

# WARHORSE

Serving the Soldiers, Civilians and Families of 2BCT, 4ID



# RIDER

Vol. 1, Issue 6

Mar. 2009



MedOp, training brighten  
future for Iraqi children

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## On the Cover:

Staff Sgt. James Blake, 2nd BCT brigade healthcare noncommissioned officer, gives a stuffed animal to a small child at the Diwaniya Women's and Children's Hospital Feb. 19.

Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente,

# Warhorse Sends: 2nd BCT Relocation



**W**arhorse Soldiers and Families, the Warhorse Brigade has received orders for the brigade to relocate from Diwaniya within the next few months.

While the final task organization has yet to be finalized, I anticipate that the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Special Troops Battalion; and 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, will move with the brigade headquarters. The 204th Brigade Support Battalion has already begun their departure from Kalsu to Forward Operating Base Echo and will also move with the brigade.

The 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment will remain in Mosul

and the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, will remain at Convoy Support Center Scania in Babil.

As you can imagine, this move is very sensitive and I ask that the Warhorse Soldiers and Families not make this move public knowledge. While the enemy is greatly reduced in Iraq, there is still a real threat to our Soldiers. As we get closer to the move, I will provide additional information. It is my intent that Environmental Morale Leave will not be affected by this transition. I encourage Families to stop sending mail to FOB Echo by March 15, 2009 to ensure packages are not lost in transit.

I appreciate your participation in the monthly Town Halls and encourage you to continue to attend. I will be home on EML and will take your questions at the next Town Hall on March 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters, Building 1435. 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 Web site to get the latest information.

We are Warhorse!

HENRY A. KIEVENAAR, III  
COL, AR  
Commander

# WARHORSE



# RIDER

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The *Warhorse Rider* is produced in the interest of the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The *Warhorse Rider* is an Army-funded newsletter authorized under provision of AR 360-1.

Contents of The *Warhorse Rider* are not necessarily the views of, nor endorsed by the, U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 4th Infantry Division.

All editorial content of The *Warhorse*

*Rider* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 2nd Brigade Combat-Team Public Affairs Office.

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: [rodney.foliente@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:rodney.foliente@iraq.centcom.mil).



# **SOLDIER'S**



**I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.**

**I AM A WARRIOR & A  
MEMBER OF A TEAM.**

**I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF  
THE UNITED STATES  
& LIVE THE ARMY VALUES.**

**I WILL ALWAYS PLACE  
THE MISSION FIRST.**

**I WILL NEVER  
ACCEPT DEFEAT.**

**I WILL NEVER QUIT.**

**I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.**

**I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY TOUGH;  
TRAINED & PROFICIENT IN  
MY WARRIOR TASKS & DRILLS.  
I ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS,  
MY EQUIPMENT & MYSELF.**

**I AM AN EXPERT & I AM A PROFESSIONAL.**

**I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE &  
DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT.**

**I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM &  
THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.**

**I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.**

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Spc. Jacob McQuaid, Trojan SPIRIT operator, Co. A, STB, 2nd BCT performs an inspection on the system's satellite at Camp Echo Feb. 13. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO

## Pooling global intelligence for local fight

Story by Capt. Andrew Camp  
STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Counterinsurgency operations in Iraq require an unprecedented volume of intelligence from worldwide sources. For intelligence to be useful and relevant to a U.S. Army brigade combat team, it must be collected, analyzed and disseminated to Soldiers and their commanders, who will use it to make decisions on the battlefield.

Ensuring that worldwide intelligence and analysis makes its way to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is the responsibility of the military intelligence Satellite Communications Team, assigned to Company A of the 2nd BCT's Special Troops Battalion.

"The brigade gets intelligence from many different sources: national col-

lectors and analysts, as well as collectors and analysts here in theater," said Sgt. Larry Robinson, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the SCT. "Our mission is to provide satellite communications and networking to make that information available to the brigade commander and his intelligence staff."

Information collected in the brigade's area of operations may not be immediately useful in Diwaniya, but might provide a crucial piece of the puzzle to an Iraqi Army brigade commander in Mosul. Likewise, U.S. and allied intelligence agencies anywhere in the world may hold information crucial to the 2nd BCT's operations.

"We send an incredible amount of data in both directions," said Robinson, whose three-Soldier team supervises and maintains the brigade's

intelligence data and voice link. "Our team supports the brigade's information needs, and also provides the information we collect to the intelligence communities of the U.S. and our allies in Iraq and worldwide."

The SCT uses a dedicated communications and networking system, the Trojan Special Purpose Integrated Remote Intelligence Terminal. Consisting of a humvee-mounted satellite receiver and support shelter, Trojan SPIRIT provides a mobile, dedicated data and voice communications link to U.S. intelligence agencies and collection assets around the globe.


Intelligence analysts by trade, the Soldiers assigned to the SCT were required to learn an entirely new set of skills to keep the Trojan SPIRIT equipment functioning properly.

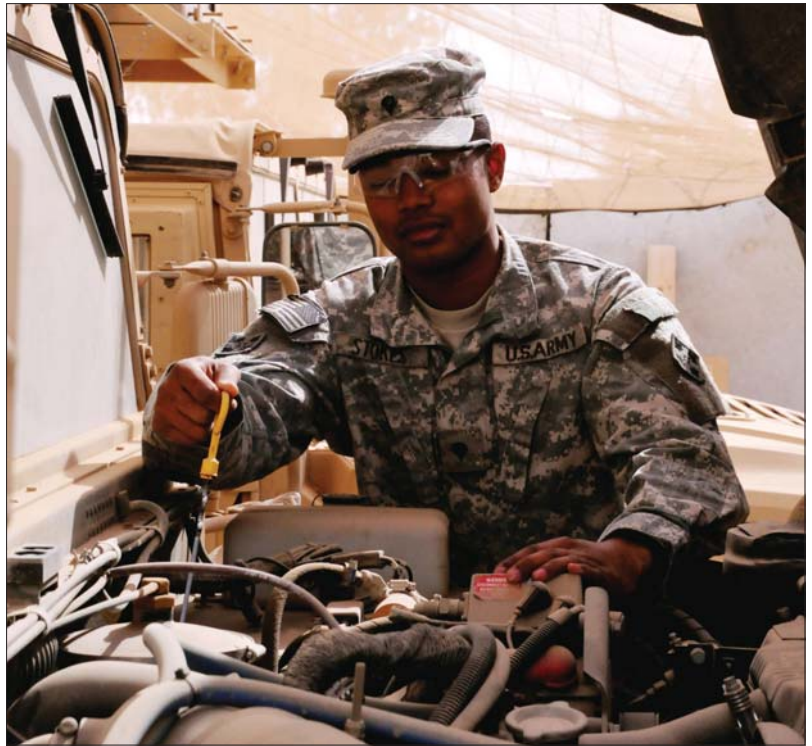
"Being on this team requires a more



technical level of proficiency than our normal duties as analysts. A Trojan SPIRIT operator needs to know how to operate and maintain the system, operate generators, coordinate with civilian agencies to secure network time, maintain data networks and troubleshoot any interruptions to the data flow, as well as supervise the encryption and security of the data we process,” said Robinson, who comes from Fayetteville, N.C.

“Trojan SPIRIT operators are in a duty position that requires significant initiative and skill,” said Warrant Officer Jason Glassow, the headquarters platoon leader for Co. A. He is responsible for the brigade’s intelligence communications and integration assets, including the SCT. “The Satellite Communications Team has done an outstanding job over the past four months of operations in theater and our junior noncommissioned officers have stepped up to take the lead in keeping information flowing.”

Operating without a single unscheduled service interruption since emplacement at the Brigade Tactical Operations Center, the team ensures that pertinent information is available when and where it is needed. 



*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*

**Spc. Craig Stokes, Trojan SPIRIT operator, Co. A, STB, 2nd BCT, performs a routine inspection on the humvee, upon which the satellite is mounted at Camp Echo Feb. 13.**



*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*

**Sgt. Larry Robinson, Trojan SPIRIT NCOIC, Co. A, STB, 2nd BCT, performs a routine inspection on the system at Camp Echo Feb. 13.**





*Photo courtesy of 204th BSB*

Sgt. Keithon Cox (lower left) of Co. A, 204th BSB, keeps a watchful eye as Spc. Tin Quach secures one of the unit's all-terrain and Spc. Benjamin Spencer (upper left) ties down the mini-bulldozer to the rear of the trailer vehicles before movement from FOB Kalsu to Camp Echo recently.

## Roughriders move from Kalsu to Echo

Story by Spc. Josh LeCappelain  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Soldiers from the 204th Brigade Support Battalion have recently begun to relocate from Forward Operating Base Kalsu to Camp Echo, where the rest of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division is located.

Maj. Thomas P. Bryant, 204th BSB operations officer and a native of Silver Creek, Miss., said that the move is being made to better support 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. operations, but that their mission will not change at all.

"Being collocated is a good thing," said Bryant, adding that cooperation will be easier because "we're not in two different FOBs."

Soldiers who have already arrived at Camp Echo said that they are excited about the new location and being with more of the brigade.


"I like Camp Echo a lot," said Spc. Evan Rector, a 204th BSB equipment repairer, and a native of Tullahoma, Tenn. "It has a lot of the amenities that you can find back home."

Rector, who arrived at Camp Echo in December, said the move had

improved morale and helped bring everyone closer.

He added that 204th BSB Soldiers have worked steadily on improving their new headquarters building, tearing everything down to the concrete floors and walls and rebuilding to meet their demands and needs.

"I'm impressed so far," said Bryant, a graduate of Alcorn State University. "I'm amazed at ... (the level of) enthusiasm and what Soldiers can do."

Bryant believes the entire battalion will have relocated and be operational at Camp Echo by mid-March. 



# 204th BSB brings down the walls ...

## ... and dust ...

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Cooper, 204th BSB*

## ... to prepare new HQ at Echo

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Cooper, 204th BSB*

**ABOVE:** Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Barteau, 204th BSB, swings a hammer to knock down a wall of their headquarters complex amidst storm of dust motes, which reflect the light of a flash at Camp Echo Feb. 13.

**BELOW:** A 204th BSB Soldier swings a hammer to knock down a wall of their new headquarters complex amidst storm of dust motes, which reflect the light of a flash at Camp Echo Feb. 13.





Story & photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Sgt. Raymond Voitik, combat medic, HHC, 1-67 AR, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., in Kirkuk, shows his two-and-a-half year old scars from a bullet wound. He was shot July 27, 2006 during his first deployment and received the Purple Heart and the Combat Medic Badge for treating his own wound.

When Soldiers on the battlefield get injured, they rely upon their trusted medics to patch them up. Combat medics are always there; ready to treat any of their Soldiers, regardless of personal risk.

But what happens when the medic takes a bullet?

In the case of one such medic, he had to rely upon himself for treatment and stay calm to instruct another Soldier to help him.

Sgt. Raymond Voitik, combat medic, is approximately halfway through his second deployment, but he will always remember and draw strength and courage from the memory of his injury during his first deployment to Iraq.

At the time of his injury he was with 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and was deployed from November 2005 to November 2006.

"I was stationed at Camp Taji in 2006. I was out at a patrol base on July 27 and we were relaxing while another patrol was out," said the Joliet, Ill., native. He was outside when the base started taking small arms fire.

"A round hit me on my right arm and I took off running into the building where my aid bag was." He said he was in partial shock but was also so calm that people didn't even notice he was wounded at first. With other Soldiers rush-

ing to provide security and counter-fire, he began treating himself. Another Soldier looked up and was surprised to see blood all over Voitik and asked what had happened.

"That's what happens when you get shot," Voitik jokingly said to the other Soldiers, holding up his bloody arm. "They all stopped what they were doing. I had one engineer Soldier help wrap me up. I showed him how, told him what to grab out of my bag and told him what to do. We worked together as a team.

"I was a little scared at first that I might lose my hand, but soon I was able to move my fingers and there was a lot of pain. There were 101 things going through my head at the time, but I had to make sure I had the bleeding stopped first."

He said the event of his injury is something he will never forget and he can always remember it with pride.

"I got a Purple Heart for the injury and a Combat Medic Badge for treating myself."

He was the only one hurt during the small arms attack. Another attack came in the form of two mortars, but no one was hurt. He was then transferred to Baghdad for treatment.

"The treatment I received was outstanding." They numbed him up and passed a (cotton swab) through the hole to make sure the bullet was not still there.





Sgt. Raymond Voitik, combat medic, HHC, 1-67 AR, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., treats an infected insect bite on a Soldier's hand in Kirkuk.

"It went straight through," he said with amusement and professional interest in the procedures of his treatment. Even injured, he said he was trying to learn what he could about how injuries are treated at the next level of expertise.

"The x-rays came back showing no broken bones or arteries hit, which was a close thing. I was very lucky that it didn't hit the bone or a major artery. I was lucky I was being watched over and that it wasn't anything more than a ... hole," he finished with amusement.

"When I told my wife, I said, 'Are you sitting down? I love you. I've been shot in the arm ... but I'm alright,'" said Voitik, married 16 years. He said she and their daughter were shocked, but happy he was safe.

"My stepson, he thought it was pretty cool that I got shot and got a hole in my arm," Voitik said with a laugh, staring at the scar on his arm.

"A week later, I was back out on patrol and we got hit with an IED. Luckily no one was hurt and no vehicles were damaged," he said.

"When I got home, (my Family) was just happy to see me in one piece."

Though the injury helped him realize how fragile his own mortality is, Voitik said he wanted to continue serving. Deployed again, he is currently with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Bn., 67th Armd. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., in northern Iraq.

He said he feels that this deployment is much safer than the last deployment and is glad for it ... as is his Family.

His current mission as a medic is more along the lines of treating illnesses and minor injuries. He is promotable to staff sergeant and is waiting for points to drop or an oppor-

tunity to gain more points to get promoted.

He said they are planning to do more training with the medics of the Iraqi Security Forces and help professionalize their procedures. He added that he is optimistic about the future of Iraq after the eventual U.S. pull out.

"When I go out on missions, I get to see the children and see their smiling faces and see that things aren't as bad as the news puts it to be," Voitik said he enjoys interacting with the Iraqis and learning more about their culture.

He said he enjoys going out on patrols as a combat medic, though he hopes he does not have to use his skills because that means one of his battle buddies is hurt.

"When I go outside the wire, I'm always running scenarios through my head to prepare for whatever possibilities I might have to face to help my Soldiers or civilians. Not only am I a medic, but I'm an extra set of eyes. I always try to maintain situational awareness, looking for any threats. Helping them in that way helps me in not having to do my job of treating any casualties. If I have to do my job (during a mission) it means that people are hurt."

But if the situation arises, he said he is ready to do what he must. During his last deployment he said he had to treat a number of wounded Soldiers in the heat of an attack during combat patrols, helping to save lives.


He said his past experience helps him do his job better and with more confidence. Though he hopes not to get wounded again, the incident showed him that if he could deal with treating himself under pressure, he could handle almost any situation that he might face on the battlefield.

"It makes me feel good to see that people I'm attached to are relying on me as a medic to patch their problems. They make you feel like a part of the team because they know that the medic is going to be there to back them up." He also helps the Soldiers by leading classes on life saving techniques and first aid. They are skills he said he feels every Soldier needs to know and stay proficient at, especially after what happened to him.

After all, what happens if he gets wounded again and he is not conscious or is unable to assist his Soldiers ... or himself? As he said, he is always trying to prepare for whatever scenario might come in the future.

With 16 years of military service, including four years as military police with the Marines, Voitik plans on at least another four of service. The 36-year-old said he stays in the military to protect the American way of life and the freedoms enjoyed by friends, Family and the American people.

For now, he focuses on his mission and his current deployment. But the memory of his previous wound will always stay with him, reminding him of the need to stay calm under fire, do what needs to be done and live life to the fullest. For Voitik, his scar is a badge of honor, symbolizing his sacrifice and service for his country and the Iraqi people.

"It's another scar that says 'history' on it. It's got a story to it I can tell my grandchildren one day," he said whimsical smile, obviously looking forward to the prospect. 





Grandmother of three and mother of three, 43-year old Pfc. Alexandria Enmund, supply specialist working as both petroleum and water supply specialist, 1-10 CAV, 2nd BCT, fulfilled her dream to become a Soldier and is currently deployed to Patrol Base Hillah Feb. 9.

Story & photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

What do you want to be when you grow up? It is a question every child hears in the states. They answer with child-like confidence rooted within their tiny bubbles of experience. Many grow up with those young dreams unfulfilled, changed by circumstance or choice.

But ask most adults what they wanted to be when growing up, and most will answer with that young spark shining through. It often nags those adults with the feeling of something left unfinished. But some hold on to those dreams until a point in their lives where it can be fulfilled.

For one such woman whose dream was to be a Soldier, life kept pushing it back until she thought time would prevent it. After multiple attempts to join, as a grandmother, she finally got her chance ... a quarter of a century later.

43-year old Pfc. Alexandria Enmund, supply specialist currently working as both a petroleum and water supply specialist with 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, fulfilled her dream and is currently deployed to Patrol Base Hillah.

Enmund, who comes from Orlando, enlisted into the Army at the age of 41, turned 42 before completing her training and was sent to her unit at Fort Carson, Colo., approximately six months before deploying. She turned 43 in January in Iraq.

But why did she wait so long to join? Facing criticism and stark disbelief, hers is a tale of inspiration: a testimony of not letting go of her dream when most would give up.

"I wanted to join after high school in 1984, but I got pregnant with my first son. I wanted to serve, but it was

more important for me to raise my baby. I didn't want to leave him," explained Enmund.

Over the next few years she had another son and a daughter born. With the joys of raising her children and remaining busy as a cosmetologist, Enmund immersed herself in daily civilian life.

But the itch to be a Soldier stayed with her. Her father had been in the Army and served in Vietnam. Her sister was also in the Army, eventually retiring from it. After seeing her discipline and what the Army did for her, Enmund at 34, was driven to try again.

At the time, she was fast approaching her 35th year and learned that the cutoff for an age waiver was her birthday. She rushed to join.

"I decided I should still join. I took the test and did everything else but had to wait for an age waiver. I had to get that waiver before my birthday. The waiver didn't come in time and I couldn't join," she said.

Disappointed but unwilling to let it keep her down, she continued with her life and remained happy. But the old dream continued its whisper, leading to an impulse in July 2007 that changed her life. She was 41 years old.

"I was sitting in my yard one day and a recruiter was passing by. I flagged him down and he stopped his car and asked how he could help me. So I told him to waive the age limit so I could join the Army."

She said she was partly joking, partly curious. The recruiter surprised her and said he could help her. With the age limit raised during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she had a green light to join. She immediately took the entrance exam and began filling out paperwork.

"The problem was I wasn't in shape at that point," she



said. She worked hard to get fit and approximately one month after meeting the recruiter, she was enlisting. She said she received a \$20,000 bonus that she hadn't known about prior to signing up.

She was grateful for the bonus, but to receive it meant she had only 10 days to settle affairs with her house and her Family before shipping for Basic Combat Training.

She said her younger son, Bhritten, was the most nervous about her joining.

"He said to me, 'Ma, I understand you've got a dream, but tell them you can't do it anymore. Don't do this. I can't deal with you gone so long'," recited Enmund, looking off into the past.

But Enmund was determined, though admittedly nervous. She was grateful for the support from her eldest son, Osaybeyon.

"I remember he said, 'You can do this. You're always taking care of everybody else. This is your dream. Don't give up on it'."

She went to Fort Jackson, S.C. for BCT. She said she was scared. Everyone around her was so young and the training was physically challenging.

"I thought: Will I ever be able to do this? Lord, what have I done!" she exclaimed, laughing at the memories. "I cried in basic and missed my Family so much."

But this was what she signed up for and she wouldn't quit. She said her battle buddies helped her; they helped each other and they made it through.

"I remember thinking: If I make it through Basic Training, I am going to be a Soldier and I'm going to get a tattoo."

She did just that, and now sports ink that reads: Army Strong. That was her second tattoo. She got her first one when she thought she'd be able to join before turning 35. That tattoo lists her children's names.

After her Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, N.J., she went to Fort Carson in March 2008. She was visited by her younger son; the same son who did not want her to join.

He told her he was so proud of her, she recalled. He was curious and asked her all about the Army, and was impressed by the camaraderie he saw in his mother's unit. The experience left a huge impression on him and he finally surprised his mom by telling her that he was planning to join the Army as well.

"I was so happy he wanted to join. But he told me he wanted to do something more exciting than my job. He wanted to be Airborne and military police."

Bhritten has passed his entry test and is waiting only for his friend to pass before they join together. He met with the same recruiter that helped Enmund.

Now Enmund is a little jealous, she admitted with a laugh. "I want to jump out of airplanes!"

She has always enjoyed staying fit and ran track in high school. Though she always remained fit, the Army has helped her want to exceed the standards.

"I haven't felt this good in 24 years," she said with a proud smile. She is just 14 points shy of a perfect 300 for the physical training test. She needs only to shave 20 seconds off of her two-mile run. She said she is confident she will accomplish the feat.

Enmund is close to the half-way mark in a year-long deployment. Though there are hardships inherent in deployment, she said she stays positive, makes the most of it and works hard.

She said the physical hardships and lack of amenities do not really bother her. Missing her Family is the hardest part.

"They're all proud of me and support me," she said of her Family. My oldest son always knew I could do it. The others thought I had forgotten how old I was," she said with a fond giggle.

Her lips twitched in a complex smile of pride, joy and sorrow and her eyes cast a far-away look as she spoke the names of her children whom she misses so dearly: Osaybeyon, 24, Soldier-to-be Bhritten, 22, and daughter Keinyadia, 20.

The emotions appeared even more poignant when she spoke of her grandsons: Tyon, 4, Jai, 2, and 'Ron Ron,' 2.

"When people ask Tyon where his grandma is, he says, 'My g-ma's in the Army'!" She chuckled at the thought and shook her head, bringing her back to Iraq.

"It's very hard being away from Family," she said soberly. "But, these people; they're my Family too ... a big Family. You've got to live it to understand it. A lot of these young Soldiers, they're just like my children away from home."

Throughout the day, some Soldiers called her 'ma,' even those that outrank her. Many can hardly believe her age. She said she cuts many of the Soldiers' hair, listens to their problems and encourages them as they work and live together. She said she is proud to serve with them, proud to know them.

"Yeah, my Family misses me a lot and I miss them," she said with a sigh that seemed to almost wilt her. But she gathered her strength with her next breath, standing straighter, taller and with the strength and endurance of a Soldier. "It's worth it though."

She said she is glad for the opportunity to serve her country and deploying to Iraq has taught her a deeper appreciation for the freedoms and way of life that America offers.

She also enjoys learning more about Iraqi culture and their way of life. She especially enjoyed going outside the wire and seeing things firsthand.

"I think everybody should experience this," she said of the Army and deployment. "To come out here and deal with it, it helps you appreciate things more. It's spiritual."

Though she said she is probably too old to stay in the Army much longer than her four year enlistment, she is still glad to be doing her part.

"I'm here to serve my country and my Family. By seeing me do this when so many people thought I couldn't, they can look to their own goals, no matter how impossible they might seem, and plant seeds for their children. You can't give up. Take the good with the bad and do what you need to do."

From mother to grandmother to Soldier, not many could walk in her shoes. She had a dream that life kept denying, but she stuck with it and fought to do it her way.

"I don't regret my decision at all. I'm living my dream. Hooah! ... Though, I still haven't learned to like eating (Meals, Ready to Eat)," she said with a laughing grimace.



## Feature Story



# MedOp, training brighten future for Iraqi children

A female member of the pediatric staff inserts an air tube down the throat of a mannequin of a newborn under the supervision of Maj. Roger Brockbank, 2nd BCT surgeon at the Diwaniya Women's and Children's Hospital Feb. 19.

Story & photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

The Warhorse Brigade's doctors and physician assistants conducted neonatal resuscitation training and delivered training aids and medical supplies to the Diwaniya Women's and Children's Hospital Feb. 19.

The training aids and supplies will allow the hospital directors to resume ownership of the training, passing on the newborn lifesaving skills to the rest of the staff and medical students.

The program began in December when the brigade taught a core of the hospital staff, who will in turn teach others in the hospital.

"It will help us so much," said Dr. Afhenoo, a pediatrician at the hospital. He shook his head sadly as he

described the country's high infant mortality rate and the often avoidable instances of brain damage. "We have so many cases of infant cerebral palsy and mental retardation."

He said that the most important period of a newborn's life is the first three minutes. He attributes lack of oxygen during those critical minutes, as a major cause for the mental handicaps. By training the staff and having realistic training aids, they will be able to save more lives and fewer babies will suffer brain damage and mental retardation.

"This will relieve so (many) of these cases and we will be (able to) secure the future of the newborns," said Afhenoo.

"Iraq has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world," empha-

sized Maj. Roger Brockbank, brigade surgeon, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He said he feels the training program and tools can have a huge impact on lowering that rate in Diwaniya.

The training supplies included Arabic and English instructions and demonstrations, infant-sized mannequins with simulated lungs, as well as equipment to perform a variety of procedures to prepare the staff to handle real-world emergencies. The mouths and throats of the mannequins also are realistically formed, which help staff members train more effectively on how to properly insert a breathing tube down through the mouth.

Another group of mannequins allow training for less critical emergencies and will be used primarily by the mid-



wife staff.

“Especially with new nurses, medical students and staff members with less experience, the training gives them the opportunity to practice their skills on the mannequins so they’ll have perfected those skills when they need to use them on a real baby,” explained Brockbank.

“The intent is for the hospital to set up their own training program to train the rest of their staff. They will in turn invite outlying hospitals to train their staffs,” said Brockbank.

“With just a few simple supplies and equipment, they’ll make a huge difference with the newborns that may otherwise have had a different outcome and may not have done as well,” said Brockbank.

The Warhorse Brigade worked through the Iraqi Ministry of Health and the hospital director to make the training program possible.

“The deputy general of health and the hospital director have been very receptive and helpful in forming this

partnership and they know that it will benefit the children of Diwaniya. It was a very successful event and it’s personally rewarding knowing that this is a sustainable program and it will make a difference,” said Brockbank.

“I found it to be a great experience,” agreed Capt. Ryan Shubat, brigade medical operations officer. “The hospital staff was very appreciative and they are eager for any training or additional help or support we could offer.” Shubat comes from Uniontown, Ohio.

During the visit, the Warhorse Soldiers also brought medical books to improve the hospital’s reference library and passed out stuffed animals to sick children.

“They had a very small and outdated medical library. We received a list of requested books and purchased them with the hopes that it will help improve the medical care,” said Brockbank, who calls Colorado Springs, Colo., home.

“The books will benefit the doctors the most and the (mannequins) will benefit the sub staff the most,” said Dr. Hassan, a pathologist and resident at the hospital.

The training was valuable and will become even more so, as the hospital continues to train the rest of the staff, added Hassan.

He said he became a doctor to help his people and he has a great deal of hope for the future of the country.

“We all try our best for (the) future of this country,” said Hassan.

“We enjoyed the training and we will be glad to continue it in the future, training others in the hospital,” said Haibet, a nurse with the hospital, through a translator. “The training will make us more skillful at saving those newborns who are at risk.

“I became a nurse to help people and to help save children’s lives,” said Haibet, who also has children of her own. “I rejoice in being able to help the children, building our country’s future.” 🇮🇶



Maj. Tanya Bradsher, 2nd BCT public affairs officer, gives a stuffed animal to a sick baby at the Diwaniya Women’s and Children’s Hospital Feb. 19. Other Iraqi Families and children show excitement and appreciation.



# One giant leap for ... EOD

## *EOD member sets sights on Guinness World Record*

Story & photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Service members and most runners probably would not be very impressed with a mile run in just over 10 minutes. But add to the equation a 75-pound bomb suit made of stiff material, factor in the added heat from wearing it and add a pair of rubber over boots and it becomes a different story.

The heavy-plated bomb suit is designed to protect its wearer from an explosion. Its stiffness allows for enough dexterity and agility to accomplish their missions, but was never designed for fast, sustained movement.

The average person would not even think of running in one. But then again, the average person runs away from bombs, while explosive ordnance disposal team members are willing to put themselves in harm's way for the welfare and safety of others. They can hardly be called average.

Navy Lt. Jonathan Kehoe, commander, Platoon 602, 63rd Battalion, EOD Mobilization Unit 6, based out of Little Creek, Va., and attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, decided to run for a Guinness World Record for the fastest mile in a bomb suit at Camp Echo Feb. 2.

With a crowd of their Iraqi EOD counterparts, service members and U.S. contractors cheering him on, Kehoe completed the mile in 10 minutes and 13 seconds, beating his target time by almost three minutes.

"We did some brainstorming and came up with the idea of setting the new Guinness World Record for the fastest one-mile bomb suit run. It's just a matter of whether the Guinness World Records will accept it or not," said Kehoe. He already holds one record for the fastest mile while carrying an egg on a spoon.

But the true purpose of the event was to draw a crowd for a fund-raiser benefitting the EOD Memorial and Scholarship Foundation and to commemorate the fallen EOD members.

"We as a team decided we wanted

to do something special for the EOD memorial," added Kehoe, who comes from Leadville, Colo. "The EOD memorial celebrates the lives of those (EOD members) who've made the ultimate sacrifice to bring the freedom



Navy Lt. Jonathan Kehoe, commander, Plt. 602, 63rd Bn., EOD Mobilization Unit 6, runs for the Guinness World Record for the fastest mile in a bomb suit at Camp Echo Feb. 2.



that (many) take for granted every single day. It's a tribute to them and our way to give back to their Families and show them that we're thinking of them."

The memorial, located at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was constructed in 1999 and features the names of the fallen EOD members since the declaration of World War II.

Kehoe and the rest of his team said they were glad to be able to help raise funds and honor the fallen in their own way. Some of them commented that although remembering their deaths is a somber time, remembering their lives and their selfless dedication should be something to celebrate.

Since many would consider the type of people who do what they do as different, why not do something different to honor their fallen. Hence the bomb suit run.

Members of the 8th Iraqi Army Division EOD were invited to the event as the guests of honor. They cheered him on with the rest of the crowd, one served as an official timer and some

even ran part of the mile to show their support and encouragement.

The joint EOD teams have a great relationship, both working and professional, said Kehoe. Together they've detonated a dozen or more explosions since the unit arrived to Iraq three months ago.

Kehoe said he loves his job and is excited to be able to work with the Iraqi Security Forces and teach them the techniques to do their jobs better for their own safety as well as that of their co-workers and civilians. His unit has primarily been working with the 8th IA Div. EOD team and he really wanted to share the event with them.

"I've been very impressed with them and their ability to do EOD. They're professionals and the 8th Iraqi Army (Div. EOD team) is the team that all other Army units are looking to as an example of where they need to be."

Many of the IA EOD said they were honored to be a part of the event.


"It was awesome to get the IA EOD out here. We're building a great deal

of trust and developing good relationships," said EOD 2 William Young, Plt. 602.

Kehoe trained for the event for two months, with EOD members from both nationalities encouraging and helping him during that time.

"People don't realize how much physical training we go through as EOD. He made us all proud. With the crowd cheering and all, it gave him a big boost. He surpassed what I expected," said Young, who hails from Belle Plaine, Kan.

Now it is just a matter of whether or not the Guinness World Records accepts his claim. Either way, to Kehoe it was worth it to continue building the relationships with the Iraqis, get the Camp Echo residents out to honor the fallen EOD members and earn money for the memorial and scholarship funds.

"I just wanted to tell the Family members of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice that we pray for you every day and we can never do enough to thank you," finished Kehoe. 



Navy Lt. Jonathan Kehoe, commander, Plt. 602, 63rd Bn., EOD Mobilization Unit 6, crosses the finish line in 10 minutes and 13 seconds for the Guinness World Record for the fastest mile in a bomb suit at Camp Echo Feb. 2.





1st Lt. Ray Crutchfield, Comanche Co., 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, tank platoon leader, speaks to Iraqi Police and local citizens near the site of a future market in Diwaniya Feb. 21.

# Comanche Soldiers work to ensure ISF success, future of local citizens

Story & photos by Spc. Josh LeCappelain  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

**A**s Iraqi Security Forces continuously strengthen and gain the capacity to provide stability for Iraqi citizens, Coalition forces help provide necessary support and guidance to help the ISF continue on the path to success.

Soldiers from Comanche Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th

Infantry Division, conducted two dual-purpose patrols to provide support in Diwaniya Feb. 21.

The Comanche Soldiers visited two Iraqi Police Emergency Security Units to get important information, as well as providing reconnaissance on two areas – an empty lot that will become the future home of a farmers market, as well as city blocks that were scheduled to be visited by visiting dignitaries a few days later.

1st Lt. Ray Crutchfield, a tank platoon leader with Comanche Company, said that during the last two weeks, every patrol has stopped by an ESU to assess their combat power.

Topics covered during each visit included weapons on hand, vehicle numbers and working conditions, payment history to IP members, effective security devices, detention facilities on hand, battle drill execution and communications equipment, to name





**ABOVE:** A Comanche Soldier, 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, pulls security along the side of a road near the site of a future market in Diwaniya Feb. 21.  
**BELOW:** Iraqi Soldiers depart JSS 2 for a joint patrol recently, as 1st Sgt. Dwayne Uhlig, Comanche Company, 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, inspects them and talks to them briefly as they pass.

a few.


It is not the first time that Comanche Company has worked closely with the ESUs.

“Until recently, we had provided each ESU in the city with tactical site exploitation training,” said Crutchfield, a native of Floyd Knobs, In. “We completed that approximately two weeks ago. The next step is a centralized training facility where we will train them on a unit level. Each ESU will send approximately 100 people to class for 10 days, and those individuals will go back and train the rest of their ESUs.”

In addition, the Soldiers traveled to a site that will become the Talon Marketplace.

They met with security officials that work on the site and were given a tour of the area to better help them visualize the conception.

“The whole purpose of the market is to help influence the local economy in a positive way,” added Crutchfield, a graduate of South Dakota State University. “We want to help them, by helping provide something we can leave behind – something the Iraqi people can have that benefits them in the future.”

Construction on the Talon Market should begin in the near future, coordinated with the local government. 





# Troops get rare chance, witness Iraqi elections

Story & photos by Spc. Josh LeCappelain

2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

With Iraqi Security Forces taking the responsibility of security for the almost country-wide provincial elections, most U.S. Soldiers were confined to remaining on their bases, with many wondering what the process was like in this new democratic nation.

A small portion of the American military stationed in Iraq, was granted the opportunity to see what was going on ... at least on the streets and outside of polling stations. Though the rare glimpse was limited, it made a lasting impression on the Soldiers allowed to witness the historical event.

Warhorse Soldiers and local Iraqi Police escorted a multi-national elections observation team to Babil Province polling centers during Iraq's provincial elections Jan. 31.

The Iraqi Security Forces shouldered the full responsibility of security during the elections and allowed a successful turn out of citizens to safely vote.

Taking no part in the elections security or overseeing of the elections, the Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, held the responsibility of transporting the elections observation team.

"I can't believe how much the Iraqi Security Forces have improved. I was here for the last (provincial) elections in 2005 ... it was much more dangerous for Coalition forces and Iraqi civilians alike," said Staff Sgt. Guy Dorneus, a native of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on his third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The elections team conducted their observation and declared that everything seemed secure and fair inside. Scores of IP secured the sites and Iraqi Army Soldiers provided additional security to the surrounding areas.

In the days leading up to the elections, the 1st Plt. Soldiers also assisted in preparations for the polling sites and conducted reconnaissance of the local schools surrounding



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Bauer, 3-16 FA

An Iraqi man proudly displays his purple-stained finger after voting in the provincial elections in Babil Province's Qasim Jan 31.

the towns of Hamza, Hashimiyah, Qasim and Taliyah in the province. Nearly all the schools in the area were converted into election polling stations for the provincial elections.

On the day of the elections, the platoon escorted the election team to 13 polling sites. The Soldiers and civilians were given the opportunity to witness the historic event. For some of the Soldiers, it was the first time they had been off an American base since they arrived in Iraq, creating a sense of electrical excitement in the air.

They saw hundreds of Iraqi citizens at each of the sites. Children and adults alike smiled ear to ear, greeting the American Soldiers.

At the end of the mission, the Soldiers and election team members parted in friendship and each group turned in a new direction to explore other tasks to help develop Iraq. With different missions and roads ahead of each of them, the memory of Iraqi civilians proudly waving their ink-dyed fingers will stick with many of them for the rest of their lives.

"I feel like a part of history," said Pfc. James Murphy. "We are helping establish democracy in Iraq and I will never forget this."



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Bauer, 3-16 FA

Soldiers from 1st Plt., Btry. B, 3-16 FA, 2nd BCT, and a multi-national election observation team get ready to roll out from Convoy Support Center Scania Jan. 31. The group was able to witness a rare glimpse democratic history.





Hundreds of leaflets fly through the air as an IA Soldier tosses them to Iraqi citizens in Abu Sukhayr Feb. 19.

Photo courtesy of 8th IA Div.

## ISF drop into history, work for Iraq's future

Story by **Spc. Josh LeCappellain**  
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Members of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Air Force made history Feb. 19 high above the Diwaniya Province.

Soldiers in the 8th IA Division distributed 150,000 leaflets to the town of Abu Sukhayr, out of the back of two Mi-17 helicopters – the first airdrop done in the Diwaniya Province conducted solely by members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

“This was their leaflet and their aircraft, to help support their people,” said Lt. Col. Adrian Bogart III, deputy

commanding officer, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “This was the first time that we have seen the Iraqi Air Force drop leaflets in this area.”

The leaflets warned Iraqi citizens about the dangers and risks associated with explosively formed penetrators.

“EFPs are not only dangerous to military forces, but civilians as well,” said Bogart. “The people involved in making EFPs are also involved in other acts of terror. They are a violent criminal element which the people of Diwaniya can assist in bringing to justice.”

Coalition forces contributed minor support to the IA and IAF, going over the drop procedure and safety precautions with them as well as helping print the IA-designed leaflet. The delivery of the leaflets was conducted by members of the IAF and four IA Soldiers, two of whom were taking their first ride in a helicopter.

“We are very proud of our partner's ability to take the next step forward,” added Bogart. “They are bringing a high level of security to this area.”

The ISF who successfully completed the leaflet drop are planning for an additional drop in the near future.





## Local faulty power strips can cause fire hazards



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO

By Ed Keeser  
2BCT, 4ID Safety

Power strip safety has been stressed throughout the chain of command and through Task Force Safety. There are screen saver reminders on everyone's computer to remind you also. Using the cheap counterfeit powers trips purchased in the Bazaar is like playing Russian Roulette with all the chambers filled and one empty chamber. Attached are some photos to emphasis the point. What you have to do is weigh the cost of buying cheap junk that you suspect is bad and then not checking it out through an electrician either from KBR or through your unit.

If you purchase a power cord lo-

cally and it does not have the CE mark embossed into the plastic it is probably counterfeit. Or if there is a sticker inside the package and directions, (hopefully they are not in Arabic or Chinese), which tells you to place the sticker on the product, there should be a RED FLAG going up telling you that you need to check it out first.

Task Force Safe is going through the CHUs and living areas of the Soldiers' looking for those things that can cause serious injury, death, or a fire that burns down your CHU and possibly someone else's. If you buy one of these because there is not any approved power strips available. Then you must monitor the strip.

Don't overload the strip. Look at

what is the max voltage it can take. You get this by totaling up all electrical equipment voltage requirements from your equipment. Look at the product label on the equipment.

Don't go to sleep with all your electronics hooked up. You may wake up to a fire if you wake up. Disconnect your equipment.

When you leave the CHU for work disconnect everything. It is cheaper to reset your clock than it is to lose it all because there was a fire and your personal possessions were burned up or the strip shorted out and fried all your electronics.

It might take more effort, but keeping your stuff from being burned and staying safe is well worth it.



Photo courtesy of TF Safety

A recently burned CHU with the remains of a television in the bottom right and bed on the left after a fire caused by faulty wiring.



This is an example of one of the power strips commonly purchased from the local shops. Some have been inspected and found to have no ground wires or wires too small to consistently handle 220 volts.



# Chaplain's Corner



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO

## Give it up or take it on

**By Maj. John Kallerson**  
2BCT, 4ID Chaplain

As the weather starts to become hotter and the days get longer another change is in the wind. The season of Lent is here. Now is when the Christian Church starts the season of reflection and preparation prior to Easter's arrival on April 12. The days of reflection are more commonly known for as a time period when people give up something they enjoy. You know the deal because many folks will spend forty days griping about giving up something they like. I don't believe that was the original intent of making a personal sacrifice. The idea was if you give up something that you enjoy then it will help you remember daily, the journey to Easter and its great cost for human-

ity and God, as well as the benefit of the new life that we rejoice in during Easter itself.

I have a suggestion for all the Warhorse Team this Lenten Season that is a little different. Instead of giving up something this Lent, how about adopting a new spiritual practice that will benefit you and others? It's not really a new concept. The idea is to adopt a different, daily method of spiritual or religious reflection and action that will enhance your relationship with God. It could be a different method of prayer such as meditation, centering, Taize, chanting, etc. It could be attending worship services or a different service then you are use to. It could be daily acts of charity or compassion done to care for others and not to bring attention to yourself. It could mean learning

more about your own faith and religious group through study. It could be starting a new devotional practice of reading part of a spiritual book daily. You get the idea. Start something new that will improve your spiritual life this season. With all the changes facing the Warhorse Team in the near future, I pray you will use the Lenten Season as a time to start a new spiritual practice that will strengthen you for our continuing mission in Iraq and when we eventually go home. Your chaplains and chaplain assistants are ready to help you and your families – a new practice could even be reaching out with your questions to others. I pray this will be a time of reflection and action that improves your life daily. God be with you on your Lenten Journey.





Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO

**ABOVE:** Some Warhorse Soldiers cheer while others sulk as the Steelers score a touchdown during the Super Bowl game viewed at the Camp Echo dining facility Feb. 2. The Super Bowl party, which authorized Soldiers two beers, began at 1 a.m. Despite the late hour, hundreds of Soldiers participated.

**BELOW:** Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and attached units take off from the starting point of a five kilometer run for Valentine's Day at Camp Echo.



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO





*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*

Warhorse Soldiers sing songs during the opening events of a Black History Month Celebration at Camp Echo Feb. 23. After singing, the Soldiers performed a number of skits spanning the history of the African American.



*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*

1st Sgt. Perry Reed, Co. B, 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, plays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a skit during a Black History Month Celebration at Camp Echo Feb. 23.



*Photo by Pfc. Aaron Bratkovics 2nd BCT*

As the Super Bowl game begins, Warhorse Soldiers start to cheer at the Camp Echo dining facility Feb. 2. Soldiers were authorized two beers during the game and enjoyed the late night meal, featuring fare typical during Super Bowl. Soldiers said they appreciated the brief opportunity to enjoy a semblance of normalcy.





Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO



Photo by Spc. Josh LeCappelain, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO

**ABOVE LEFT:** Spc. Charles Ward, petroleum specialist with Troop D, 1st 1-10 CAV, 2nd BCT, inflates a flat tire at Patrol Base Hillah Feb. 9.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (California) grips hands with Warhorse Soldiers following dinner Feb. 16 at Camp Echo.

**BELOW:** Warhorse Soldiers survey the sights after climbing to the peak of the Naffar ruins Jan. 23. The 5,000 year-old site once belonged to the ancient kingdom of Sumer. The building, which was probably rebuilt as different ancient dynasties changed power, was the speculated living space of the city's rulers. The brigade visited the to see how to assist the Iraqi government in preserving its cultural history



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO





*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*

Command Sgt. Major Wade Myers, STB, 2nd BCT, is used as rope substitution in a tug of war match by Staff Sgt. Ruby (left) and Staff Sgt. Buddy (right) during a military working dog demonstration for NCOPD at Camp Echo Feb. 21. Myers volunteered to be attacked by the dogs as a fundraiser for the STB Ball, upon the unit's return to Colorado Springs, Colo., later in the year.



*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*

ABOVE: MNF-I Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson gives coins to 204th BSB Soldiers during a ceremony for Soldiers at Camp Echo Feb. 7.  
BELOW: Scouts from HHC, 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, run to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter as an AH-64 Apache helicopter begins take off during aerial reactionary forces training at Camp Echo Jan. 29.



*Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th ID PAO*





**Everyone  
has a  
story  
to tell.**

**Tell us  
yours.**

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