

WARHORSE



RIDER

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

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*1-10 CAV works with
Iraqis to strengthen
border security*

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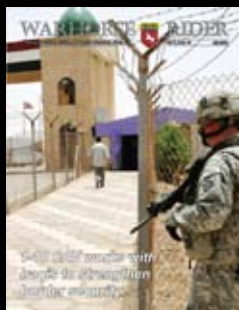
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On the Cover:

A Soldier from C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pulls security along the point of entry to Iraq near FOB Minden June 16. Photo by Staff Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

Warhorse Sends: Warhorse Brigade Update



The Brigade continues to do well all across Iraq. We have just executed what I am sure you have all heard about is a withdrawal of combat forces out of the cities. This was not as big an impact for the elements of the Brigade in the south, as it is

really how we have been operating since our arrival here in Basra, it is a more significant shift for 1-67 AR in Mosul. We are continuing our work with the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government of the Provinces, but we no longer conduct combat pertains in the cities. This is a critical step in the development of Iraq and another hurdle cleared in completing our mission. Your Soldiers have continued to make a tremendous difference for the people and country of Iraq. You should be very proud of their accomplishments. I continue to be amazed by their professionalism, discipline and compassion every day as they continue to provide hope and security for the people of Iraq.

As our mission starts to draw to a close, we are starting the planning and execution of the tasks to return home. Our redeployment will begin with the Torch Party returning by the end of the month and the entire brigade redeployed back to Fort Carson by the end of August. This is an exciting time as we wrap up a successful deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our Soldiers have made significant improvements and a tremendous impact on the security and essential services for the people of Basra, Diwaniya, Najaf, Mosul, Kirkuk, Babil, and Karbala provinces over the past 12 months.

As we prepare for redeployment, we must continue to focus on our current mission here in Basra. We must not let our rush to redeploy jeopardize all of our hard work. 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 61 million dollars. It is our duty to ensure that we conduct

a thorough transition for the brigade that will replace us in Basra.

Redeployment can also be a stressful time for our Soldiers and their Families. Returning home can sometimes be as stressful as leaving. The Warhorse Brigade will conduct Reintegration Training for the first two weeks of September to help minimize this stress and provide our Soldiers and their Families the proper tools and resources they may need. Once Reintegration Training is completed the brigade will go on Block Leave currently scheduled from 15 September until 15 October. These dates could still shift by as much as a week depending on the actual dates we arrive home. I encourage Soldiers and their Families to make plans that they can adjust without incurring a financial burden.

As when we deployed, Soldiers will get a window for when they are schedule to fly home. Weather, operational requirements, and number of seats on the planes from Kuwait will drive the actual dates our Soldiers fly. When your Soldier gets on the flight to Ft. Carson, we will send the manifest to the Rear Detachment Commander, who will notify the FRG's on who is arriving when. This will give you about 24 hours notice on when your Soldier will be at the Special Events Center to meet you and then go out on a 4 day pass. The Rear Detachment will brief you at the next Warhorse Update on all the particulars of the notification and redeployment.

As we redeploy the Brigade, please continue to use the vFRG website. We update the vFRG website weekly. Our next Town Hall will be July 14 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.kaller-son@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

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

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

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



Col. Butch Kievenaar, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., commander, talks to the sheikhs of Basra about civil action projects in a meeting held at the Basra Operations Center June 16.

Warhorse commander meets with sheikhs in Basra

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

Col. Butch Kievenaar, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, met with key Basra province sheikhs in a meeting held at the Basra Operations Center June 16.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the brigade commander to the sheikhs as well as discuss partnership as it related to the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement, said Maj. Richard Fierro, fire support officer for the brigade. The commander spoke with the sheikhs and explained to them what contributions the U.S. forces were bringing to the province.

"Since we moved into the province, I wanted you to hear from me what our purpose is and what we are doing to help the people of Basra," Kievenaar said during the meeting.

Kievenaar also talked about closing several bases as the June 30 deadline approached.

"We are turning over this month two locations. They both will be handed over back to the police before the end of the month," he said. Kievenaar also told the sheikhs that two other locations will continue to have a U.S. presence to train the Iraqi Security Forces at the request of key leaders in the province.

The commander continued, highlighting and explaining some of the brigade's civic action initiatives to help the city of Basra.

"Currently, we have 103 projects ongoing in the city of Basra. These projects are all designed to help improve the quality of life for the people of Basra," he said.


"Part of the challenge with these projects is that by our own U.S. law, we have to go in and certify these projects. After the 30th of June, I'm sure you will hear from your people how they saw Americans in Basra, but please assure them we are only there to continue the work on these projects and make sure the contractors get paid," he added.

Maj. Gen. Hussein Abd Ali Abdullah, BaOC deputy commander and Abdul Ali al-Musawi, the leading Shia Cleric in Basra, were among the guests at the conference.

Fierro said that engaging the sheikhs in the area is a great way to reach out to the people of Basra.

"Talking to the sheikhs is another avenue of approach to foster partnership with the populace," he said.

The sheikhs discussed with the Colonel issues concerning agriculture, power and water distribution as well as continuation of the projects once the U.S. forces depart. At the conclusion, Kievenaar reiterated his intent to keep lines of communication open between the sheikhs and himself.

"What we are trying to do is open up communications between all of the tribal leaders and our forces so that there are no secrets and we are sharing information to provide an avenue to resolve any issues," he said. 



Maj. Jackie L. Thompson, brigade staff judge advocate with 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., works on a Soldier's legal issues June 15 at COB Basra. Thompson believes that the Army's assistance to pay for higher education was the first step to his financial success.

Economic crisis no burden to some U.S. Soldiers

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

You read about it every day. Big businesses are facing financial trouble, stocks are tumbling, and the word 'bailout' is used so much, it has become a part of today's American lexicon.

What you don't read about is how the current economic crisis affects America's Armed Forces.

The truth of the matter is, in light of the unstable economy, some Soldiers are not feeling the full effects of the recession.

This can be mainly attributed to one key factor: job security.

"The job security is awesome. We always have a steady pay check. You don't have to worry about getting fired or laid off because we're always needed," said Spc. Anthony Madden, a signal systems support specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Madden, a 25-year-old native of Columbus, Ohio, has been in the Army for more than two years and believes the extra perks of being a Soldier also go a long way to increasing financial security.

"The benefits are real nice too. We don't have to worry about medical, dental or retirement. The Army takes care of all that so, financially, it's a real good deal," he said.

Maj. Jackie L. Thompson Jr., the Brigade Staff Judge Advocate for 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., believes that the Army's assistance to pay for higher education was the first step to his financial success.

"The military has benefited me in that I have not had to pay for any schooling, so the student loans and debt associated with them ... I didn't have to worry about," he said.

Thompson, a native of North Chicago and a career officer of 19 years, had to experience industries letting his family down long before the current crisis dominated television and news headlines.

"My father was laid off from his job

when I was in college. I had to watch him go from \$40,000 a year to working for a little under \$7 an hour. I decided that I didn't want to find myself in that same circumstance," he said.

Thompson also believes that even though the current situation is dire, the future looks optimistic.

"There are a lot of people in distress, but I think our markets are resilient enough to recover," he said.

Although some Soldiers feel relatively safe from the economic crisis, nearly every one of them can be a victim of their own spending habits.

"It's too easy to get into credit card debt, but (Soldiers) have to learn to live within their means. When I was married, my wife and I used to run up credit cards and bought a new car. I learned to get better with my money and I paid off the debt," said Madden.

"Paying off your debt is important because all the saving in the world doesn't matter if you're paying 17 or more percent on a credit card," Thompson added.

Another big benefit for Soldiers is that being deployed gives them ample opportunity to save for a rainy day.

“Saving money in the military is not just a choice, it’s a lifestyle choice. Most Soldiers only get paid on the first and 15th of the month,” Thompson said.

“I move some of my money into my savings, leaving only what I need. I paid off all my debt, so now I’m debt free. I’m also studying the stock market, because now is a good time to invest,” Madden added.

In addition to commercial banking and investing, Thompson thought highly of several programs that are exclusive to service members.

“The Thrift Savings Program has been a wonderful tool for my success. If a young Soldier were to invest in it since the beginning of their career, then they could gather a lot of money. The Savings

Deposit Program is also beneficial because no one can produce a 10 percent return on your money right now,” he said.

When it comes to long-term financial planning, Thompson takes a very old school approach; just stay in.

“I believe that every Soldier can be a millionaire. Many Soldiers don’t understand when I say that. When you think long term and when you retire and you’re receiving 50 percent of your base pay for the rest of your life, how much can that add up to?” he said.

Although Madden hasn’t raised his hand to reenlist just yet, he believes that the economy would be a huge factor in his decision to stay Army.

“If I stay in, the economy would be a big factor. I want to work and be productive. If I do decide to get out, I’ve been saving my money now because there’s no promise that I can get a job when I get out

and I want to be prepared,” he said.

Although neither Madden nor Thompson claim to be financial ‘gurus,’ they both offer some valuable advice for Soldiers concerned about their own financial security.

“Watch your money and really pay attention to what you spend your money on,” Madden said.

“If a person needs financial advice, I recommend they see a certified financial planner so that they can receive the appropriate information,” Thompson added. 🇺🇸



Spc. Anthony Madden, a signal support specialist with HHT, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., helps Spc. Jackson Parker, brigade deputy commander’s driver, with a radio, June 15 at COB Basra. Madden along several young Soldiers in the brigade, are looking to invest money they have saved during their deployment.



Pvt. Devin Ward, a Soldier in Headhunter Company, 1st Bn. 67th Armor Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., shakes hands with a young Iraqi boy at a humanitarian aid distribution site.

1-67 AR conducts combined Ops for combined success

By Capt. Matthew Burmeister
1st Bn, 67th AR Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Teamwork is, and always has been, one of the most important traits for Soldiers to possess. With teamwork, a group of individuals can come together and accomplish a greater task than any of them could alone.

Headhunter Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has found this to be especially impor-

tant during this deployment, and the need to incorporate our Iraqi Security Force partners has been clearly evident.

Headhunter Company continues to incorporate this and other fundamental tenets of counter-insurgency during all of our operations.

This includes working, in all situations, to enable the Iraqi Security forces we work with to protect and support the civilian population.

The most recent example of Headhunter Company putting these prac-

tices in action was the provision of humanitarian aid to a local town conducted by the battalion mortar platoon.

This operation showed how the Soldiers of Headhunter Company continue to incorporate these principles into all of our operations.

The battalion mortar platoon continuously works, in all of its operations, with the Iraqi army battalion in the area.

During these combined operations, a little bit of teamwork makes for sizable gains in the effectiveness of both

organizations. In this case, American assistance with funding for materials and assistance with site security facilitated Iraqi efforts to secure the humanitarian aid distribution point and ensure those most in need received aid first.

For all parties involved, the benefits of teamwork and combined operations are plainly evident.

“We help our Iraqi Army counterparts secure the area so missions like this that help the civilians can happen,” said Pvt. Devin Ward, a Soldier in Headhunter Company.

Combined effectiveness in these types of operations benefits all parties and facilitates improvements in secu-

rity and quality of life.


“I think that the success we achieve with our Iraqi counterparts during these combined operations is a good sign for the future of the area,” said Spc. Jared Clemenzi with Headhunter Company.

Another important aspect of these combined operations is ensuring the sacrifices and efforts of our Iraqi Security Force partners are made known and emphasized to the civilian population.

These civilians are another key component in the fight to marginalize and isolate insurgent forces. For these reasons, government officials are included as often as possible as well in

these combined operations.

The combination of effective Iraqi Security Forces, capable government meeting the needs of its citizens, and civilians who will not harbor the enemy is vital to finally defeating insurgent networks.

Headhunter Company continues to pursue these lines of operations and incorporate these tenets into all operations. Only by working in conjunction with all partners will we be able to reach our goals together. 



A local Mukhtar explains to Capt. Matthew Burmeister, commander of Headhunter company, the process by which priority for humanitarian aid distribution will be given to those most in need. Engaging local leadership is vital to combined success.



Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Maloy, 2nd Plt. sergeant, C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., communicates over a radio as he pulls security near FOB Minden June 16. In the background, people walk with their luggage to exit Iraq. Maloy comes from St. Johns, Ariz.

CRAZY TROOP WORKS WITH IRAQIS TO STRENGTHEN BORDER SECURITY

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

The Soldiers of 'Crazy' Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are currently working with Iraqi Border Security Forces near Forward Operating Base Minden.

The troop has been providing additional security at a border entry point, monitoring the steady flow of people leaving and coming to Iraq, and working with the civilian and military teams to professionalize the BSF.

"We're working by, with and

through the Iraqi Border Security Forces to get them up to speed," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Maloy, 2nd Plt. sergeant, C Troop. "I think our mission is one of the best missions the brigade currently has."

"Our Soldiers are more than up to the task. They are motivated, put in long hours, don't complain, get the job done and I think they are some of the best Soldiers in the Army," he said proudly.

The cavalry Soldiers and the Iraqi BSF have been working well together, said Maloy, who comes from St. Johns, Ariz. He said the members of the BSF have been working hard and

show their determination to protect the citizens of Iraq.


"We work together (for the) people (of) Iraq," said Ali, a member of the BSF, as he smiled and pointed to himself and American Soldiers.

"I love working with these guys. We're getting to know each other pretty well and are building good working relationships," said Spc. Adam Sugg, cavalry scout, C Troop.

"It makes me feel like we're doing something really important here. If not for us – Iraqis and Americans – there'd be a greater chance that more threats would get past the border to hurt more people," said Sugg, who comes from

Suffolk, Va.

“Our mission is to provide security for military and civilian teams out here and to assist in professionalizing the Iraqi Border Security Forces,” said 2nd Lt. Cody John, 2nd Plt. leader, C Troop. He said that in only a short time, he has seen improvements in the BSF performance and is optimistic of their future capabilities to maintain border security without assistance.

“If at the end of each day, the Iraqis are a little better at doing their jobs by themselves, it means we’re doing our job and makes it all worthwhile,” said John. 



Spc. Justin Fisher, cavalry scout, C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., assists a member of the Iraqi BSF as he searches a suitcase of people coming to Iraq near FOB Minden June 16. Fisher comes from Buffalo, N.Y.



Sgt. Brandon Nail, squad leader, C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pulls security along the point of entry to Iraq near FOB Minden June 16. Nail hails from Kenedy, Texas.



Salman Alzerkani, governor of Babil province, Christopher Hill, United States Ambassador to Iraq, Lt. Col James Barren and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin West, 3rd Bn. 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT 4th Inf. Div., attend the Highway 1 reopening ceremony at CSC Scania June 2.

Highway One returns to Iraq Control

By Capt. Geoffrey Hampton,
3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

For the past six years, Highway One in Iraq was bisected at Convoy Support Center Scania in Babil province, near Shomali. Today, however, the increased confidence and capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi national government allowed for the return of this vital thoroughway to Iraq control.

Coalition Forces refer to this highway as MSR Tampa, using it as the main logistical support for the entire theatre. This required restricting access to large sections of the road, one of the largest being located at CSC Scania.

An unimproved bypass rerouted civilian traffic around the support center, drastically increasing travel time and the accident rate for Iraqi motorists. The closure also impeded the economics of the region, preventing efficient shipping and

travel. Local Iraqi leaders voiced these concerns to CF in 2008, requesting a solution.


The project to relinquish control of Scania's section of Highway One was approved as a joint effort between U.S. Army and Iraqi Engineers. Substantial reconstruction was required to redesign entry control points for CSC Scania, move over 3000 concrete barriers and improve the surface of the road previously prohibited to civilian traffic.

The effort took two months, from the ceremony marking the beginning of the project on 2 April, 2009 to the cutting of the ribbon that officially returned the highway to Iraqi control.

This event demonstrates a clear example of life returning to normal for the people of Iraq and CF efforts to adhere to the security agreement. Maintenance and security of the highway now is the responsibility of the government of Iraq and the ISF. This places the ability to improve com-

merce and trade to the region back into Iraqi hands and provides a tremendous opportunity for further economic growth and stability in Babil province and Iraq as a whole.

The importance of the highway opening was underscored by the high level of distinguished guests participating in the ceremony. The United States Ambassador to Iraq, Christopher Hill, the Babil province governor, Salman Alzerkani and Brigadier General David Elicerio, DCG-O of the 34th Infantry Division were all in attendance, as well as many other local and military leaders from both the ISF and CF.

Through combined ISF and CF efforts, Highway One once again belongs to the people of Iraq. The nation as a whole will benefit from the economic growth spurred by this project and it is viewed as a definite symbol of Iraq's return to normalcy and self-reliance. 



1st Lt. Jeremy Poisson, an Atlanta native and platoon leader for the 178th MP Co., and Lt. Col. Mohamed Ali, executive officer for the 50th Iraqi Army Battalion, shake hands as the U.S. forces close the gate at the entrance to the Old State Building June 28. U.S. forces withdrew all supplies and personnel and turn control of the base to Iraqi control.

COP Perry, OSB returned to Iraqi control

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

Elements of the 21st Military Police Company and 178th Military Police Company, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, withdrew all supplies and personnel and returned control of Combat Outpost Perry and the Old State Building, two key bases inside the city of Basra, to the Iraqi Army June 28.

"This is a symbolic moment for the people of Iraq. It's exciting to watch the Iraqi Army step up and protect their people," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Poisson, an Atlanta native and platoon leader for the 178th MP Co.

Lt. Col. Mohamed Ali, executive officer for the 50th IA Battalion, was

on hand for the final departure of the U.S. Soldiers and expressed that the although the IA are a little precautionous over the U.S. forces departure from the cities, overall they are happy and eager to showcase their abilities.


"We want to prove to our people that the Americans did not occupy Iraq, but instead they have completed their mission (in the city)," Ali said through a translator.

Ali added that the IA have no current plans for the facilities, however they are looking at converting the building and area into a meeting hall for the people of Basra.

Col. Butch Kievenaar, commander of the brigade, told local leaders that two other locations will continue to have a U.S. presence to coordinate,

train and advise the Iraqi Security Forces at the request of key leaders in the province in a meeting June 16.

In that meeting he stated that some U.S. forces may still travel through the cities to also conduct site surveys on civic action projects.

"After the 30th of June, I'm sure you will hear from your people how they saw Americans in Basra, but please assure them we are only there to continue the work on projects and advising the ISF," Kievenaar said. 



Lt. Col. Michael Blahovec, commander, 793rd MP Bn., and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Hodges, case their colors and transfer responsibility to TF South during a ceremony at COB Basra June 19. The 793rd MP Bn., which was attached to 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., will head home to Bamberg, Germany. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



Sgt. Kelvin George with 1st platoon, Co B, 3rd Bn, 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., share a laugh with an 8th Iraqi Army Soldier at CSC Scania June 22. Photo by Capt. Geoffrey Hampton, 3rd Bn., 16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.



(Left) Capt. Cherie Montgomery, incoming commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division addresses the troops during a change of command ceremony held at Camp Bravo on COB Basra June 19. Montgomery assumed command of the 'Trailblazers' from Capt. Aaron Hotard. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



(Below) Spc. Natuitasina Tuia, chemical operations specialist with Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., jokes with local residents from Basra's Mufaquiya District June 1. Tuia comes from Nuuli of the American Samoa Islands. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.






Sgt. Lawrence Nez of Thorau, N.M., with Co. C, 2-8 Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., instruct students on how to conduct proper personnel searches as Sgt. Benjamin Waga, a native of Baltimore, and another student watch closely at Shibah Training Facility in Basra Province June 25.

2-8 IN conducts ERB training in Shaibah

By Staff Sgt. Chrissy Best,
Combat Camera

Charlie Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted training with the Basra Police Emergency Response Brigade at the Shaibah Training Facility in Basra Province June 25.

The Company focused on searches and crime scene investigation techniques. Some of the techniques they showed the Iraqi ERB was how to thoroughly and correctly search a vehicle as well as how to conduct proper personnel searches. 



Sgt. Lawrence Nez of Thorau, N.M., with Co C, 2-8 Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and an interpreter teach the Iraqi Emergency Response Brigade how to thoroughly and correctly search a vehicle at Shaibah Training Facility in Basra Province June 25.



Soldiers from the 14th IA Div. race to evacuate a simulated casualty during situational training exercise lanes at Camp Shaibah June 27. The lanes pitted six IA teams against each other in friendly competition

204th BSB, IA conduct proficiency training at Camp Shaibah

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

Soldiers from the 14th Iraqi Army Division conducted situational training exercise lanes at Camp Shaibah June 27.

The training was overseen by Soldiers from the 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, to measure the sustainment of task proficiency for the IA Soldiers.

“The purpose of the event is to show skills in maintenance, weapons and medical (treatment). The (IA) have done an outstanding job,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Ward, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the training, 14th IA Military Transition Team, attached to 204th BSB.

The training exercise was a culmination of weeks of training that allowed six teams of IA Soldiers to compete against each other and conduct necessary combat skills under

pressure, said Capt. Richard Thomas, 14th IA MiTT, attached to 204th BSB. Thomas comes from Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

The competition introduced additional pressure for IA Soldiers as they battled the physical and mental distractions and hardships of the training.

They competed in assembling and disassembling different weapons, ascertained deficiencies in a humvee with visual distractions, such as noise and thick smoke and treated and evacuated wounded patients under similar conditions.

The lanes also included additional driving and running courses.

The fastest team completed the lanes in just over 11 minutes, which was close to the time it took the MiTT, said Ward.

“We’re training the IA to make sure they are self-sufficient (and) self-sustaining before the U.S. pulls out,” said Ward, who comes from Shreve-

port, La. He said the 14th IA Div. Soldiers have continuously shown themselves to be dedicated and motivated in learning as much as they can.

He said that some of the IA Soldiers they have trained have begun teaching classes to other Iraqi Soldiers.

“Once they start running things on their own, our job as MiTT is just about complete,” said Ward. “By the time out time (here) is up, they won’t need our help anymore.”





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