

WARHORSE



RIDER

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

Vol. 1, Issue 7

Apr. 2009

2-8 IN uses the 'skies' to save lives



CONTENTS

Iraqi Security Forces take helm of JSS 2 in Diwaniya.....page 3

1-10 CAV patrols streets of Tunispage 4

STB MP train IA Div. Soldiers in detainee ops.....page 5

The Luckiest NCO: Purple Heart recipient saved by helmetpage 6

3-16 FA Soldiers, IP deliver humanitarian aid in Babilpage 8

Combat engineers conduct air MedEvac trainingpage 10

Around AO Warhorse.....page 12

Six Officers change command in Warhorse Brigade.....page 14

204th BSB Soldier becomes war bride.....page 18

1-67, ISF gain citizens trust in Mosul.....page 19



On the Cover:

Combat engineers from 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., practice offloading a patient during helicopter MedEvac training at Camp Echo March 6.
photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Warhorse Sends: Move to COB Basra



Warhorse Soldiers and Families, the Warhorse Brigade has received orders for the Brigade to relocate from Camp Echo in Diwaniya to Contingency Operating Base Basra in Basra Province.

The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Special Troops Battalion; 204th Brigade Support Battalion; and 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, along with the Brigade Headquarters, have already begun the move.

There will be a decrease in the quality of life, from what we have been able to build here at Echo, for our Soldiers when they initially arrive to COB Basra. I remain committed to improving the living conditions for all of our Soldiers daily.

They will have an environmentally controlled environment to sleep and eat in. They will have showers, access to internet and phones, and gyms to work out in. Communications to your loved ones will be degraded as we execute the move to Basra, but is a top priority to be re-established once we arrive. Some-

where after the 1st of May our access to phones and the Internet should improve.

There are several dining facilities and fast food restaurants on COB Basra along with a new PX, several gyms, and MWR facilities. There are plans underway to increase these facilities as well as plans to build new gyms.

We will focus the next issue of the Warhorse Rider on quality of life issues, similar to the first two issues when we arrived into theater.

All of your soldiers are doing tremendous! They are making a difference everyday for the people of Iraq.

Our move to Basra is an example of the continued progress being made in both the security environment and the Iraqi Security Forces that we have accomplished in both Diwaniyah and Najaf. We have been asked to replicate those accomplishments in Basra the second largest City in Iraq.

Thank you all for your continued support. It was great to see you all in person at the last Warhorse Update.

I look forward to our next update from Basra in May. If you have questions that you would like for me to answer, please e-mail them to: 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

Col. Butch Kievenaar.....2BCT Commander
Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Fredrick Thompson...2BCT CSM
Maj. Tanya Bradsher.....2BCT PAO
Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II.....Editor
Sgt. Rodney Foliente.....Staff Writer

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: carlos.burger@iraq.centcom.mil.

Iraqi Security Forces take helm of JSS 2 in Diwaniya

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

The Iraqi Security Forces and local government received the full responsibility for manning and operating the Joint Security Station 2 in Diwaniya during a ceremony March 14.

The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, transferred full authority to the ISF, offering the symbolic JSS 2 key to Col. Abed al Jalil Abdul Amir, chief of staff for the Diwaniya Provincial Department of Police.

"The Iraqi Security Forces are willing, ready and capable to conduct all operations. This has been evident with the recent holidays, as well as the (provincial) elections," said Maj. William Sachse, executive officer for 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

During those events, ISF efficiently provided the vast bulk of the security, keeping the citizens safe and maintaining the peace.


The security that the people of Diwaniya are experiencing is largely due to

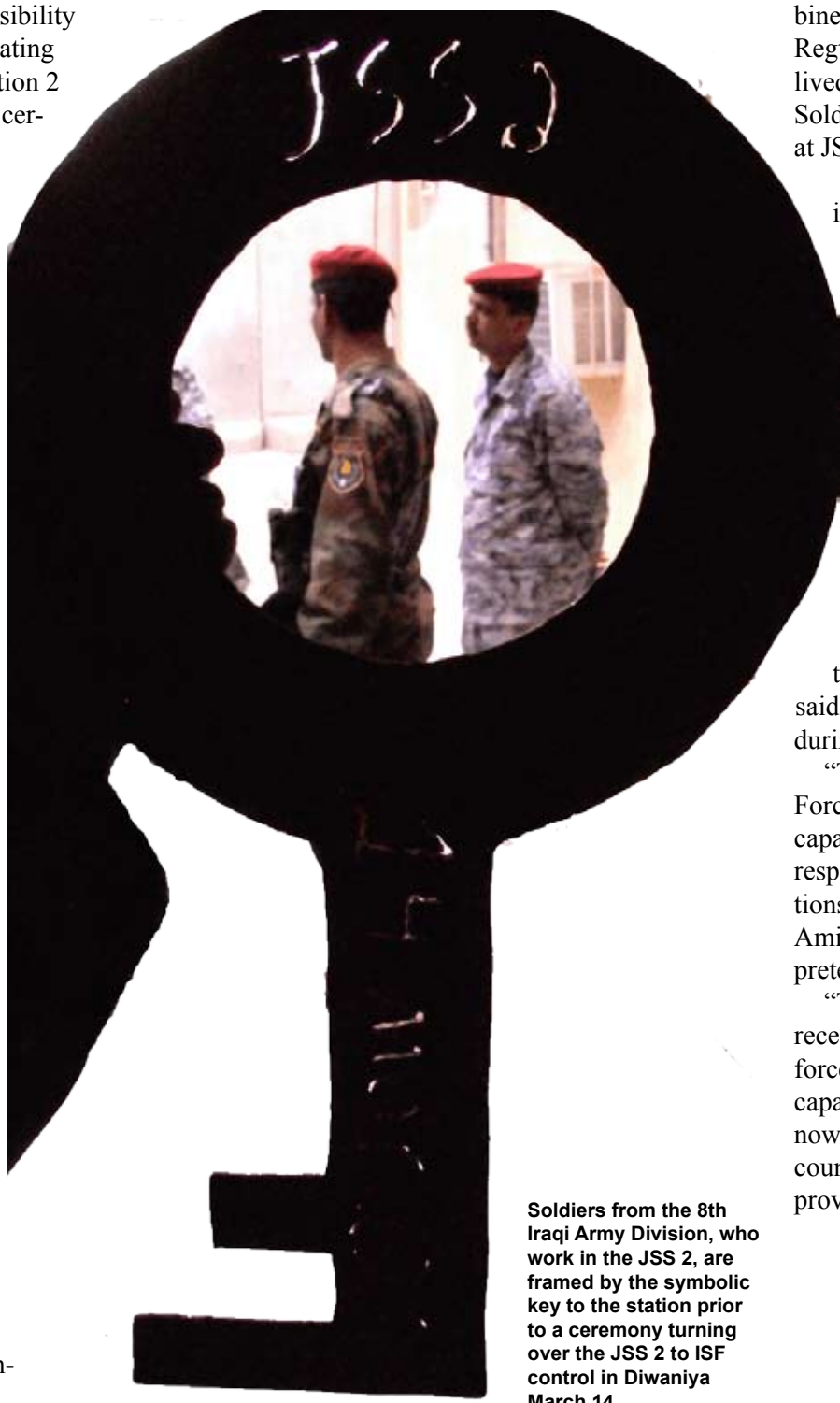
the outstanding leadership and efforts of the ISF, said Sachse.

He also applauded the work of the Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., who worked and lived with the Iraqi Army Soldiers and Iraqi Police at JSS 2.

"Today marks an important day for the Iraqi people of Diwaniya. The transfer of JSS 2 highlights the irreversible momentum towards the free and prosperous Iraq. Although U.S. forces are leaving JSS 2, our relationship will not change. I look forward to our continued partnership," said Sachse in a speech during the ceremony.

"The Iraqi Security Forces are ready and capable to take over the responsibility and operations of this station," said Amir, through an interpreter.

"The training we received from Coalition forces has improved our capabilities and we're now able to defend our country and protect our province." 



Soldiers from the 8th Iraqi Army Division, who work in the JSS 2, are framed by the symbolic key to the station prior to a ceremony turning over the JSS 2 to ISF control in Diwaniya March 14.



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner, Combat Camera

Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pull security around a Sons of Iraq checkpoint during a combined patrol.

1-10 CAV patrols streets of Tunis

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

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Iraqi Policemen conducted a routine patrol in the streets of Tunis.

During the patrol, the Soldiers and IP monitored traffic and pulled security around Sons of Iraq checkpoints in the city.


The unit is currently attached to the 172nd BCT, based out of Schweinfurt, Germany and operates out of Patrol Base Mahawil in the Babil Province. 



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner, Combat Camera

Staff Sgt. Ryan Dabel of Colorado Springs, Colo., and 3rd Plt., C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and an policeman from Tunis pull security along a road.



Staff Sgt. Robert Roady, Camp Echo's detainee control point NCOIC, and Pvt. Tony Steward, MP, both with HHC, STB, begin a demonstration on handcuffing techniques during detainee operations training at the 8th IA Div. headquarters March 11.

STB MP train IA Div. Soldiers in detainee ops

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

Military Police Soldiers of Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted detainee operations training for Soldiers from 8th Iraqi Army Div., at the Iraqi division's headquarters March 11.

The class was a refresher course for some of the Iraqi Soldiers and initial training for others, in an effort to get them all on the same page before they train their fellow comrades.

"The purpose of today's training was to provide the Iraqis with basic detainee operations training. With the change in the (Security) Agreement, the Iraqis now have the primary responsibility for handling detainees captured during military operations. My job is to train them to make sure they safely, securely and humanely handle all aspects of processing the detainees," said Staff Sgt. Robert Roady, Camp Echo's detainee control point noncommissioned officer-in-charge, with HHC, STB.

"The (Iraqi Army) seems to be coming a long way from when I started working with them. They definitely seem like they are committed to going out there and making a differ-

ence," said Roady, who comes from Roseburg, Ore.

"I like working with them. It's a chance to get to know their customs. We joke around but at the same time we get the job done," said Pvt. Tony Steward, MP with the detainee control point, HHC, STB.

He said it was fun to wrestle with them during the training, but it was also important to show them that they need to be careful in handling detainees. Steward's struggles to escape emphasized the need for Iraqi Soldiers to be wary and careful; for their safety, as well as the safety of their fellow workers and other prisoners. Simulating real and possible scenarios helps prepare them to better do their jobs.


"The best part of the training is knowing that you are helping them and at the same time, developing a relationship. You get to know them and treat them as your battle buddy," said Steward, who hails from Fort Worth, Texas.

Because of all the training and mentorship that is being conducted, as well as the ISF's dedication to their country and people, Steward said he feels confident in their ability to maintain security and peace after the Coalition forces pull out.

"It's very important training, learning how to properly capture and treat detainees. We knew a lot about detainee operations, but we also learned much today ... some big things, some little things, but all are important things," said 1st Sgt. Sajad, with the 8th IA Div., through an interpreter.

"This knowledge and practice will help to keep innocents and fellow Soldiers safer when handling detainees," continued Sajad. He said the proper techniques of checking for hidden weapons and threats will especially be helpful. He and the Soldiers who participated in the training will in turn become the trainers for other IA Soldiers, passing on what they learned.

Sajad has been in the IA for six years and joined "to protect our country and its innocent citizens. We will continue to improve the country and the security situation and stop the terrorists from harming the innocent people and our country."

"The security situation is good and will get better, even after the withdrawal of Coalition forces. Every true Iraqi hopes for a better future," said Sajad. 



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, deputy commanding general for operations, MND-C, recloses the top part of the uniform after pinning a Purple Heart on Staff Sgt. Matthew Harvey, construction supervisor, with Co. E, 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and attached to STB, during an award ceremony March 20.

The Luckiest NCO: Purple Heart recipient saved by helmet

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

A 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Soldier, whose life was saved by his Army Combat Helmet, received a Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge March 20 at Camp Echo.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Harvey, construction supervisor, with Company E, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, and attached to Special Troops Battalion, received the awards after being shot and continuing to return fire during an enemy attack Feb. 10 in Najaf.

The attack came during a route clearance mission, when Harvey, who was truck commander of the lead vehicle, dismounted to clear debris that had become tangled underneath his vehicle.

"As I was leaning forward, I saw three rounds hit by my feet," Harvey said he quickly turned and identified the enemy shooter partially concealed behind a berm. "I returned fire and yelled back up to my driver and gunner." He continued to return fire until he saw the enemy go down. He then stood up and scanned the area.

"I saw something to my five-o'clock and called up to the gunner. As soon as I turned, I got hit. The round went through my Kevlar," he said, pointing to a point above and behind his right ear. The Kevlar altered the course of the bullet, channeling the bullet around his head and down the back of his neck.

Harvey said the force of the impact slammed his head into the vehicle, cutting a gash on his cheek. He went down and noticed blood flowing from his left cheek. In his shock, he said he thought the bullet had passed through his face.

"I yelled up that I was hit." As Harvey lay on the ground, he said he continued shooting at the enemy, becoming increasingly disoriented.

"I was trying to shoot the guy. (All of a sudden) I thought I was at a pop-up range, because I couldn't hit the target. I could see my rounds impacting. Pow! Pow! Pow! I remember thinking: Man, this pop-up target won't go down. I'm going to get a bad score," he shook his head with a laugh. "I'm a pretty decent shot, but ..." he couldn't hit his target as his head felt fuzzier and fuzzier and the pain grew.

"I thought: this is probably it. I kept shooting and shooting and yelled up to my dudes and told them, 'Sorry' and told my wife, 'I'm sorry,' he recalled with a smile both sheepish and reflective.

His Soldiers continued engaging the enemy and another vehicle in the convoy pulled around to cover him and load him into their truck.

"They pulled off all my gear and the medic came up and checked me out." Other than minor shrapnel wounds, cuts and a possible concussion, the medic told him he was fine. The other Soldiers downplayed the incident and told Harvey that he was probably just hit with shrapnel from bullets striking the vehicle and ground.

"I told them: No, I'm pretty sure I got hit. That's when their squad leader picked up my Kevlar and said: Hey man, you've got a bullet hole through your Kevlar!" recounted Harvey, who comes from Houston.

"I still had my adrenaline going, so I wasn't really in that much pain." He said the pain in his head and neck was still bearable at that point. "I still wanted to (command) my truck," said Harvey with a chuckle and a shake of his head, but his platoon leader made him try to relax and rest.

With a flat tire, they limped the vehicle back to Forward Operating Base Endeavor.

"I smoked a cigarette and drank a Rip It. By that time, my adrenaline stopped and I started puking and got dizzy. I was kind of going in and out of it. The (medical evacuation helicopters) came in and medics checked me out and gave me (intravenous fluids)," continued Harvey.

"I came to as I was going into the hospital at Balad. They checked me out and told me I was lucky," said Harvey. They gave him additional tests and treated him for minor shrapnel wounds, cuts and a bad concussion.

After a few days of tests and evaluation, he was sent back to Camp Echo and saw his Soldiers for a day before going on his pre-planned environmental morale leave.

"I was already scheduled for leave, so I went home and hung out there," said Harvey. He said his wife, Crystal was shocked when she found out, but also strong and supportive. They have been married for more than a year.

"She's pretty strong. She got through it and understands ... but she told me to stop getting hurt," he laughed. "I get hurt too much," he added with a shrug.

About a month after the attack, he said his headaches began to subside and have now almost completely stopped. But the headaches are a small price to pay for his life, thanks to his helmet.

Harvey has been in the Army for more than seven years, has deployed to Iraq four times.

Each deployment he said he has been shot at or hit by roadside bombs and has been saved a number of times because of the equipment and armor provided by the Army.

This was Harvey's second Purple Heart. He received his first during a deployment to Iraq in 2003, after a roadside

bomb explosion injured him in the head and neck. In that incident, his older-style helmet stopped or hampered the destructive passage of shrapnel. He said he feels his helmet helped save his life then as well.

He said the incidents increased his confidence in the equipment he uses ... and wears.

The members of his command and his fellow Soldiers are also more confident, after seeing the deadly effects of a bullet, thwarted by the helmet that many of them once complained about having to wear.

"You guys looked at that Kevlar and saw the direction that (round) was going and where it went out. It did exactly what it was designed to do," said Lt. Col. Leo Caballero, commander, STB, to the company formation during the award ceremony.

Harvey received his awards from Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, deputy commanding general for operations, Multi-National Division – Center.

"(The Purple Heart) is a significant award," said Buchanan, during the award ceremony. "It's in recognition OF the American people and the sacrifice that you personally made. It's in recognition of your selfless service."

For Harvey, his Purple Hearts are reminders of the sacrifices he has made and is willing to make for his country and his people. They are also reminders of how close he came to dying and how precious life is.

"I feel lucky. This wasn't the first time I've been hit, but it kind of opens my eyes a little more." He said he appreciates life and what he has more than ever.


"I wasn't married for my other deployments. We've been married a little while and are trying to have kids. It kind of made me think more, but I still plan on staying in. This is what I do. They'll probably have to kick me out after 30 years." But he hopes, and his Family hopes, that he receives no more Purple Hearts. 



Photo by Sgt Christina Brink, 2nd STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

1st Lt. Matthew Pierce of Mobile, Ala., and 2nd Plt. Leader, Btry. A, is surrounded by grateful young Jawadia residents during a humanitarian mission in a rural village Feb. 20.

3-16 FA Soldiers, IP deliver humanitarian aid in Babil

By 1st Lt. Matthew Pierce
3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The residents of a small, straw hut village in rural Jawadia of the Babil Province, received an unexpected surprise on February 20.

In the early morning hours under a hazy, sand-induced overcast sky, local villagers awoke to find Iraqi Police of the Al Furat Police Station and Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field

Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pulling into their village with a railcar shipping container in tow.

When the smiling IP officers cracked open the container, a plethora of supplies – ranging from blankets and pillows to water purifiers and generators – poured out, to exclamations of astonished gratitude from the local citizens.

“They don’t teach you this in Basic

Training or Artillery School. This type of mission is what we look forward to because we see a difference on the spot. The locals are extremely grateful and we are grateful to have the opportunity to help out. Everybody wins,” said Staff Sgt. Travanti Andrews of Greenwood, Miss.

Among the grateful recipients of supplies were women and children, who were so overwhelmed by the sight of what they were being given,

that tears could be seen in some of their eyes.

The field artillery battery has spent the last four months working jointly with the local IP to bring much needed training to their Security Forces. Along with this training, they have found time to provide humanitarian assistance to the surrounding communities.

Coordination between the battery commander and IP chief resulted in 340 people from 42 families in the area receiving provisions that greatly improved their quality of life.

“(Iraqi Police chief) Maj. Rahman and his Police team did an outstanding job ensuring that every family got equal rations. Not one person went

home empty handed today,” said Maj. Scott Perry, the civil affairs team leader working with 3-16 FA Regt., as the Iraqi Police emptied a large milvan container packed to the roof.

Perry, a seasoned veteran serving his third mobilization said he has found this deployment quite busy and has had to split his time among three batteries to provide assistance throughout the battalion’s entire area of responsibility.

This humanitarian assistance mission is one of many that will continue to be a part of 3rd Bn., 16 FA Regt.’s battle rhythm as they conduct full spectrum operations in the Babil Province.

Many of the battalion Soldiers said

attribute the ever-increasing stability in the communities throughout the area to the local IP and Iraqi Army units. Improvements in the security environment have allowed the Iraqi Security Forces to focus on building trust within the communities they patrol. These types of missions are building a foundation for a relationship between law enforcement and the citizens they protect. That this trust will help soothe the war-torn country of Iraq long after Coalition forces leave, is a hope and belief that many of the Soldiers of 3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt., say they share, especially after missions like the one in Jawadia.



Local citizens start to receive humanitarian aid supplies during a mission Feb. 20 in a small village of rural Jawadia, located in the Babil Province.

Photo by Sgt Christina Brink, 2nd STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.



Combat engineers from 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., attached to STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and the MedEvac flight crew from Co. C, 1st Sqdn., 52nd Aviation Bn., discuss the best procedures and tools to use for cutting or prying open a vehicle for emergency extraction during helicopter MedEvac training at Camp Echo March 6.

COMBAT ENGINEERS CONDUCT AIR MEDEVAC TRAINING

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

The engines roared and the rotors hurled a gale of dust at a group of Soldiers racing to place a wounded comrade on the medical evacuation helicopter. They ground to a halt as the flight medic ran out to meet them just outside the blurred arc of the spinning rotor blades.

They yelled repeatedly, trying to be heard over the chaos of sound. They described the wounds and first line treatment of their patient.

They ducked down and were escorted the remaining distance, loading their precious cargo on the helicopter that would take him to further treatment and safety ... at least if it had not been a training event.

Warhorse combat engineers and the helicopter MedEvac crew joined forces and conducted helicopter medical evacuation training at Camp Echo March 6.

The combat engineers from Company E, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division,

teamed with Co. C, 1st Squadron, 52nd Aviation Regt., to learn from each other and practice the critical process of saving lives on the battlefield.

"This is absolutely great training. It gives (everyone involved) more confidence in knowing what to do and what to expect. Every scenario is different but at least if you have that baseline training, you're more prepared. Practice, practice, practice is what makes it work," said Sgt. Molly Reque, flight medic with Co. C, 1st Sqdn., 52nd Aviation Bn., based in of Fairbanks, Alaska, which she also calls home.

The training allowed Soldiers to practice calling in for medical support and taught the Soldiers what the helicopter crews look for and what assistance they would need to do their job as expeditiously as possible, said Reque. When Soldiers practice for the real scenarios, they are better able to do what they must, no matter the situation that faces them.

"The last time I was deployed, I was a ground medic and I was out on convoys," said Reque. Her prior experience gives her more of an idea of what the Soldiers she trained typically go through.

"It's the opposite perspective from what I had the last time. It's a good feeling to be on this side, taking the casualties up to a higher level of care," continued Reque, who is going on her sixth year as a medic. Meshing the two experiences, she trained the Soldiers on procedures that help the ground and air evacuation teams function more cohesively.

This was the first such training the MedEvac crew conducted with a convoy group. The combat engineers regularly go out on missions and carry the responsibility of ensuring that roads are clear of roadside bombs.

The training began with Soldiers talking through the scenarios and then

walking through them. The final phase involved moving at real-time speed with the hazards and confusion of the rotors spinning.

"The confusion and the noise make it a lot more realistic. It helps combat the confusion (of a real event). There's always going to be confusion. That's somebody's buddy out there on the litter. But if you at least know the steps, your reflexes will kick in and you'll act."

"We turned everything on, made it loud and windy with dust in your eyes," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Ten Eyck, combat engineer and 1st Platoon sergeant, with 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., which is attached to the brigade's Special Troops Battalion. The Soldiers designated as casualties, also received intravenous fluids from the ground medic, as well as first line treatment for wounds prior to being transported to the helicopters.


"(The training) was more realistic so it's not just something they learned in a class, but something they did and experienced. Soldiers will learn more from natural consequences and experiences than they will in a classroom," continued Ten Eck, who comes from Toledo, Ohio.

Ten Eyck said the training went excellently and hopes the training will

form the basis for a future standard operating procedure for casualty and medical evacuations, including what tools units should carry to facilitate a faster emergency extraction from a vehicle within a combat environment.

He said building a working relationship with the MedEvac teams is something every unit should do. By knowing what each group is looking for and how they work, helps the casualties receive more immediate care, which could be the difference in saving life or limb. He also explained that the less time it takes to conduct the evacuation process, the less likelihood that the ground or air elements would face additional enemy threats.

"It made me feel a lot more confident that if anything was to happen – and we pray to God it doesn't – we'll be able to successfully get the guy off the ground. I think that knowing MedEvac procedures with vehicles and helicopters is something that every combat (Soldier) should know," said Spc. Patrick Nephew, combat engineer, from River Falls, Wisc.

"This training benefitted both teams. We're on the road all the time and these guys are our guardian angels and now (everyone knows) exactly what to do if a situation occurs," said Ten Eck. 



Sgt. Molly Reque, flight medic with Co. C, 1st Sqdn., 52nd Aviation Bn., shows combat engineers from 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., attached to STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., where and how to load patients during helicopter MedEvac training at Camp Echo March 6.



Around AO Warhorse



Warhorse Soldiers and Camp Echo residents celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day with a half marathon on March 15. The more than 13-mile run event was done on Sunday to allow more participants to run. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO



Iraqi teenagers and women gaze at art honoring the plights, history, goals, accomplishments and freedom of women after a graduation ceremony and celebration of International Women's Day at al Nehrawan Youth Center in Diwaniya March 8. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.



Mike Klecheski, Diwaniya PRT leader, and Dr. Abdulameer al-Obaidy, Diwaniya Director General of Health, cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the new al Jumhoury Primary Healthcare Clinic in Diwaniya March 8. Photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



Spc. Greg Schabell, Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, provides security for Iraqi Soldiers from 2nd Bn., 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, during a humanitarian aid mission delivering in Mosul March 21. Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. JoAnn Makinano.

Changing of the Guard: 6 Officers take command in Warhorse Brigade



(Top) Capt. Christopher Carlson, outgoing commander, Company C, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Lt. Col. Fredrick Hannah, commander, 204th BSB, and Capt. Noe Muniz, incoming commander, Co. C, salute as the National Anthem plays during a company change of command ceremony March 17 at Camp Echo. Carlson relinquished command to Muniz. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.



(Right) Lt. Col. Leo Caballero, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, passes the guidon to Capt. Kimberly Keith, as she assumes command of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, STB, during a troop change of command ceremony at Camp Echo March 21. Capt. David Sturgis, outgoing commander, from Alamogordo, N.M., relinquished command to Keith. Keith calls both New Hartford, Conn., and Washington, Pa., home. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.



(Top) Soldiers from 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment salute as the National Anthem plays during Beast Company's change of command ceremony Feb. 22. Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Eric Harris, Combat Camera.



(Left) 1st Sgt. Floyd Beasley, Co. B, 204th BSB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., passes the company guidon to outgoing company commander, Capt. Julian Perez during a change of command ceremony March 17 at Camp Echo. Perez relinquished his command to Capt. Latarsha Scott. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Burger, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Above) 1st Sgt. Floyd Beasley, Co. B, 204th BSB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., leads the company in a salute as the National Anthem is played during a change of command ceremony March 17 at Camp Echo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Burger, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Right) Capt. Eric Alexander, new commander of Beast Co., 2-8 IN, serves up some Beast cake after the company change of command ceremony Feb. 22. Alexander assumed command from Capt. Cash Freeman. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Above) Capt. Kellye Green, new commander of Forward Support Company, 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., speaks during her change of command ceremony at Camp Echo. Green assumed command from Capt. Jason A. Ballard. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.



(Left) Lt. Col. Leo Caballero, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, watches as Capts. Brian James and Nathan Saul shake hands during the B Co., STB, change of command ceremony at Camp Echo. Saul relinquished command to James. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO.



Pvt. Nichole Mangum, a human resources specialist with HHC, 204th BSB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., talks to her new husband during a morale call at Camp Echo March 23. (Inset) Mangum holds a picture of her new husband.

204th BSB Soldier becomes 'war' bride

By Staff Sgt. Miguel A. Rivas
204th BSB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Most married Soldiers would probably agree that the hardest part of deployment is being separated from their Family for so long. Some have been married for decades and others have been married for days, such as those who get hitched while on environmental morale leave.

But there are some married Soldiers who have never even had their first kiss as man and wife.

A Soldier from 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, recently got married from Iraq, while her husband, an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, was in Colorado Springs, Colo., more than 7,000 miles away.

Pvt. Nichole Mangum, a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, became a bride after a series of emails, paperwork and a telephone

call from Iraq to the Colorado Springs courthouse and married Nathan Newkirk, 25, via proxy.

The 22-year-old Nichole met her husband in March 2003. The couple met as they were on separate vacations with their Families in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The Newkirk Family traveled from their home in Colorado Springs, while the Mangums drove from Dunkin, N.C., for a Family gathering.

"The idea of marriage had come up, but I knew I was deploying," said Nichole. They listed and debated the pros and cons of getting hitched before a deployment. Nichole's opinion leaned towards waiting, but Nathan would have none of that. He was ready to become a husband and tie his life to the woman he had met more than five years earlier.

With Nichole deploying shortly after that, their only regret was that they didn't have enough time to get married. The prospect of a quick marriage was eventually scrapped.


When she left Fort Carson to join

the rest of 204th BSB, Nichole learned that since she was deploying so late, she would not be eligible to take her EML.

While in Baghdad, awaiting transportation to Camp Kalsu, Nichole received an unlikely gift from a seasoned veteran, Sgt. 1st Class Sherika Gray, the support operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge for 204th BSB.

Flipping through a copy of Stars and Stripes, Gray noticed an ad for a legal marriage procedure which would change the life of the young Soldier standing next to her.

The procedure was \$900, but considering the idea was from a free newspaper and the moment in the young Soldier's life was priceless ... it was a small price to pay.

Unfortunately, the honeymoon beach house in Florida and their first kiss as man and wife will have to wait. For now, accomplishing the mission is what is on Nichole's mind. 



Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, conduct a joint patrol in Mosul March 14.

1-67, ISF gain citizens trust in Mosul

By 1st Lt. Aaron Runné,
1st Combined Arms Bn., 67th AR Regt.

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and the Soldiers of 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, conducted a joint patrol March 14.

This joint patrol set out to gain the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people as well as build on the partnership between the U.S forces and the ISF. The purpose was to conduct an area reconnaissance mission in Hay Al Shai, a typical inner city Iraqi neighborhood in Mosul.

As the Soldiers prepared to dismount their vehicles and begin the mission, the children of the neighborhood filtered in and swarmed the sidewalks as the Iraqi and Coalition vehicles arrived.

The children huddled with one another and smiled with enthusiasm as they talked about and pointed at all of the Soldiers' personal gear and

vehicles.

The 2nd IA Soldiers spoke with the residents of Hay Al Shai, candidly discussing neighborhood concerns over security and essential services while Bravo's second platoon established outer security. Iraqi Soldiers talked to the residents about suspected enemy personnel that were rumored to be living and conducting operations in the area.

Bravo Company Soldiers feel that their partnership with Iraqi Army has been one of the most rewarding aspects of their mission during this deployment.


"I enjoy working with the Iraqi Army. They are coming along very well. I think the Iraqi Army is real close to being able to operate independently of Coalition Forces," said Sgt. Joshua Nearhoof, Team Leader in 2nd Platoon, from Lewistown, Mt.

"Working with the Iraqi Army is a positive experience because they know what they are doing," said Pfc. Mario Oliver, a 2nd platoon rifleman from Hillsboro, Ala.

"The mission was successful," Nearhoof added. "The Hay Al Shai residents positively responded to our presence and were willing to openly discuss matters, which represents a huge success."

While in the neighborhood, they discussed the need for essential services like sewer, water and trash projects.

PFC Gregory Brown, a rifleman in 2nd platoon, from Goose Creek, S.C., sees working with the Iraqi Army as a mutually rewarding experience.

"Today was a great opportunity to learn about how the Iraqi Army conducts operations, in addition to learning about the Iraqi culture. I think the Iraqi Army is taking control of security and is doing a good job in shouldering the incredible responsibility that they have to secure and stabilize Iraq. The only way to stabilize Iraq is for Iraqi Security Forces to be in control; not only now, but when we leave," he said. 

A photograph of three soldiers in full combat gear, including helmets, goggles, and rifles, positioned in a desert environment. The soldier in the foreground is on the left, looking towards the right. Two other soldiers are in the background, also looking right. The image has a blue tint.

Have the COURAGE to seek HELP

**"One suicide is one
too many."**

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

**Talk to your Chaplain or a
Behavioral Health Professional
or call Military OneSource
1-800-342-9647**

www.militaryonesource.com