 8.

The ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Safa Jassim, provincial director of police, with the governor of Diwaniya and provincial council members among the guests of honor in attendance.

“We appreciate the hard work of the Iraqi Police. They do an outstanding job. We congratulate them and honor their anniversary,” said Gov. Hamid al-Khudari, during the ceremony.

Local policemen from the different branches paraded before their audience in marching formations or rode in vehicles, followed by members of the fire department.

Some of the police elements also

put on demonstrations during the ceremony.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team demonstrated apprehending a group of criminals who were driving in a vehicle.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team then demonstrated diffusing an improvised explosive device, followed by a performance by the martial arts team, who also formed a human pyramid, with the Iraqi flag proudly waving at its peak.

Heaters and blankets were also presented to the Family members of fallen policemen, who were honored for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

“The IP are progressing. They’re doing very well. They’ve come a tremendous way from what they were a few years ago especially, but even

from a few months ago,” said Lt. Col. Douglas Cardinale, commander, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The battalion is currently working to help professionalize the IP.

“The IP are extremely important to the security of Iraq. The IP are the ones that the populace has the most contact with, even more so than the Iraqi Army eventually,” said Cardinale.

The current plan will eventually place the IA outside of the city, leaving most of the security responsibility for within the city, he said.

“The IP are what give the populace that security blanket, just like back at home, when you see a Police officer on the street, you know that area is more secure,” said Cardinale. 🇮🇶



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div PAO

**Brig. Gen. Jemil Kamil Abda Allh, 8th Iraqi Army Div., deputy commander, receives a plaque, on behalf of the IA, from Hamid Musa Amad al-Khudari, governor of Quadisiyah province, to commemorate the 88th anniversary of the IA.**





## Around AO Warhorse



Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, roar with laughter during a comedy show at Combat Outpost 4 in Diwaniya Province Jan 6. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.



Rachel Smith, 2007 Miss USA, and actresses Christine Lakin and DeAnna Pappas sign autographs and meet with Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during the Ambassadors of Hollywood Tour at Camp Echo Jan. 9.. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.





Staff Sgt. David Fine of Phoenix, and 2nd Platoon, Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division looks at a market display during a joint patrol with Iraqi police officers in Haswah, Iraq on Jan. 13. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner, Combat Camera.



Maj. Gen. Jeffery W. Hammond, commander of 4th Inf. Div., and Multinational Division – Baghdad, talks to the troops before recognizing several 2nd BCT Soldiers during his visit. Soldiers from 2nd Special Troops Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment received coins of excellence from the general. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.





Sgt. Troy Stiner, military working dog handler, 163rd Military Police Detachment, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., and attached to Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, uses a verbal command to release Staff Sgt. Ruby, an explosive detection and attack dog, during an attack demonstration at Camp Echo Jan. 7. Stiner calls Pittsburg, Pa., home and has been Ruby's handler for more than a year.

## Man's best friend: Military K9s help accomplish mission in Iraq

By Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

When service members are deployed and conducting patrols, they rely on their battle buddies to keep them safe and look to them for companionship. Some believe there is no better battle buddy than man's best friend.

Military dogs have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and deployed to combat theaters since World War I and continue to protect service members and civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The K9 team of Marines, Soldiers ... and dogs attached to

Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provide an extra level of vigilance and threat-detecting capabilities to the Warhorse Brigade, as well as a level of camaraderie that helps the service members feel more at home.

Each dog is trained to find explosives and weapons caches, as well as adding force protection and threat-seeking capabilities to the mission. Their very presence also brings a level of psychological deterrence to anyone considering an attack or any other threatening actions.

These loyal dogs search roadways, vehicles, open areas and buildings for threats. They get attached to units con-

ducting patrol missions and also assist with local security at Camp Echo, said Marine Staff Sgt. Chris Willingham, military working dog handler, Security Battalion, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and attached to STB. Willingham is the kennel master of the dog teams at Camp Echo.

"We've conducted joint dismounted patrols with the (Iraqi Security Forces), open area searches and conducted training to show how dogs can be implemented at the Iraqi check points," said Willingham.

"They have a newfound respect when they see our dogs work, the dogs in training, their obedience and see what they can do; what they



bring to the fight,” he said.

All dog handlers and their dogs receive time to bond and get to know each other as they train together and get certified as a team prior to deployment.

Each of the four dog teams consists of a dog handler and his dog. The dog and handler work together, sleep together and play together; they are always around each other. Each team forms a tight bond, and all together the four dogs and four handlers make up an impressive, yet companionable K9 unit. As the dog handlers say, each of the dogs appropriately outranks the handler by one grade.

### **Gunnery Sgt. Lucca**

“She’s a Marine as well. She actually outranks me. I have to stand at parade rest for her,” joked Willingham. His dog is named Gunnery Sgt. Lucca and she is a mix of Belgian Malinois and German Shepherd. “Lucca is smart, easy to train, extremely loyal and has a lot of personality.” They deployed together to Iraq in October, said Willingham.

He said that when a dog is in the front of a walking patrol and spots an IED or other threat, he feels a great deal of job satisfaction. Willingham said he is proud of Lucca, knowing that her actions and capabilities can save the lives of service members and civilians.

Willingham, who hails from Tuscaloosa, Ala., has been involved with training approximately 50 different dog handlers and dogs, and has been paired with two different dogs during his career.

He has been in the Marines for 10 years, nine of which as a dog handler. Lucca entered the military program more than two years ago and was quickly paired with Willingham. To the observer, it is obvious they share a strong bond and comfortable relationship.

“We’ve got a lot of loyalty between us. We’ve been together for two de-

ployments now and she saved my life a couple of times, so I’ve definitely got a tight bond with this dog,” he said affectionately, scratching and petting Lucca.

She lavished the attention, resting a paw upon his hand, grinning and showing off her large teeth. As he spoke, she constantly shifted her gaze between watching their surroundings and glancing at her handler.

“When you hear ‘man’s best friend’ you think of a dog that’s loyal and obedient. No matter what kind of day you might have, the dog is going to be there for you and vice versa, you’re always there for the dog,” said Willingham.

“The best part of being a dog handler is kind of two-fold. When it’s time to work, the implications of these dogs being successful means that Soldiers’ lives are being saved. On the other hand, in between missions it’s good to just let the dog be a dog, run around and bring a piece of home to the troops that you’re supporting. The dogs act

as a big morale boost the troops,” said Willingham.

When asked why he became a dog handler he replied with a laugh, “If someone told you you’d get paid to play with dogs, wouldn’t you take the job?”

### **Staff Sgt. Buddy**

“He’s a very happy-go-lucky guy and very friendly,” said Sgt. Tyler Barriere, military working dog handler, 163rd Military Police Detachment, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., and attached to STB. He added however, that Buddy can be aggressive when needed and any terrorist he found “would be pretty scared to see this 91-pound Belgian Malinois chasing after them.”

Buddy’s main job is to protect Soldiers and civilians against roadside bombs and thwart terrorist efforts by locating weapons caches. But in addi-

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Marine Gunnery Sgt. Lucca, an explosive detection dog and Marine Staff Sgt. Chris Willingham, military working dog handler, Security Battalion, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif, share a hug at Camp Echo Jan. 10. Willingham, who hails from Tuscaloosa, Ala., credits Lucca with saving his life twice on a previous deployment. The pair has been together for more than two years. Willingham is also the kennel master of the Camp Echo K9 team.



Marine Sgt. Posha, an explosive detection dog, sits with his partner, Marine Cpl. William Soutra, military working dog handler, Security Battalion, based out of Camp Pendleton, after a training demonstration at Camp Echo Jan. 7. Soutra comes from Worcester, Mass.

## Dogs, from page 15

tion to being an explosive detection dog, Buddy is trained as an attack dog, able to run down suspects and hold them for detention.

Staff Sgt. Buddy plopped down next to Barriere after leaping through windows during a search demonstration. Buddy has served for six years and Barriere has been a dog handler in the Army for two years. This is their first deployment together, arriving in Iraq in September. Barriere comes from Ithaca, N.Y.

“Good boy!” exclaimed Barriere, gently slapping Buddy’s sides. The encouragement caused his long tail to whip back and forth happily.

Buddy then sprinted after a thrown dog toy, catching it midair, before strolling back, his tail wagging even faster in a black and tan blur.

“I love being a dog handler,” said Barriere, with a huge smile. “I have a great relationship with Buddy. We spend all our time together and we’ve got a good bond. He’s always there if I come back from a stressful day and he cheers me up. There can’t be anything better than that.”

### Staff Sgt. Ruby

“She’s a lovable dog,” said Sgt. Troy Stiner, military working dog handler, 163rd MP Detachment, based out of Fort Campbell, and attached to STB. Staff Sgt. Ruby is also a Belgian

Malinois explosive detection and attack dog.

She wagged her tail, eager to be petted. Her calm and friendly demeanor or a stark contrast from moments earlier when she demonstrated her attack capabilities, leaping through the air in a flurry of teeth and claws to chomp down on another trainer’s protected arms. She can latch on with her strong jaws until ordered by her handler to release, sometimes held hanging in the air only by her tight grip.

Stiner said he and his dog are here to help save Soldiers’ and civilians’ lives by finding an IED before it detonates, locating weapons caches and finding terrorists before they can attack.

“She always wants to go to work.



She's got a high drive for it," said Stiner, proudly.

Ruby has been in the Army for seven years, as has Stiner, though he has only been a dog handler for more than two of those years. They have been together for more than a year and this is their first deployment together.

"We've got a pretty good relationship. We've been through a lot together. We depend on each other a lot. You get a stronger bond working with a dog than you do with another Soldier. The dog depends on you for its survival down here and you also depend on the dog to make sure you don't get hurt on missions," said Stiner, looking at his dog.

"I love my job. It's the best job in the military. No matter how mad I am about something that went wrong that day, I come home and she's always wagging her tail, happy to see me," said Stiner, who calls Pittsburg, Pa., home.

### **Sgt. Posha**

"He might not know it, but his job here is to save my life and the lives of others," said Marine Cpl. William Soutra, military working dog handler, Security Battalion, based out of Camp Pendleton, and attached to STB.

He has been a dog handler for more than two years, the same amount of time Marine Sgt. Posha has been serving. Soutra and his German Shepherd deployed together in October.

He said he loves being able to live with his dog and constantly be together, though he does like to share Posha with others to help brighten their days.

"Dogs are celebrities during deployment. Just taking him out in everyday life, whether it be the (Post Exchange) or laundry, everyone that walks by can't help but smile. I try to give everyone the benefit to pet him because it brings new life to people," said Soutra, who comes from Worcester, Mass.

The Soldiers they get attached to for missions love to have Posha along,

added Soutra. Not only is there an additional security and force protection element, but it brings enjoyment to the troops, especially those at the smaller bases.

Although this is their first deployment together, Soutra said the two of them make a great team.

"Me and Posha, I feel like we're the same. I've worked with four dogs. Posha's been a rough dog to other (dog handlers) in the past, but I got the opportunity to pick him up after my last deployment and we click like I think nobody else has. We fit well together," he said giving a gentle slap and petting his dog, which showed his appreciation by licking Soutra's hand.

"He depends on me for the everyday things, whether it be food, water or taking him out to play and (exercise)," said Soutra. Posha in turn,

watches Soutra's back.

He said he is glad to be Posha's handler and loves his job. The two lounged together, Posha still chomping on his dog toy after a round of fetch. A ready smile came to Soutra's face whenever he looked at his dog.

"Growing up, I always asked my mother for a dog and she told me I could never have a dog because I was too much to handle. I told her that I was going to join the Marine Corps and see if they'd give me a dog. A couple of years later, here we are," he said with a laugh.

He said he had no regrets about his choice. All the other handlers agreed with the sentiment. To all of them, it's the best job in the military. They also each work with the best dogs in the military. 🇺🇸



Staff Sgt. Buddy, an explosive detection and attack dog, stands tall to sniff a suspicious scent as Sgt. Tyler Barriere, military working dog handler, 163rd MP Det., based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., looks on during a search demonstration at Camp Echo Jan. 7. Barriere calls Ithaca, N.Y., home and has been with Buddy for more than a year.





Soldiers from Troop C, 1-10 CAV, line up to receive their combat patches during a ceremony at PB Mahawil in Babil Province Jan. 10.

## C troop, 1-10 Cav. hold combat patch ceremony

By Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

The Soldiers of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, held a combat patch ceremony at Patrol Base Mahawil in the Babil Province Jan. 10.

Although the troop's Soldiers began entering Iraq in September, the ceremony was delayed until they fell under the unit they are currently attached to: the 172nd BCT, based out of Schweinfurt, Germany.

"The combat patch symbolizes the brotherhood of veterans. Our Soldiers will wear it and know that they've been tested and know what they've accomplished. I'm glad they can wear them and be proud of what they've done," said 1st

Lt. James Guglielmi, platoon leader, Troop C, 1-10 CAV. He comes from Tampa, Fla., and this is his first deployment and combat patch.

"It gives esprit de corps and pride to me now that I have my combat patch. This patch allows me to show others that I've done something I am proud of: I've deployed and I've been to Iraq," said Pfc. Charles Ford, cavalry scout, Troop C, 1-10 CAV. This is also his first deployment and combat patch.


He said feels like he is a part of the heritage of deployed veterans, honoring those who fought for America throughout the country's history, said Ford, who is a history buff and enjoys participating in war reenactments.

The patch also reminds him that the American military could not accomplish their missions without all the supporters back home, continued Ford.

"We're supporting them as just as they're supporting us. We really appreciate all the positive encouragement," said Ford, who comes from Portland, Ore.

Even those who already wore a combat patch said that receiving a patch with this unit means a great deal to them, as individuals and as a team.

"The combat patch is a symbol of their commitment to their fellow Soldiers, unit and country and for their honorable service in a combat theater," said 1st Sgt. Robert Ferguson, Troop C, 1-10 CAV.

"They're the hardest working group of guys I've ever worked with," said Ferguson, who comes from Roanoke, Va. "They're definitely 'Steadfast and Loyal,'" he concluded, stating the division motto. 





Pfc. Cary Baker, light-wheel mechanic with Co. F, attached to Co. D, 2-8 IN, lubricates a vehicle's grease points at COP4 Jan. 5. Baker comes from Bloomington, Ind.

## 2-8 IN mechanics keep mission rolling

By Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Imagine Soldiers having to walk across Iraq to get to their missions, let alone accomplish them. They would not only have to carry their combat loads, which can be upwards of 80 pounds, but they would also have to carry extra water, food and equipment. It seems close to impossible to accomplish all of their missions, even for Soldiers.

That would be the case if Soldiers didn't have their vehicles to rely on. Behind each vehicle, which many Soldiers may take for granted, are the mechanics. Smeared with grease, smudged with grime, they do the dirty work to keep the wheels turning for their fellow Soldiers.

"We've got to put 100 percent into


our job because we've got to keep the whole fleet up. If we don't do our job well and if we fail, then our (fellow) Soldiers fail in their missions," said Spc. Marcelo Rodriguez, tank system mechanic with Company F, attached to Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at Combat Outpost 4 in Diwaniya.

"Without us, vehicles wouldn't be working and Soldiers wouldn't be doing patrols and accomplishing their missions," agreed Pfc. Kris Crites, tank mechanic, Co. F, attached to Co. D, 2-8 IN.

The job of maintenance is extremely important and their work contributes significantly to the success of their unit, said Crites, who comes from

Arcadia, Fla.

Crites described one of the things he likes best about his job: "I get dirty every day." He grinned, adding, "I like that. I also like to fix things; taking them apart and putting them back together." His curiosity got him in trouble when he was a child because he often took apart things the Family wanted or needed, continued Crites, with a laugh. When he got older, he joined the Army and continues to do what he has always enjoyed.

"There's pride in knowing you're keeping everything running. The other Soldiers depend on you," said Pfc. Cary Baker, light-wheel mechanic, Co. F, attached to Co. D, 2-8 IN. Baker comes from Bloomington, Ind. 



# **Sexual Assault is incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos**



## **The Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPRP)**

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