



1-67 AR fades into the back in Mosul



CONTENTS

STB Soldiers win BCT NCO, Soldier of the Quarter board.....page 3

IA Soldiers, 2-8 IN attend commando trainingpage 4

204th Soldiers conduct area beautification at Camp Bravo.....page 6

2-8IN Soldiers awarded CIB, CAB.....page 8

1-67AR moves fades into back in Mosul.....page 9

3-16 FA, Gol return main road system back to Iraqpage 10

Crazy Troop gains new home at FOB Mindenpage 11

Around AO Warhorse.....page 12

793d MPs, IPs work to build forensic lab in Basra.....page 14



On the Cover:

A Soldier from 1-67 AR, looks out during a humanitarian aid mission in Mosul.
Photo by Combat Camera, MND-N.

Warhorse Sends: Deployment Update



The Warhorse Brigade continues to make significant progress and have a tremendous impact on the security and essential services for the people of Basra province, since our arrival in April. We hit the ground running and the results from the hard work of our Soldiers are very visible and lasting.

The Warhorse Brigade has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Basra by working on many projects focused on electricity, water, and sewage and trash removal for a total of 58 million dollars.

These projects combined with our partnership with all the Iraqi Security Forces (Army, Police and Border Enforcement) to maintain a safe and secure province has significantly improve life for the people of Basra.

Markets are full of goods, families have money to by the goods they need and the families and children are able to spend their free time outside in parks and playing sports. There are three amusement parks in Basra that are filled every Thursday and Friday night (Iraqi Weekend). These things were not possible a year ago.

The quality of life for our Warhorse Soldiers on COB Basra is still not where we want it to be, however, it is improving everyday. MWR is finally getting established on COB Basra, providing our Soldiers entertainment opportunities such as a comedy show and free band concerts. Soldiers have

a new Finance building that assists more customers at a time and a new Post Office. The Dining Facility continues to improve daily and soon there will be a big new gym for the soldiers to work out in. Quality of Life issues will continue to remain one of our top priorities.

The end of this month will mark another historic moment in Iraq as we prepare for the June 30th deadline for "Out of the City" in Iraq. The Warhorse Brigade will close some locations inside the city in accordance with the Security Agreement, however the ISF have requested that we also remain in some of the other locations in the city continuing our partnership with the Iraqi Army

This will allow us to assist them with enablers that they do not possess yet. This will ensure the ISF continue to protect the population of Iraq.

Your Soldiers continue to make a huge difference everyday for the people of Iraq. Their hard work, professionalism and dedication has resulted in us winning a war that last year at this time, people were saying could not be won.

There remains a lot of work to be accomplished but there is a sense of hope and opportunity with the Iraqi people that did not exist before. This is a result of all the sacrifice that you and your soldiers have made over the last year. Thank you for your continued support in this critical mission.

As we get closer to redeploying the Brigade, please continue to use the vFRG website. We update the vFRG website weekly. Our next Town Hall will be in July and it will focus on redeployment of the brigade. In the meantime, if you have questions that you would like for me answer, please e-mail them to connie.kallerson@conus.army.mil.

I will continue to provide updates on the Warhorse Brigade through out our deployment. Remember, if you did not hear it from myself or the Warhorse Rear Detachment then it is only a rumor. Please continue to visit the Warhorse vFRG website to get the latest information.

We are Warhorse!

HENRY A. KIEVENAAR, III
COL, AR
Commander

WARHORSE



RIDER

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.



Sgt. Larry L. Robinson and Spc. Craig Stokes, both military intelligence analysts in A Company, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, competed in and won the brigade's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter board June 6.

A Co., STB Soldiers win BCT NCO, Soldier of the Quarter board

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

With the high operational tempo, sometimes it's tough for deployed Soldiers to find time to maintain their basic Soldier knowledge and skills.

Two Soldiers of A Company, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, however, managed to not only keep their skills, but demonstrated their superior knowledge by winning the brigade's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter board June 6.

Sgt. Larry L. Robinson and Spc. Craig Stokes, both military intelligence analysts in the Stalker's Intelligence Electronic Warfare section, competed against a combined 10 other Soldiers in their respective battalion and brigade boards to obtain the

title.

"I'm excited considering this is my first time winning as a NCO. It's a different level of competition," said Robinson, a native of Fayetteville, N.C.

"It was kind of hectic with the board and work," added Stokes, who hails from Rochester, N.H.

Both Soldiers have been the Army for three years and are on their first deployment. They added that they had been informed they would be participating in the boards four days prior. They also expressed their thanks to their leaders and shop for helping them prepare.

"I'm honored that my first sergeant thought enough of us to represent the battalion. We had a lot of support from the section. They took some of our shifts at work to help us prepare," Robinson said.

Stokes added that winning the board

was special since it took place while he was deployed.


"It's a really good way to wrap up the deployment," he said.

Since the Stalkers won both boards, the winners feel that the Soldiers who follow them will have a lot to live up to.

"It's a lot of pressure. A lot of our Soldiers have won previous boards, there's a lot of self-pressure," Robinson said.

"I think it's a testament to the caliber of the Soldiers and leadership of Alpha Company," Stokes added.

Robinson had some advice for any Soldier thinking of competing in the fast-paced deployed environment.

"Be confident going in and be proud of yourself whether you win or not," he said. 



Spc. James Bennett, cavalry scout with the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., teach a group of Iraqi Army Soldiers how to identify different landforms and objects on a map during a commando training exercise at Camp Wessam, May 23.

IA Soldiers, 2-8 IN attend commando training

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore
MND-S PAO

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company trained a group of Iraqi Army Soldiers in land navigation during the Commando course at Camp Wessam, May 23.

Land navigation is just one of the many subjects taught during the three-week long commando course for Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers.

"This course is essentially the equivalent of a U.S. Army NCO school," said Staff Sgt. Philip Wedge, Gainesville, Fla.,

native and cavalry scout with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"All the students in this course are NCOs, so we teach them practical land navigation techniques, leadership, counseling and room clearing," said Wedge. "We're giving them everything they need to become successful on a more combat-oriented scale," he added.

For this particular training module the commando course instructors are teaching the NCOs to use maps, a compass and protractor. Once they fully understand how everything works they will then use what they've learned in a practical field exercise.


The battalion is training the NCOs in this group to become instructors so that they will have the ability to pass on the knowledge learned in the commando course to future IA soldiers and NCOs.

"We want to ensure that the skills learned here will be transferred to future generations of IA Soldiers, so the goal of this course is to train the Iraqi NCOs to become proficient in their skills enough to become instructors," said Wedge.

During the commando course you can see the Soldiers becoming more and more proficient in their skills and more confident in their capabilities, said Spc. James Bennett, cavalry scout with the battalion.

The IA Soldiers have already completed more than half the course and will soon return to their respective units and train other IA Soldiers and NCOs.

"About 95 percent of the students have satisfactorily retained the information at this point, and more than 70 percent are proficient enough to teach the material to other IA Soldiers," said Wedge.

"By the end of the course, we hope to have them all on the same sheet of music," he added. 



Two Iraqi Army Soldiers review points on a map during a commando training exercise with the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. at Camp Wessam, May 23.



A group of Iraqi Army Soldiers plot their route on a map during a commando training exercise with the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. at Camp Wessam, May 23.



This well-lit pathway is one of many that provide a safe walking area for 204th BSB Soldiers at Camp Bravo. The 204th is currently conducting area beautification of Camp Bravo to improve the quality of life for the Soldiers here.

204th Soldiers conduct area beautification at Camp Bravo

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore
MND-S PAO

Soldiers from the 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are working to improve the living conditions and overall wellbeing of the Soldiers at Camp Bravo on COB Basra.

The most important task right now is clearing out the Alaska shelters left behind by the British and moving Soldiers out of large open-bay tents into the shelters, said

Spc. Ryan Wilcox, Company A, 204th BSB.

The Alaska shelters are large air-conditioned tent structures with a hallway, eight rooms, bathrooms and showers.

They retain cool air better than the larger open-bay tents and provide the Soldiers at Camp Bravo with a better quality of life with more room, storage for their personal gear and smaller groups in each of the rooms.

"We're moving bricks and sandbags out of the Alaska shelters because

they're not very safe and bringing in bunk beds and wall lockers to create a more comfortable living space for the Soldiers here," said Wilcox.

Many of the shelters have been cleaned out and are fully functional, but the remaining shelters are still filled with concrete bunkers, dust and sandbags.

"The British created bunkers to sleep in because they were receiving indirect fire on a regular basis," said Maj. Brent Coryell, executive officer, 204th BSB.

“Now that the threat is lower, these bunkers are no longer necessary,” he added.

The bulk of the work is done by a few of the “Roughrider” Soldiers, but the entire battalion has, on occasion, worked together to remove the 60-pound stones out of the Alaska shelters.

“We recently had a 100 percent battalion formation and everyone moved these bricks for about an hour and a half,” said Coryell.

“The major benefit of living in the Alaska shelters is you don’t have to live out of a bag, you have a little more privacy and you don’t have to go outside to use the bathrooms or take

a shower,” said Pfc. Gary Branson, Reno, Nev. native, and petroleum supply specialist with the 204th BSB.

Branson and three other Soldiers are in charge of clearing out the Alaska shelters, taking apart the old British concrete bunkers and moving in bunk beds and wall lockers.

The detail has been working on area beautification for nearly three months and in that time they’ve placed sand-filled hesco barriers, created irrigation ditches to prevent flooding, put all the equipment together for the gym and fortified bunkers on the camp.

Since the temperature in Basra has increased, the group works primarily at night to prevent heat exhaustion

and other heat related illnesses, said Branson.

In addition to clearing out the Alaska shelters, the 204th also plans to build a basketball court and a new morale, welfare and recreation center.

“We’re planning to put together an MWR tent with video games, pool and ping pong tables and a movie long within a week,” said Coryell. 🇺🇸



Pfc. Gary Branson, a petroleum supply specialist with the 204th BSB, removes sandbags from a concrete bunker at Camp Bravo, May 19. Branson is one of the 204th Soldiers assigned to conduct area beautification of Camp Bravo to improve the quality of life for the Soldiers here.



Lt. Col. Doug Cardinale, commander, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pins the Combat Action Badge on Pfc. Matthew Campos, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., during an award ceremony at Camp Wessam, May 23. Campos was one of three Soldiers from the battalion whose vehicle was hit by an improvised-explosive device on a combat patrol in Basra, Iraq.

2-8IN Soldiers awarded CIB, CAB

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore
MND-S PAO

“These Soldiers had the misfortune of getting hit by an (improvised-explosive device), but they were fortunate in that no one was injured,” said Lt. Col. Doug Cardinale, commander, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during a Combat Infantryman Badge Ceremony at Camp Wessam, May 23.

Three Soldiers from the battalion were hit by an IED while on a combat patrol in Basra, May 7.

Fortunately, all Soldiers survived the blast with no injuries.

Our survival in the blast is a testament to the safety of our vehicles, said 1st Lt. John Crumpacker, an Excelsior Springs, Mo., native and mortar platoon leader with the 2nd

Bn.

“The HMMMV does its job and the Army is always working to make a safe and reliable vehicle,” he added.

Along with Crumpacker, two other Soldiers from the battalion were in the vehicle when the IED detonated, Spc. Justin Orf and Pfc. Matthew Campos, both of Mortar Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

“The blast was completely unexpected and it was over as quickly as it had started” said Orf, a Bowling Green, Mo., native and infantryman with the mortar platoon.

Orf was in the turret of the HMMMV and when he heard the blast he quickly checked to make sure he was alright, he then checked to make sure everyone else in the vehicle was okay, he added.

“The vehicle took all of the impact, we only had two flat tires,” Orf

continued.

Both Crumpacker and Campos were awarded the Combat Action badge, while Orf received the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The Combat Infantryman Badge has been a very distinguished award among infantryman since its establishment during World War II.


Its purpose is simple: to enhance the morale and prestige of the “Queen of Battle.”

According to the Army Regulation on military awards, for a Soldier to receive a CIB at least three special conditions must occur:

The Soldier must be an Infantryman or Special Forces Soldier; the recipient must be physically present and under hostile fire while serving as an assigned special forces or infantry Soldier; and the Soldier must be actively engaged in ground combat.

I’m proud to have a Combat Infantryman Badge, it’s one of the more celebrated achievements in the infantry, said Orf. “I’m just really glad no one got hurt,” he added.

The requirements for the Combat Action Badge are similar to those of the Combat Infantryman Badge except for one stipulation; the CAB does not require an infantry or Special Forces military occupational specialty.

“It’s an honor to receive a Combat Action Badge from Lt. Col. Cardinale,” said Crumpacker. “But it was just one IED, there are many other people that are more deserving,” he added humbly. 



Captain Thomas Sturm, commander of Delta Company, 1st Bn., 67th AR Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., meets with Iraqi Army Colonel Achmed Ibrahim Ali, commander of the Iraqi Army battalion before a combined mission.

1-67AR FADES INTO BACKGROUND IN MOSUL

By 1st Sgt. Michael Oliver,
1st Bn, 67th AR Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

As the Security Agreement between the United States and Iraq nears a new milestone, Delta Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, have moved to the background in the fight in the city of Mosul.

As the deadline for the withdrawal of most US forces from Iraqi cities approaches, the balance of this partnership has shifted even more toward the Iraqi Security Forces, with Delta Company supporting operations conceived, planned, and carried out by their Iraqi Army partners.

Colonel Achmed Ibrahim Ali, commander of the Iraqi Army battalion in the center of the city, holds nightly planning meetings and Delta Company's officers combine plans for future operations and adjust their own patrols to coincide with the IA.

Delta Company's mission during

these patrols is to provide technical or material support when required, to serve as a quick reaction force if the enemy attacks.

During these missions it's refreshing for Delta Company to stay in the background while the Iraqis take the lead when everything goes to plan.

"It is nice to step back and watch the Iraqis take control of their own security and missions. We will help them if they need it, but we won't run the show," said Spc. Johathan Sturing, a Soldier with the Demon Dogs.

While Delta Company supported a cordon and search operation in a residential neighborhood, Iraqi soldiers saw and quickly apprehended an insurgent who had placed two improvised explosive devices in a nearby marketplace.

Serving in their QRF capacity, 2nd Platoon cordoned the site to keep the public safe and coordinated with a U.S. explosive ordnance disposal team to defuse the IEDs.

After the IA had detained and ques-

tioned several suspected accomplices, 2nd Platoon used their evidence collection kit to identify the likely triggerman.

Working together, US and Iraqi forces captured and identified those responsible while avoiding any casualties.

More often, however, Delta Company plays a smaller role as security improves and Iraqi capabilities and confidence grow.

"We keep our distance and make sure we weren't in the way of anything. We are ready to respond if needed, but they do it all themselves and they do a good job," said Spc. Andrew Mance, a 2nd Platoon Soldier.

As the June 30th withdrawal from the cities approaches, Delta Company missions like this prepare the people of Mosul and the Iraqi Army for the day when U.S. forces are even farther away. 🇮🇶



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division move one of more than 3,000 concrete walls moved during the project to reopen Highway May 11.

Giving It Back: 3-16 FA, Gol return main road system back to Iraq

By 1st Lt. Mitchell T. Marks,
3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

This month marked the beginning of a landmark change in the Iraqi way of life. The groundbreaking ceremony held at CSC Scania signifies the beginning of efforts to reopen Highway 1 or Main Supply Route Tampa, as it is known to Coalition Forces.

The route serves as Iraq's primary north-south artery running through the center of the country. The road was closed in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom to provide coalition traffic with a much needed staging area to support the logistical network throughout the theater of operations.

Many different options for completion of this task were explored, but in the end U.S. and Iraqi

Army Engineers were tapped to do the work. This project is one of the largest engineer undertakings since the onset of the war. Some of the tasks included removing, moving and emplacing a 4.7 km cement wall, the redesign and building of new entry control points, the build-up and grading of over 5 km of road surfaces, and dismantling of the portions of CSC Scania that fall on the western side of the highway.


While U.S. Army engineers have typically been used to build up and maintain American bases in Iraq, this project marks a turning point for engineering efforts as they move more towards reshaping the life of the Iraqi public.

"As an engineer it is really fulfilling to work on projects that will impact the life of the Iraqi people, and be a small part of giving back this country to the Iraqi population," said Capt.

Carlos Flores, the Project Manager for the 54th Engineer Battalion out of Bamberg, Germany.

Now that the project has been initiated, it will take approximately 45 to 60 days to complete the work. Leaders representing the local Iraqi Security Forces, U.S. Forces and the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team attended the ground-breaking ceremony.

"This event is a big deal; this is what winning looks like," said Capt. Joseph Cosci Jr. of 3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt.

The re-opening of such an important roadway in Iraq will allow Iraqi citizens to travel on a safe route easily and will exponentially increase the opportunity for inter-provincial commerce in Iraq. The whole nation will benefit as a result of the combined efforts of CF and the ISF as they continue to secure the peace in Iraq. 



Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, live in air-conditioned, hard-floored tents on FOB Minden.

Crazy Troop gains new home at FOB Minden

By 1st Lt. James Guglielmi, C Troop 1-10 and Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT PAO

Recently, the Soldiers of 'Crazy' Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, relocated to their new home, FOB Minden in Basra Province.

The troop will have the opportunity to work with the Border Transition Team, which assesses border security, and the Port of Entry Transition Team who provides security to the port located near FOB Minden.

"The Crazy troop Soldiers' mission is to provide security to the BTT and the POETT teams," said 1st Sgt. Rob Ferguson, C Troop first sergeant.

In addition, C Troop provides life support areas for not only themselves, but for the BTT and POETT

as well. FOB Minden accommodates all these needs with air-conditioned, hard-floored tents, a dining facility, a morale, welfare and recreation tent and a gym facility.

For the Soldiers of C troop, they have lived on small, outlying patrol bases for most of their deployment.

"Everywhere we have gone, we have had to build or improve a patrol base in order to partner with our Iraqi Security Forces," said 1st. Lt. Andrew Prunty, fire support officer for Crazy troop.

Although the FOB doesn't have some of the luxuries of some other camps, the Soldiers here are happy with the facilities that are now available.

"Since we got here, there has been a lot of expansion on what the British

troops left us," said Staff Sgt. Javier Antonsanti, C Troop chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear noncommissioned officer.

Antonsanti added that plans are in place to continue to make FOB Minden comfortable for all living there.

"We are working hard on improving quality of life for all Soldiers," Antonsanti said.

"Life here is much better than you would expect. (Outlying areas) can be as nice as any FOB, all it really takes is a little hard work to make them as nice as possible," added Cpl. Nicholas Long, a cavalryman in the troop.

"Overall, I wouldn't trade any of the experiences I have had this year for anything," Long continued.



Spc. Joshua Trim, E Co., 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., receives a coin of excellence from General Raymond T. Odierno, commanding general of Multi-National Force—Iraq, during a coin ceremony held at Camp Allenby on COB Basra May 20. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



Lt. Col. Adrian Bogart, deputy commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Frederick Thompson, command sergeant major for 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., cut the chain at the opening ceremony of the new 2nd BCT headquarters held at Brady Lines on COB Basra May 27. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Left) Key leaders from Basra province listen to children recite prayers at the Basra City Chaldean Catholic Church reopening ceremony May 18. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Below) Capt. Pete Simpson, incoming commander for Company A, STB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., Maj. Neal A. Corson, executive officer for STB, and Capt. Andrew Camp, Company A outgoing commander, review the troops during the change of command ceremony at Camp Allenby on COB Basra May 23. Capt. Andrew Camp relinquished command of the 'Stalkers' to Capt. Pete Simpson. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.





Capt. Jay Cash, assistant operations officer with the 793rd Military Police Battalion, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Keith Curtis, the law enforcement professional for 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., inspect the Basra Provincial Police Headquarters during a key leader visit May 25.

793d MPs, IPs work to build forensic lab in Basra

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

As Soldiers from the 793rd Military Police Battalion, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, toured the forensics crime laboratory at the Basra Provincial Police Headquarters May 27, they were instantly impressed and amazed by what they saw.

The laboratory was littered with ballistic evidence and dominated by high-powered microscopes.

Some commented that the room looked more like a lab they would find in a stateside police station than what they were expecting in Iraq.

Impressive as the room was, the Iraqi Police and 793d MPs know there is a long way to go before the building reaches its full potential.

“Things are progressing and that’s good. I have seen the progress since we have started and the IP have come a long way,” said Capt. Jay Cash, assistant operations officer with the 793rd MP Bn.

The overall plan for the building consists of a complete overall of its infrastructure and security.

Then the building has to pass a cleanliness test and the IP lab techni-

cians have become certified forensic specialists.

Once that's completed, the last step is to move in more than \$2.5 million worth of state-of-the-art forensic equipment into the building, said Keith Curtis, the law enforcement professional for 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The IP are already well on the way to meeting these requirements.

Since the project began, the IP have removed four truck loads of rubbish from the area, cleaned the upper levels of the building and have sent seven of their lab technicians to Baghdad to become certified in forensic science, said Brigadier General Abed Kariem Gabar, chief operations officer for the provincial police forensics crime lab, through a translator.

He added that when his technicians return, they will be able to perform many levels of forensic operations, such as analyzing DNA, chemicals and explosive residue.

"We are building now, so everyone needs more (time), but we are learning (our jobs)," Kariem continued.

One challenge the general continues to face, however is gaining the people's confidence in forensic science. Fortunately, the IP recently arrested criminals accused of burglary and theft and the forensic team played a critical part leading up to their arrest.

This seemingly simple action went a long way to establishing the team's credibility.

"We've faced some problems; before the people didn't understand (what we do). We gained the trust of the people and we proved how important our role was," Kariem said.

As the Soldiers and IP parted ways, the general gave his thanks to the U.S. forces for their continued support in making both Basra province and Iraq a safer place for its citizens. 🇮🇶



Capt. Jay Cash, assistant operations officer with the 793rd MP Bn., attached to the 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., Brigadier General Abed Kariem Gabar, chief operations officer for the provincial police forensics crime lab, watch as a lab technician compares ballistic evidence at the Basra Provincial Police forensic crime lab during a visit May 25.

Have the Courage to Help a Buddy

"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