

# COALITION CHRONICLE

Volume 4, Issue 6 June 2009

10th Mountain Hands-off  
to Red Bulls... Again

U.S., Iraqi  
Partners Share  
Recognition

YEAR OF THE NCO  
HIGHLIGHTS ARMY'S  
ENLISTED LEADERS







A U.S. Soldier attached to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, shakes hands with an Iraqi child while on patrol in the province of Nassir Wa Salam in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, on May 17. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Robert Whelan)



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U.S. and Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal technicians work together to destroy stockpiles of munitions.



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Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team process humvees for distribution to Iraqi army and police.



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Following tradition, newly-graduated students switch their tassels from one side to the other.

# COALITION CHRONICLE

*The Official Magazine of  
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**June 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 6**

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## Departments

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**Senior Airman Tyrone Fisher**, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management flight, runs test to ensure mail has not been contaminated with hazardous materials, Camp Stryker, Iraq. Fisher, a native of Indianapolis, Ind., is deployed from the 181st Intelligence Wing, Indiana Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Beckham)

# FEATURE UP FRONT







Senior Airman Tyrone Fisher, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, gets a piece of chemical tape secured around his mask at Camp Stryker, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Romero)

# Airmen Inspect Exiled Mail for Hazardous Materials

by Staff Sgt. Tim Beckham  
U.S. Air Forces Central,  
Baghdad Media Outreach Team



Senior Airman Amanda Heatherly (left), and Tech. Sgt. Joshua Ashby (right), scan Senior Airman Tyrone Fisher, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, to make sure there are no hazardous material contamination on him, Camp Stryker, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Romero)



Senior Airman Tyrone Fisher (left), Senior Airman Lacye Branch (right), and Tech. Sgt. Steve Gaunt (center), 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, talk about a package and some of the unique writing on it, Camp Stryker, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Beckham)

Have you ever wondered what happens to exiled mail that never makes it to its intended recipient? Well, here in Iraq all that mail has to be processed by the Army-run Joint Military Mail Terminal. But, first it gets inspected by members of the Air Force for hazardous materials.

According to Army Lt. Col. Jason Kuroiwa, 81st JMMT commander, all mail coming into the Baghdad area that is improperly labeled, doesn't have a return address or simply gets lost in the system has to be inspected before they can process it and get it to its intended destination.

People sometimes do things like put the word 'Iraq' on the mail, or an incorrect address or no zip code. When that happens according to Kuroiwa, those items get redirected as international mail to the Iraqi postal service.

"The Iraqi government returns the mail back to us, but in regard to that we have to take some necessary precautions because the mail went outside the military postal system,"

he said.

Once the JMMT has accumulated an adequate amount of exiled mail, they perform several inspections to include screenings by military working dogs, x-ray machines and hazardous material personnel. Members of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management flight have to check the parcels for suspicious and/or hazardous materials that may have inadvertently or intentionally been introduced to the package.

"Before all this mail can be redistributed, we get with the JMMT personnel and perform radiological, chemical and biological inspections," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Gaunt, 447th ECES EMF NCOIC, who is deployed from the 117th Air Refueling Wing Alabama Air National Guard, and a native of Marietta, Ga. "It's important to protect our personnel and to protect the mail handlers. It's also a great opportunity for us to do a real-world mission and use the skills we are trained for."

Geared in chemical suits and armed with hazardous material

sensors, teams of three make their way downrange where the mail is stored to inspect the packages.

"We basically gear up and go downrange with several pieces of equipment to pull samples and run test on them to make sure there are no threats supported, and to determine whether it is safe for the next team to go down," said Senior Airman Amanda Heatherly, 447th ECES EM technician.

The inspections, usually performed once a month, are a joint effort between the emergency management team, the fire department and bioenvironmental engineers.

"We (the emergency management team) collect the samples and perform the test, the fire department checks our vitals to ensure we are healthy enough to go downrange and bio ensures the environment remains safe throughout the inspection process," said Heatherly, who is deployed from the 117th ARW Alabama ANG, and a native of Huntsville, Ala.



# Gains Made in Sons of Iraq Pay Reconciliation

Multi-National Division – North PAO



A zigzagging line of Sons of Iraq wait for payment in Multaka, Iraq, May 18. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor)

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK,** Iraq - Government of Iraq members of the Implementation and Followup Committee for National Reconciliation, Iraqi Army and U.S. Military forces oversaw another series of paydays in Multaka, starting May 18, and saw a dramatic decrease in the number of SoI that were ineligible to receive payment. In April, 228 Sons of Iraq in the village of Multaka, Iraq—or approximately onequarter of the total registered members—were turned away on payday because of discrepancies with the list that their 12th Iraqi Army Division pay agents received from Baghdad. “They [IFCNR, 12th IA Div. and SoI] made a big jump this month,”

said 2nd Lt. Chris Freeman, the fire support officer for Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. They reduced the total number of ineligible to receive payment by more than 90 percent, from 228 people not getting paid in the Multaka area, to 18 in a one monthspan, he continued. Most of the major issues with lists came when we switched payment from U.S.military forces to the GoI, said Cpt. John Denney, the commander of Company C. The administration of the pay lists was the biggest source of the problem initially, he explained. There were minor discrepancies in the spelling of names, which led to

the original SoI members not being paid for the first month that the 12th IA Div. was responsible for making the payments for the 848 on the payrolls in Multaka from US forces. But the IFCNR, IA soldiers and SoI worked since last month to get the list fixed, and they did a great job of getting it a lot closer to being completely accurate, said Freeman. For the individuals who were supposed to receive payment last month, there was one month of back pay waiting for them in addition to this month’s payment. “It is still a work in progress getting all the names right,” explained Freeman. “They are definitely working out their issues, though.” Freeman emphasized that the U.S. Military is strictly in overwatch and that IA pay agents were the ones drawing the money from the bank, issuing the payment, and noting discrepancies with the list so they could report them to the GoI. “We owe these guys a good handoff before we leave,” said Denney. “We just want to make sure that it [the transition] goes well.”

**1st Lt. Bashar**, of the 46th Iraqi Army Brigade, hands out payments to members of the Sons of Iraq in Multaka, Iraq, May 18. More than 220 SoI did not receive payment in April due to discrepancies on lists used by their pay agent. The number of unpaid was reduced to 18 this month. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor)



Petty Officer 2nd Class Mathew Murray (left), an explosive warfare specialist with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 2, works with Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal technicians as they rig a cache of 57mm rounds for destruction in Al Anbar province, May 21.

## Iraqi EOD Makes Iraq Safer....

Story and photos Staff Sgt. Jayson Price  
Multi-National Force - West PAO

**AL ANBAR PROVINCE,** Iraq – In a countryside marred by years of war and strife, unexploded ordnance or UXO, poses a daily danger to Iraqi citizens and families striving to make a better life for themselves. Whether it is reused as a weapon by criminals or terrorists, or simply lying unnoticed in a farmer’s field, unattended munitions can be deadly if not handled properly.

After years of relying on U.S. and coalition explosive ordnance disposal teams to rid its country of these dangers, Iraqi EOD teams are now showing they have what it takes to get the job done and make their country a safer place.

“The Iraqi Bomb Disposal Company has been independent for almost a year and they’ve proven themselves,” said Staff Sgt. Kelli Cairns, an engineer with Military Transition Team 7, the unit primarily responsible for helping train the 7th Iraqi Army Division. Cairns is the primary advisor to the 7th IAD’s bomb disposal and military police companies.

“They’ve recovered about 2,000 improvised explosive devices in the past two years.”

The Iraqi EOD has even responded to calls for help from coalition forces that have encountered IEDs or other munitions in Iraq’s Al Anbar province, according to Cairns.

The bomb disposal company of the 7th IAD recently had an opportunity to show off its skills, and make Iraq just a bit safer, when it led an operation to dispose of a substantial quantity of UXO. After a group of Iraqi civilians found a stockpile of 57mm projectiles hidden in the desert, they promptly notified government officials, who in turn passed the information on to the National Iraqi Intelligence Association. It wasn’t long thereafter that the bomb disposal company got the call.

The disposal operation took place May 21, and included EOD teams from the Iraqi army, U.S.

Navy, NIIA representatives, and security detachments from the Iraqi army and Regimental Combat Team 8. After evaluating the munitions and discussing tips and techniques with the Navy EOD technicians, the Iraqi EOD team conducted a controlled detonation to dispose of the cache.

Although most of the rounds found in this cache were old and of limited use, they still posed a danger if left unattended or if handled incorrectly. Cairns said the operation had a deeper meaning than simply ridding Iraq of dangerous explosives.

“The most successful part of the operation was that we had the NIIA here to see the Iraqi bomb disposal company outside the wire working with coalition EOD,” said Cairns. “They are showing they have the same capabilities as coalition force EOD and similar equipment to get the job done.”

Due to the help and diligence of ordinary Iraqi civilians and the increasingly proficient its EOD teams, the country is rid of another cache of unexploded ordnance and one step closer to a peaceful future.

## ... One Cache at a Time





**BASRA**, Iraq – Historic is a word that has been used often to describe the 34th Infantry Division Red Bulls' deployment to Iraq.

The deployment is historic in its scope. The Red Bull's are the first National Guard Division Headquarters commissioned to command a multi-national division in operations that are seen by many as unconventional at the very least.

The deployment is also historic in its timing. The stated goal of the current administration is to begin a draw-down of all combat troops in Iraq during the 34th ID's deployment.

Finally, the deployment is historic in its mission. The Red Bulls are commanding a division that is not engaged in conventional kinetic operations of war, but rather in transitioning power from coalition forces to the Iraqi security forces.

Although this deployment of the 34th ID is historic in many ways, the turnover of command from the outgoing, 10th Mountain Division to the incoming Red Bulls is actually reminiscent. This is the second time in a century that the hand-off of battle has occurred between these two divisions.

In the fall of 1943, the 34th ID was pushing north in Italy, capturing the four peaks of Mount Patano, fighting through the Mignano Gap to take Mount Trocchio and pushing the

Germans back in the First Battle of Monte Cassino. But in their operations, the Red Bulls suffered about 80 percent losses in their infantry battalions and were in desperate need of relief.

That relief came from the allied forces, but mainly from the active duty American Army. Among the divisions that took over for the 34th ID in Italy was the 10th Mountain Division.

The 10th was first composed as a unit that trained skiers and climbers for battles in exactly the type of difficult, mountainous terrain the 34th had been hunkered down in during their entire campaign through Italy. Some Soldiers in the 10th weren't familiar with skis when they joined, but all were qualified to fight on mountainous terrains by the time they were deployed in 1944.

The 10th Mountain's training and proficiency in the terrain, along with the ground gained by the 34th, contributed greatly to the victory of allied forces in Europe.

Sixty-five years later, the 10th Mountain Division is reciprocating that battle hand-off from the 34th in Italy, by handing over command to the Red Bulls Multi-National Division – South in Iraq.

The mission is different. The equipment and capabilities are different. But the ultimate goals of these two divisions through this battle hand-off are the same, to preserve peace throughout the world and to protect freedom.

## Battle Hand-off Between 10th Mountain, Red Bulls... Again

By Sgt. Joe Roos,  
Multi-National Division - South

This is the second time in a century that a battle hand-off has occurred between the 10th Mountain Division and the 34th Infantry Division. Command of Multi-National Division- South was transferred to the Red Bulls, May 20. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford)

**2nd Lt. Hollis E. Collum**, Company C, 168th Infantry Regiment, is typical of former noncommissioned officers who were appointed to the rank of second lieutenant on the battlefield. Here, Collum explains the functioning of the new carbine to men of his platoon. (Archive photo)



# “The Year of the NCO” — Highlighting the Army’s Enlisted Leaders

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Denise M. Serrano (USMC)  
Multi-National Force - Iraq



**Multi-National Forces-Iraq Command Sergeant Major Lawrence K. Wilson** (2nd from left) and **Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sergeant Major Frank Grippe** (3rd from left) poses with fellow sergeants major in front of a Year of the NCO poster. The conference was held aboard Joint Base Balad to bring attention to the Year of the NCO campaign for 2009.

Throughout the years, the Army has brought about multiple campaigns to rebuild and rejuvenate the fundamental ideas of leadership and the face of the Noncommissioned Officers Corps.

In January 2009, the Army implemented “The Year of the NCO” to bring attention to the continued hard work and dedication that enlisted leaders possess and convey to junior enlisted Soldiers.

The purpose of the program is to build upon the NCO’s education, fitness, leadership development, and pride in service through programs and policies that support the

sustainment and growth of the NCO Corps.

Education is a building block to further a Soldiers career within the Army and in the civilian sector. It is important that our Soldiers are receiving an education while they are serving. We strive for excellence in all that we do, and education should be no different. The Army wants officer and enlisted education levels to be more on par with each other, so when a Soldier reaches the rank of sergeant first class, he or she would have the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree. And when they are working with a second or first

lieutenant, the education levels are more compatible and in line with each other, said Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence K. Wilson, Multi-National Forces Iraq’s command sergeant major.

Fitness is a key element in today’s Army. Leaders need to raise awareness through improved education on health and fitness and increased knowledge of personal health factors and risks. “Fitness is essential to being able to perform your duties as a Soldier,” said Sgt. Josiah G. Volden, Command Group Personal Security Detail team leader. “If you do not take care of yourself,

you will not be an effective leader to your troops. You have to be a role model, and lacking the self-discipline to be physically fit, diminishes your role as a leader.”

Leadership development is an indispensable component of any organization, and the Army is no exception. NCOs are the Soldiers that teach, observe, and perform above all others. These warriors must be courageous and have a dedication and willingness to perform their duties, no matter what the mission. The Army is dedicated to assisting in the improvement and development of its leaders by providing numerous workshops and programs to advance its noncommissioned officers’ ability to

lead.

Pride in service gives way to pride in self, pride in the Army, and pride in what Soldiers have accomplished for the nation. Pride in service encompasses a wide variety of aspects. The Army’s aspiration is to instill in the public an understanding of the value of the noncommissioned officer. Showcasing their leadership and service to the nation, and placing emphasis on the responsibilities and contributions of the NCO Corps throughout its long illustrious history within the Army, brings recognition and pride back to these distinguished ranks.

“The Year of the NCO” initiative brings the NCO Corps back to the forefront of people’s minds,

reminding them that NCOs are the backbone of the Army. “It is a mechanism for units at all levels of the Army to step back and reflect on the contributions and significance of our noncommissioned officers,” said Col. B.J. Constantine, Deputy of the Secretary of the Combined Joint Staff for Multi-National Forces - Iraq.

“The program is long overdue, and I think that sadly the efforts of our NCOs have been overlooked and it has taken this war to underscore and highlight how critical our NCO Corps is to the military and our nation,” said Constantine.

“I think that the NCO program is a great idea, it is much needed in today’s Army,” said Volden. “There

are a lot of good NCOs, but I think that this program will help bring out the best in a leader, to help them improve upon their fundamental leadership skills.”

The Army has held multiple events and conferences to bring the Year of the NCO to troops stationed around the world. One such conference, and a fun run, was held on Joint Base Balad Iraq, April 25. The event brought out more than 1000 participants, including MNF-I Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence K. Wilson and MNC-I Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, for a 3-mile run/walk.

The Army wants to rebuild and rejuvenate the fundamental ideas of leadership and the face of the NCO Corps and “The Year of the NCO” campaign is making great strides to accomplish that mission.

To find out more about “The Year of the NCO” campaign, go to your professional Army website <http://www.us.army.mil> or <http://www.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.html>.



**Army Soldiers** deployed to Joint Base Balad, completed a 5k walk/run in honor of The Year of the NCO campaign created by the Army. The run had more than 1000 participants complete the activity.





**Soldiers at Camp Adder**, Iraq held a Memorial Day service at the base's Memorial Hall. Aviators in the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 104th General Support Aviation Battalion also provided a flyover with their AH-64 Apache helicopters, May 25. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew E. Jones)



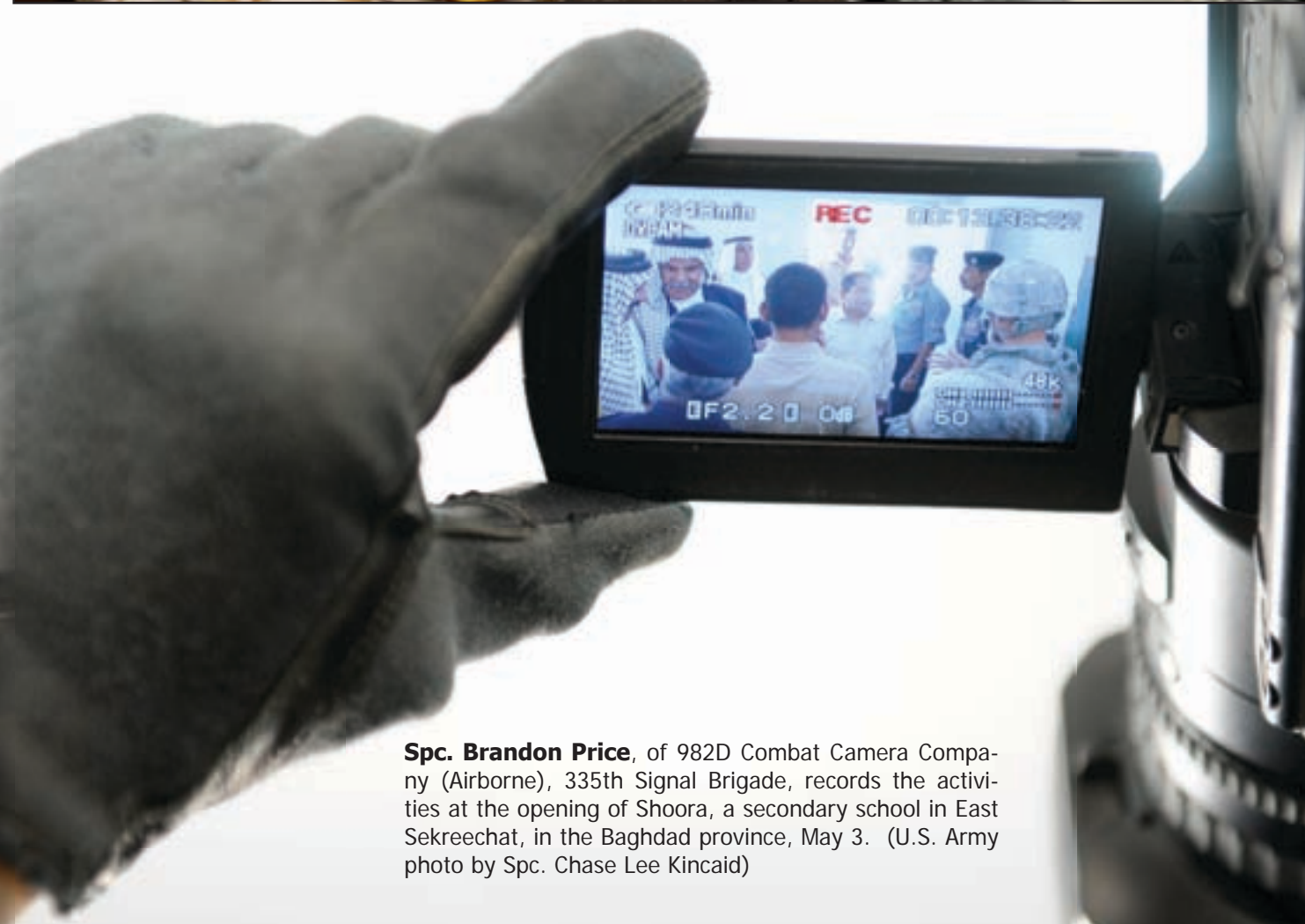


LEFT: **Tech. Sgt. Ben Jenkins** conducts a radio check to make sure the portable radio is working before going out on a mission from Camp Liberty, Iraq, May 13. He is a part of the tactical air control party working to ensure that Soldiers on the ground have the air support they need to get their mission done. Jenkins is an 82nd Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron tactical command and control specialist. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Romero)

RIGHT: **An Iraqi soldier** (left), with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division and an interpreter (right), talk with a local Iraqi man during a dismounted combined patrol through the Qadussyia District of Mosul, Iraq, May 12. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kamaile O. Chan)



**Iraqi Marines** travel on the Khar Abd Allah River as they depart the Umm Qasr south port terminal in Basra, Iraq, May 17. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andre N. McIntyre)



**Spc. Brandon Price**, of 982D Combat Camera Company (Airborne), 335th Signal Brigade, records the activities at the opening of Shoora, a secondary school in East Sekreechat, in the Baghdad province, May 3. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Chase Lee Kincaid)

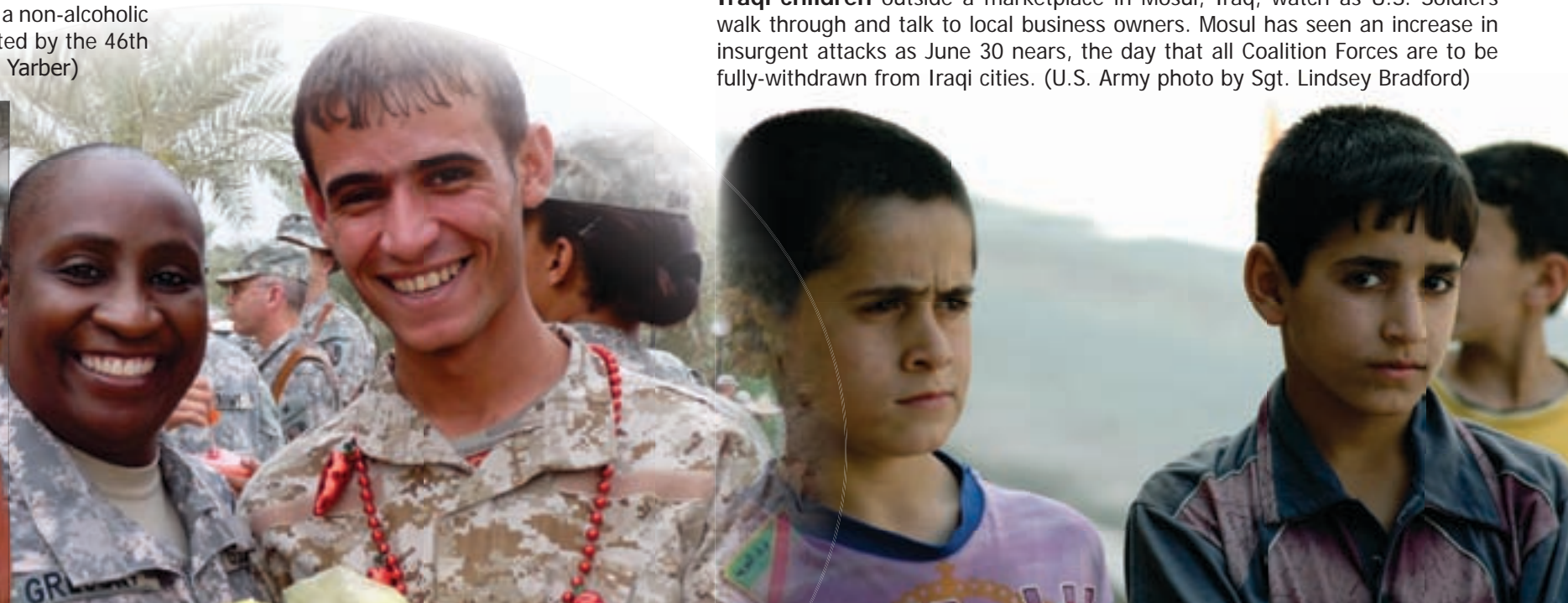


RIGHT: **Command Sgt. Major Anna Gregory** (left), from Maringouin, La., holds a non-alcoholic margarita while posing with an Iraqi army engineer at the May Engineer Call hosted by the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), May 9. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Janeene Yarber)



**Staff Sgt. Sinapao Roberts**, of Asu, American Samoa, assigned to Company A, Corps Special Troops Battalion, 1st Corps, Multi-National Corps—Iraq, performs a haka war dance, a traditional Polynesian dance performed by warriors before battle. Roberts, along with other Multi-National Division—Baghdad and MNC-I Soldiers, formed the dance troupe Toa O Samoa and performed a variety of traditional and modern dances here, May 22. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Phillip Turner)

**Iraqi children** outside a marketplace in Mosul, Iraq, watch as U.S. Soldiers walk through and talk to local business owners. Mosul has seen an increase in insurgent attacks as June 30 nears, the day that all Coalition Forces are to be fully-withdrawn from Iraqi cities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lindsey Bradford)



**Lt. Gen Charles Jacoby** (left), commander, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, takes a tour of the recently opened Abu Ghraib Fire Station, May 28. Jacoby also walked a market street in Abu Ghraib to see economic improvements to the area. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dustin Roberts)



# JET Airmen Distribute Humvees to Iraqi Forces

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Dilia Ayala  
332nd AEW Public Affairs Office

1st Lt. Victoria Smith, 732nd Air Expeditionary Group Joint Expeditionary Tasking airman and Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team officer-in-charge, speaks with Iraqi army soldiers prior to them driving M1114 humvees to the Iraqi-run section of Camp Taji.

**CAMP TAJI**, Iraq -- Working hand-in-hand, Joint Expeditionary Tasking airmen and Soldiers here are working to arm Iraqi forces with more protective means of transportation.

As U.S. forces change over to using the M1151 Humvee, they turn in their older models - the M1114, to the Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team as a means of salvaging the vehicles.

The team is responsible for processing the M1114 up-armored humvees prior to distribution to Iraqi army and police.

"We receive M1114s from all over Iraq," said 1st Lt. Victoria Smith, 732nd Air Expeditionary Group JET airman, RPAT officer-in-charge, and Colorado Springs, Colo. native. "We are the central hub or depot point for the receiving and transferring of M114s over to the Iraqis."

The team then accounts for each vehicle turned in, performs an initial safety inspection, and stores them until they are ready to be picked up for processing to the next staging point.

"We take these vehicles in from various companies, various battalions, whoever is in need of

turning them in," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Dietz, RPAT yard boss and fellow JET airman. "Instead of scrapping these vehicles, we use kind of like a recycling program."

"In turn, we continue to improve our relationship with the Iraqi government by selling these vehicles to the Iraqi government for a much lower price than they are standard," added Dietz, who is deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. "Then, the Iraqi government takes them, does a little work to them and puts them out in their army and police force for better protection against IEDs, insurgents, things of that nature."

Once the M1114s are accounted for and have passed their initial inspection, U.S. Soldiers assist in turning the vehicles over to the Iraqis for the next step in the redistribution process. In a typical pick-up, 150 Humvees are taken to the next stage in the process.

"The Iraqi army along with U.S. Soldiers come over to pick up the vehicles to take them to their next staging point," said Dietz, a native of East Islip, N.Y. "We will transfer the M114s to Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq; they

will in-turn sell it to the Iraqi (government)."

MNSTC-I is responsible for helping Iraq organize, train and equip its military and police forces and develop Iraqi security institutions capable of sustaining security with reduced coalition involvement.

While in the hands of MNSTC-I personnel, the vehicles are repainted and any necessary maintenance is performed before they are turned over to Iraqi soldiers and police.

Aiding in the redistribution process, Iraqi soldiers assist in taking the vehicles to MNSTC-I for processing, helping bring the Humvees one step closer to being distributed for use on their daily patrols.

"I am so thankful for these vehicles," said Hakem, an Iraqi army private stationed here. "I'm proud to be a part of the process to get them to our Iraqi soldiers and police. These Humvees will help keep them safe."

"This process is really important," said Smith, who is deployed here from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. "It is important what we are doing in this country as far as helping rebuild

the infrastructure ... (this will) help get Iraq back on its feet and get them to the point where they can provide everyday security on their own streets."

The JET airmen in the RPAT feel just as proud to be a part of the redistribution process in terms of what it means for the country, according to Dietz. "We are helping the nation stand on its own. It feels good."

**Hakem**, an Iraqi army private, directs U.S. and Iraqi soldiers as they drive M1114 humvees from the Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team humvee yard to the next staging point on the Iraqi section of the camp.



Cheers, applause and pride filled the room as 79 service members moved their tassels from left to right after graduating from college at Camp Victory, Baghdad, May 17.

Beneath a flag hanging from the ceiling of the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, the students became the first

service members to graduate in Iraq. The ceremony encompassed 21 different schools and various degrees.

Approaching the stage, Petty Officer 2nd Class Orlando Cepeda, a Houston, Texas, assistant non-commissioned officer in charge, Management Advisory Group Cell, was the first student to walk across the stage and accept his certificate.

"Iraq is a historical place and even to be a small part of its history is

awesome," said Cepeda.

Many students hoped the historical moment would inspire other service members.

"We are in Iraq and we graduated," said Sgt. 1st Class Jennie Jones, a Memphis, Tenn., support operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Forward Support Battalion. "So, it's possible for other Soldiers to do it. There's always something to learn."

The Education Center enables

Soldiers to take online courses and offers core classes such as English to take in a classroom setting.

"It's not like normal colleges, we have about 15 students per class," said Lisa Brooks a psychology instructor with the University Maryland University College in Iraq. "The one on one contact available to students provides personal interaction and builds camaraderie."

A firm believer in the Army's education opportunities Chief War-

rant Officer Michael-Paul A. McKoy, a Miramar, Fla. native and human resource technician, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, plans to utilize the Education Center to further his education and begin his master's degree.

"Furthering your education can boost you in many different ways, whether it is to develop a job skill, score a promotion, or begin a new career, higher learning can provide a myriad of opportunities," said McKoy. "The hardest part is getting

into classes and sticking to it."

After sticking to their studies and officially graduating, students congratulated one another and thanked the Education Center employees and teachers that helped them.

"Watching these students graduate is the greatest feeling ever," said Brooks. "I feel like a proud parent. So many have issues going on at home, but they push forward and finally they have achieved this monumental moment."



## *Al Faw Palace Hosts First U.S. College Graduation Ceremony*



# U.S., Iraqi Partners Share Recognition

Story and photos by Pfc. Justin Naylor  
Multi-National Division – North PAO

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq** – Partnership is the term used by U.S. military officials to describe the cooperative relationship between Iraqi Police and army and U.S. Soldiers following the security agreement signed between the two countries January 1. This includes daily missions maintaining security in Kirkuk province, and it also means sharing in accomplishments.

Iraqi emergency services police in Kirkuk City, Iraq, witnessed a reenlistment ceremony for two Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment “Red Dragons,” 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, May 11, at the Emergency Services Unit station.

The Red Dragons also awarded Army Achievement Medals to five of

the Shurta, or Iraqi policemen, at the event.

The ceremony began with dozens of ESU Shurta standing in formation to watch the unfurling of the U.S. flag and the reenlistment of Sgt. David Crebo, and Spc. Jonathan Real, both artillerymen with Battery B, 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

“There is nothing more fitting than for these Soldiers to raise their right hand and reenlist with their Iraqi partners present,” explained Lt. Col. Terry Cook, the commander of the 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

Aside from wanting to extend their time in the military, there were additional reasons why they chose to reenlist with their Iraqi partners beside them.

“We are in their country,” said Real.

“We wanted to show them how we do our ceremonies.”

Crebo explained that the ESU has been a great partner and this ceremony symbolized that partnership between the ESU and the U.S. Army. It also gave the Shurta an

**Brig. Gen. Khatad** (left), the Iraqi Emergency Services Unit chief, gives Spc. Jonathan Real (right), a Bayamon, Puerto Rico native and an artilleryman with Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, a coin after his reenlistment ceremony at the ESU Station in Kirkuk City, May 11.

example of how to conduct their own reenlistment ceremonies.

Following the reenlistment, the five Shurta receiving AAMs stood before the assembled Iraqi police and U.S. Soldiers.

By Army regulation, the AAM can be awarded to any member of the armed forces of the United States, or to any member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, distinguishes himself by meritorious service or achievement.

According to Brig. Gen. Khatad, the ESU chief, the five Shurta were being rewarded for their outstanding work and for setting an example for their fellow policemen.

“I’ve seen the Shurta within Kirkuk City working at an exceptional level,” said Cook. “We are honored and humbled to be able to serve with such a fine organization.”

For one Shurta in particular, the award had special meaning.

“It is very unusual for us to receive awards for doing our job well,” explained Anies Fandi Najm Muter, an ESU Shurta. “I am very proud.”

“All my fellow Shurtas are going to try and prove that they can be better than me now,” said Muter. “It’s a great program, and it is great that we are being rewarded for doing what we love.”



**Lt. Col. Terry Cook**, the commander of 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pins a U.S. Army Achievement Medal to the uniform of an Iraqi Emergency Services Unit policeman, at the ESU Station in Kirkuk City, May 11.



# IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICE MEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN MAY 1 AND  
MAY 31, 2009 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM  
**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY  
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**  
*JOHN 15:13*

**May 2**

*Spc. Jake R. Velloza, 22*  
*Spc. Jeremiah P. McCleery, 24*

**May 7**

*Spc. Shawn D. Sykes, 28*

**May 8**

*Pvt. Justin P. Hartford, 21*  
*Staff Sgt. Randy S. Agno, 29*

**May 9**

*Spc. Omar M. Albrak, 21*

**May 10**

*Maj. Steven Hutchison, 60*

**May 11**

*Pfc. Michael E. Yates Jr., 19*  
*Spc. Jacob D. Barton, 20*  
*Staff Sgt. Christian E. Bueno-Galdos, 25*  
*Maj. Matthew P. Houseal, 54*  
*Commander Charles K. Springle, 52*

**May 13**

*Cpl. Ryan C. McGhee, 21*

**May 16**

*Spc. David A. Schaefer Jr., 27*

**May 21**

*Sgt. Paul F. Brooks, 34*  
*1st Lt. Leevi K. Barnard, 28*  
*Maj. Jason E. George, 38*

**May 22**

*Sgt. 1st Class Brian Naseman, 36*

**May 25**

*Cmdr. Duane G. Wolfe, 54*  
*Maged M. Hussein, 43*

**May 27**

*Spc. Chad A. Edmundson, 20*

**May 29**

*Pvt. Thomas E. Lee, III, 20*  
*Pvt. Bradley W. Iorio, 19*

**May 30**

*Spc. Samuel D. Stone, 20*

**May 31**

*Spc. Marko M. Samson, 30*



**An Iraqi boy** smiles for the camera and gives a "thumbs up," during a visit to the village of Shebeica, on May 7, in Kirkuk, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati)

