

# Lightning Weekly

## Sharing means Caring



# FROM THE DESK OF 'LIGHTNING 6'



**Major General Robert L. Caslen Jr.**

While fully appreciating Soldiers' desire to affiliate with the Tropic Lightning Division, granting this authorization is not always possible. Army Regulation 670-1 provides clear guidance on the wear of SSI-FWTS.

Historically, Divisions deployed as a single unit, with all attached Brigades and Battalions. Under the concept of modularity, however, deployments are now characterized by many separate units coming together under the overall command of a Task Force headquarters.

A deployed unit, company or higher, that is authorized to wear an SSI in its own right, will wear that unit's SSI as its SSI-FWTS. This is true whether the unit's headquarters element deploys, and regardless of the number of changes to the unit's alignment or operational control during the deployment. When echelons below company level deploy, members of these units will wear the SSI of the lowest echelon deployed unit (company or higher) in their new deployed chain of command as their SSI-FWTS.

Individual Soldiers who are cross-leveled, assigned, attached, or are TDY are authorized to wear the 25th ID patch as a SSI-FWTS. This does not apply to members of the Trial Defense and CIDC, who will wear the SSI of their respective commands as their SSI-FWTS.

Task Force Lightning is a competent and professional formation created from units throughout the United States and from all components, each having their own history, traditions, and distinctive insignia. I encourage leaders at all levels to inform Soldiers on the provisions of AR 670-1 regarding wear of the SSI-FWTS. If any Soldier has questions regarding the wear of SSI-FWTS, please contact my G1, LTC Christopher Wilson.



Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr.  
Commanding General  
Task Force Lightning  
Multi-National Division - North

# Army, Air force work together to fly home



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
Pfc. Justin Naylor  
2nd HBCT, 1st Cavalry Division

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq**— The last thing that service members scheduled to go on mid-tour leave from Iraq want to hear is that their aircraft has been grounded because of maintenance and that the estimated time for repair is four days.

This can feel like a lifetime when waiting to go home. Fortunately for service members who found themselves living out this scenario June 28 on Forward Operating Base Warrior, in the Kirkuk province of Iraq, Soldiers from Company F, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, were there to lend the Air Force a helping hand.



A group of Soldiers and Airmen worked night and day June 28 on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, to remove the engine from a C-130. Working together the team used an Army M88A2 Hercules to pick up the engine so it could be repaired on the ground, finishing what is normally a four day job in less than 24 hours. (Photo by 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs)

One of the aircraft's engines was overheating and the Air Force did not have the proper machines to lift it out of the plane for repairs, explained Staff Sgt. Joe Barragan, a Odessa, Texas, native and a mechanic with Co. F.

"They came to us requesting assistance in removing the engine, and the Outlaw Recovery Team with their M88A2 Hercules recovery vehicle was more than willing to help," he continued.

The extraction began early, really early; the flight line was still pitch black except for the portable lights that had been placed there for the repairs. But this wasn't the only problem that this team of mechanics faced.

"There was limited space and movement had to be exact due to the position of the engine and the large size of the M88A2 Hercules," said Barragan.

But once started, there was no stopping this team.

"The mechanics jumped on it, it was an opportunity that came once in a lifetime," explained Barragan.

"It was great from a maintenance perspective to work on something that flies through the air rather than rolling on the ground," said Cpl. Joseph Seager, a Richmond, V.A., native and a mechanic with Company F.

With extensive practice working as a team, the "Outlaw" mechanics first helped to remove the propeller and then started taking out the engine.

"There was no room for mistakes," said Barragan. One mistake could create cracks in the wing, disabling this vital piece of equipment used to transport troops home. "This made the job long and stressful."

"It was a great opportunity to show what we were capable of," said Staff Sgt. Michael Wegner, a Oak Harbor, Wash., native and a mechanic with Co. F.

The entire process took all night, and most of the morning, but thanks to cooperation between the two services, it was completed perfectly.

"The Air Force personnel were more than grateful that we were able to complete a four-day job in less than 24 hours," explained Barragan.

Not only did this effort prove that the M88A2 Hercules, which is designed to recover assets like the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, or M1A2 Tanks, can also effectively work on any piece of equipment, but also that through joint efforts "any mission can be accomplished," he continued.



# Warhorse Troops conduct "Commo Checks" with Iraqi Counterparts



**PHOTOS BY**  
Pfc. Sharla Perrin  
3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

**MOSUL, Iraq** — Coalition Forces throughout Ninewa are continuing to support their Iraqi Security Force counterparts through integrated training events.

Troops with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf," 1st Cavalry Division operations section trained the 6th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division communications team on the installation and operation of their new vehicle radio communication systems July 8 on Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul.

The radios will provide the IA unit communication between one another and to Coalition Force units.

Two IA Soldiers from the communications section of their unit were chosen to participate in the training, and two Greywolf troops were chosen to conduct the training, which took place near the 3rd Bn., 8th Cav.

Regt. tactical operations center.

"It is a very good radio and it benefits us to get this type of equipment," said 2nd Lt. Abdul Ghani, the communications officer with 6th Bde., 2nd IA Div.

"This training increases their capacity for tactical communications other than cell phone communication, which has been their primary communication system," said Sgt. 1st Class Clayton Vanlangendonck from Baycliff, Texas, with the 6th Bde., 2nd IA Div. Military Transition Team.

Designed to allow better communication, command and control for the Iraqis, the training included the installation and operation of the radios.

"They will get a better understanding of what the radio brings to the fight [from this training]," said Capt. Victor Carerras-Mont, signal officer for 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

"It's the difference between secure communications and non-secure cell phones."



Spc. Anthony Wilson from Mosheim Tenn., with 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf," 1st Cavalry Division instructs two Soldiers with the 6th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division on their new radio system on Forward Operating Base Marez July 8. (Courtesy photo)

# MNF-I Commander meets with Iraqi, Kurdish forces in Diyala



**STORY BY**  
**Sgt. Jeremy Pitcher**  
*1st SBCT, 25 ID Public Affairs Office*

**DIYALA, Iraq** – Members of both Iraqi and Kurdish security forces met with Multi-National Force – Iraq Commander Gen. Raymond Odierno, July 8, on Combat Outpost Cobra in the Diyala Province.

The meeting allowed all partnered forces to come together and discuss the current issues facing the province.

During the meeting Army and Police commanders from both the Iraqi and Kurdish security forces discussed the great progress being made in the area and the strong cooperation developing between the different forces.

Most recently, soldiers and policemen from the different forces came together to conduct “Operation Glad Tidings of Benevolence II,” a combined military operation that began in May, and lasted well into June.

The operation was the first time Iraqi Forces and Kurdish Forces came together to plan and conduct a major operation.

Immediately after the meeting, Odierno received a briefing from the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the U.S. Forces unit that operates out of the Outpost and surrounding area.

Before leaving, Odierno presented coins to a few hand-selected Soldiers for their distinguished work and spoke to others on the importance of the region in which they work.



Multi-National Force – Iraq Commander Gen. Raymond Odierno meets with members of the Iraqi Army and Police, along with Kurdish Peshmerga and Police on July 8 on Combat Outpost Cobra, located in Diyala province, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeremy Pitcher)



Multi-National Force-Iraq commander Gen. Raymond Odierno speaks with troops of 5-1 CAV before he departs Combat Outpost Cobra in Diyala on July 8. His visit to the COP involved a meeting with both Iraqi and Kurdish forces. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeremy Pitcher)





Soldiers work on painting the horses on the brigade's mural on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, April 16. The mural represents where the modern day cavalry come from and will one day be joined by a picture that portrays modern cavalry Soldiers.



Blackjack Soldiers work on the brigade mural on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, April 16. The mural will show cavalry troopers charging across barren plains and represents what our modern cavalry evolved from.



Spc. John Lenaghan (left), a Fairbault, Minn., native and a forward observer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Sgt. 1st Class Leo Davis (center), a Woodward, Okla., native and forward observer with HHC, and Sgt. Michael Chandler, a San Diego native and also a forward observer with HHC, proudly stand next to the mural on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, July 11.

# 'Black Jack' brigade leaves history imprint on FOB Warrior



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
Pfc. Justin Naylor  
2<sup>nd</sup> HBCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq**—A lone mural stands in front of a large wooden building where the modern day members of an old order of cavalryman still work together, in spite of danger, to make the world a safer place.

This is a new frontier—not unlike the Old West where U.S. cavalry Soldiers once roamed—a place of danger and adventure, a place where the cavalry still protects the innocent.

Although now worlds apart from the Old West, the Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, can catch a glimpse of what it once meant to be cavalymen whenever they visit their brigade headquarters on Forward Operating Base Warrior, and see the mural that the hard work and dedication of three men brought to life.

The mural, which is painted on a large concrete barrier, is no small piece of art. It took about two weeks to finish and portrays cavalymen in typical fashion riding horses across the Midwestern plains.

"It shows our history," said Spc. John Lenaghan, a Fairbault, Minn., native and a forward observer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, and the lead painter for the mural. The idea was for Soldiers to see it and think "Wow, I'm proud to be in this unit," explained Sgt. 1st Class Leo Davis, a Woodward, Okla., native and also a forward observer with HHC who assisted in painting the mural.

For Lenaghan, this project was far larger than anything he had painted before.

"It was the biggest thing I have ever worked on," he said. "It was so large that I needed two other guys to help."

Fortunately Lenaghan had two reliable artists he could count on: Davis and Sgt. Michael Chandler, a San Diego native and forward observer with HHC.

"I knew they were both really good artists," he said. "It was a really good team effort."

The fact that this team of painters is comprised of forward observers was definitely no coincidence.

"Our job takes a certain level of artistic talent, because you have to perform terrain sketches so that the Soldiers firing artillery have an idea of what stands between them and the target," explained Davis.

But before they became forward observers, and long before they were painting murals, both Lenaghan and Davis were interested in the arts.

"I really got into it in my pre-teen years," recalled Davis. "It helped me relax."

Davis started taking art classes early on, which helped refine his skills and teach him some new ones.

"I've used paint, charcoal, chalk, airbrushes and more in the past," he said. "But I really enjoy putting pencil to paper and making art that way."

Lenaghan had also been making art for most of his life, and plans to continue doing it, deployed or not.

"We are going to paint a modern day version of this mural that will show what it means to be a cavalry trooper now," continued Lenaghan. "And I am also going to assist in painting an 80-foot-long cavalry patch."

The planned projects will have a lot to live up to, though, since this mural has become iconic of the brigade's headquarters.

"Every time we turn around, someone is up there taking a picture of it," said Davis.

The Soldiers of the brigade use it as a backdrop for promotions, reenlistments, and for photos when important people visit.

For Soldiers aspiring to paint their own unit's mural, these Soldiers had a few words of advice.

"Practice," said Davis. "Find a subject you like and start with it. It probably won't turn out the way you want it to the first 10 times that you try, but have patience."

"And don't forget that it is really easy to fix your mistakes when you are painting, just wait for it to dry and repaint it, which we did a lot of," joked Lenaghan.

# LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

**NAME: SPC PAUL A. HILLMAN**  
**UNIT: 1/B/1-24 IN, 1<sup>ST</sup> SBCT**  
**HOMETOWN: SPRINGVILLE, CA**

Spc. Hillman was selected as the Communications Specialist during the R & R Leave of the unit Communications NCO. Spc. Hillman wasted no time fitting in with the unit and dove right into any and all issues concerning communications. He worked long hours and in extreme conditions during this movement to FOB Grizzly. He installed various communications systems at COP Key West to ensure the best communications for the unit. His actions demonstrated the highest degree of commitment to the Army Values and his service reflects great credit upon himself, 1-24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Task Force Lightning and the Multi-National Division-North.



## IRAQ FACTS

**Name the only main port in Iraq?**  
 (Basra)

**Natural gas, phosphates, and sulfur are the main natural resources. Name one other ?**  
 (Petroleum)

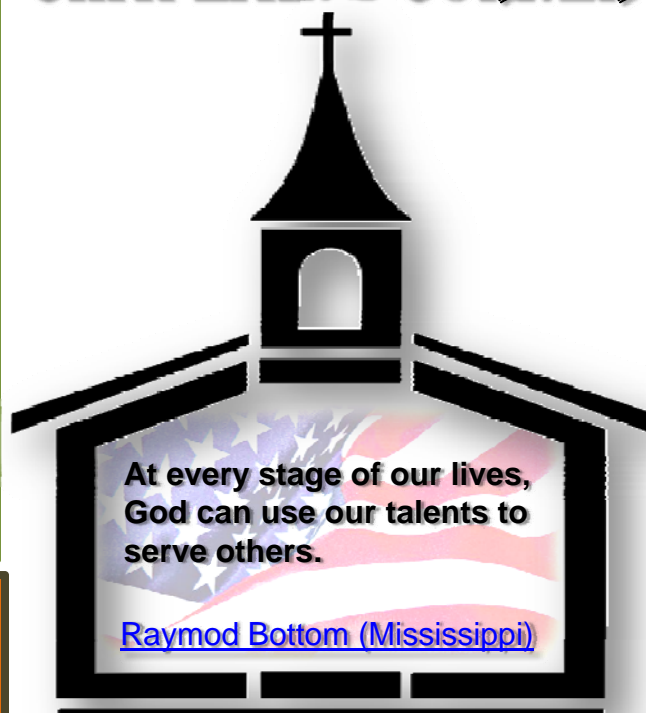
**What are the main languages of Iraq?**  
 (Arabic, Assyrian, and Armenian)

**The literal meaning of the word 'Iraq' in Aramaic is:**  
 (The land along the banks of rivers)

Some Information compiled from Worldfactbook and Trivia Architect.

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



At every stage of our lives,  
 God can use our talents to  
 serve others.

[Raymod Bottom \(Mississippi\)](#)



# IP and U.S. Soldiers distribute much needed aid



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**  
**Pfc. Justin Naylor**  
*2nd HBC, 1st Cavalry Division*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq**—In the city of Dibbis, in the Kirkuk province of Iraq, public electricity has been intermittent for several years, and some don't have any at all.

Dibbis residents who live away from the central power grid had not been able to receive any electricity.

To help the residents alleviate this issue, Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, distributed seven generators to Dibbis residents.

In conjunction with the generator distribution, a combined Dibbis Police and Co. D patrol visited families and distributed more than 150 bags of humanitarian aid and school supplies, explained 1st Lt. Alex Hoffman, the fire support officer for Co. D.

"The local nationals in the area received the food with some gratitude and were thankful to have security forces in the area," he continued.

While moving through the city, the Soldiers also distributed the seven generators, all to families who were not on the power grid and had no other way of getting electricity, said Hoffman.

"The local nationals in Dibbis have been struggling with power failures...the seven generators handed out today are the start to solving their problem," he continued.



Amer Musleh and his family received food, school supplies and a generator from Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in the city of Dibbis, Iraq. The families that received generators were not connected to the power grid and had no other way of getting electricity. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs)



Hewa Khalim and a friend take a new generator home after they received it from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in the city of Dibbis, Iraq. His family, and the families of six others that received generators, had no other access to power. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs)



# Army Funded Legal Education Program

The Office of the Judge Advocate General (OTJAG) is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP).

Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning the Fall of 2010 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (Judge Advocate Legal Services) to determine their eligibility. This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain.

Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active federal service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. § 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the September 2009 Law School Admission Test (LSAT). LSAT information and registration instructions can be found on the Law School Admissions Council website, <http://www.lsac.org>.

It is possible to arrange for tests to be conducted while deployed, but officers must start early to gain approval for non-standard testing locations.

Applications must be sent through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at Army Human Resources Command, with a copy furnished to OTJAG.

Applications must be received before 1 November 2009. Applications can be submitted without LSAT scores, but the scores must be available before the FLEP board convenes in December 2009.

Interested officers should contact the Task Force Lightning Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for further information. Points of contact are CPT David Amamoo, [david.amamoo@25id.army.mil](mailto:david.amamoo@25id.army.mil), or LTC Ian Iverson, [ian.iverson@25id.army.mil](mailto:ian.iverson@25id.army.mil).

## IPs train with EOD

Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Reisor (right), of Weapons Intelligence Team Two, Task Force Troy – North, and native of Odenton, Md., conducts a Sensitive Site Exploitation training class for an Iraqi Police counter explosives team in Mosul, Iraq, July 7. The training is designed to give the IP a proper understanding of forensic procedures in order to collective evidence from the sites of improvised explosive devices. (U.S. Navy photo by Task Force Troy-North)





# ***TASK FORCE LIGHTNING - THROUGH THE LENS***



**COB SPEICHER, Iraq** – When children from Al Ber Al Hanin Orphanage came to spend the day at Contingency Operating Base Speicher near Tikrit, Soldiers from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division earned a glimpse of what they've been fighting for—the future of Iraq. The 35 boys and girls—ranging in age from three to 15, spent the day with Soldiers from the 25<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, participating in games, activities and hands-on experience with U.S. military equipment.

Do you have a great photo from your time serving OIF? Send your images to us at [mndnpao@25id.army.mil](mailto:mndnpao@25id.army.mil)



# HEROES OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



- Sgt. Charlton, Cornelius H.
- Co. C, 24th Infantry
- Born: July 24, 1929
- Entered Service: Kansas City, Missouri
- Place of Action: Near Chipo-ri, Korea
- Date of Action: 2 June 1951

## Medal of Honor Citation:

**Citation:** Sgt. Charlton, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. His platoon was attacking heavily defended hostile positions on commanding ground when the leader was wounded and evacuated. Sgt. Charlton assumed command, rallied the men, and spearheaded the assault against the hill. Personally eliminating 2 hostile positions and killing 6 of the enemy with his rifle fire and grenades, he continued up the slope until the unit suffered heavy casualties and became pinned down. Regrouping the men he led them forward only to be again hurled back by a shower of grenades. Despite a severe chest wound, Sgt. Charlton refused medical attention and led a third daring charge which carried to the crest of the ridge. Observing that the remaining emplacement which had retarded the advance was situated on the reverse slope, he charged it alone, was again hit by a grenade but raked the position with a devastating fire which eliminated it and routed the defenders. The wounds received during his daring exploits resulted in his death but his indomitable courage, superb leadership, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself the infantry, and the military service. \*

<http://www.cmohs.org/>

\* Awarded Posthumously

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