

# Lightning Weekly



## Soldiers Get A Crushing Goodbye! With A 'Sapper' Welcome



# FROM THE DESK OF 'LIGHTNING 6'

July 15 marked the official transfer of authority between two great, battle tested engineer units. As the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade "Crushers" passed the reins to the 130<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade "Sappers," it is fitting to pause and recognize the tremendous accomplishments of all the engineers and Soldiers of the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade.

Col. Matt Russell and Command Sgt. Maj. David Clark have led their Soldiers exquisitely over the past year, watching with pride and admiration as their engineers and Soldiers performed heroically throughout the course of their deployment.

Since their arrival to Iraq, the accomplishments of the Brigade have been truly remarkable.

While deployed in support of OIF, the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade had command and control of four separate engineer battalions, operating in multiple provinces within MND-N.

Every single battalion under the 18<sup>th</sup> excelled and enjoyed resounding success in their mission, because of the outstanding guidance and leadership provided by the Crushers. The partnerships that were forged between the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade and their four Iraqi Engineer Regiment partners were evident in the shoulder to shoulder work performed through many combined reconstruction and route clearance operations in Kirkuk and Ninewa provinces.

It was through these operations that the citizens of northern Iraq are able to feel safe and secure, as well as reap the numerous benefits of all that the Soldiers and engineers of the 18<sup>th</sup> have worked so hard on.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade provided outstanding mentorship to their Iraqi Engineer Regiment partners, training them on vertical and horizontal construction methods, force protection and route clearance, just to name a few. This invaluable training has enable the Iraqi Engineers to take the lead and focus on creating a better, safer and more secure Iraq.

Throughout the MND-N area of operations the Soldiers and engineers of the 18<sup>th</sup> cleared thousands of miles of roadways, conducted more than 3,000 combat route clearance patrols, and found and reduced a truly staggering number of improvised explosive devices. The 18<sup>th</sup> is responsible for decreasing the number of IEDs in MND-N from a high of over 600 a month in April 2008 to just over 100 a month today; great job!

In addition to route clearance, the Soldiers and engineers of the 18<sup>th</sup> helped train and mentor the Iraqi Engineers of Kirkuk province, built the new base in Irbil to the highest standards, and bolstered the Riyadh Line around Mosul.

The 18<sup>th</sup> operated the Mosul Reconstruction Center which played an integral part in assisting the local Iraqi Government with rebuilding its infrastructure and re-establishing essential services.

The 18<sup>th</sup> had oversight of over 670 projects totaling 101 million dollars, and repaired roads, bridges, and other infrastructure that enabled the citizens of Iraq to begin a return to normalcy not enjoyed for over six years.

While the accomplishments of the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade and her subordinate units have been numerous, they have not come without a price, the ultimate sacrifice of two Soldiers and 27 Soldiers wounded in action. Their sacrifices and those of their families will never be forgotten.



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

As the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade departs for home, extend an enthusiastic Aloha to our Hawaiian brothers and sisters, Col. Fabian Mendoza, Jr., Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Moran, and the Sappers of the 130<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade. Aloha! I can think of no better unit prepared to assume the great responsibility of working to rebuild Iraq than a fellow unit from our Hawaiian ohana.

The 130<sup>th</sup> will succeed because their Soldiers and engineers live the Warrior Ethos: always place mission first, never accept defeat, never quit, and never leave a fallen comrade.

After six plus years of conflict, I know that that our Iraqi brothers and sisters will be able to count on the assistance of the Sappers in building a brighter future for Iraq.

I am confident that the 130<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade will add another historic chapter to their already remarkable history as they help the people of Iraq rebuild their country, and I look forward to working with these great Soldiers and engineers in the months to come.

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





# 130th Engineer "Sapper" Brigade assumes Responsibility for Mosul reconstruction



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**  
**Staff Sgt. Melanie Trollinger**  
*130th Engineer, Public Affairs*

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE

**MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq** –The 130th Engineer Brigade uncased its colors, assuming responsibility of Mosul's reconstruction efforts from the 18th Eng. Bde. during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Station Marez, July 15.

The "Sapper" Brigade's mission focus will be reconstruction projects to aid the city Of Mosul and Ninewah Province in providing essential services to the local populations and to manage route clearance operations for the 25th Infantry Division.

"It is an honor and a privilege to help our brother and sister Iraqis rebuild their nation," said Lt. Col.

Fabian E. Mendoza, Jr., 130th Eng. Bde. commander.

The ceremony attendees included Maj. Gen Robert L. Caslen, Jr., commanding general, Multi-National Division-North, Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, the deputy commanding general (support), MND-N, Mr. Patrick Murphy, Ninewah Provincial Reconstruction Team leader and Col Muhammed Jassim, 3rd Field Engineer Regiment commander with the Iraqi Army.

During its 15 month deployment, the 18th Eng. Bde. moved from Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit to Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk and then to COS Marez where they were tasked with operating the Mosul Reconstruction Cell.

The brigade participated in key leader engagements, provided technical assessments, conducted

site visits and tracked millions of dollars worth of construction projects.

They also worked with Mosul city leaders to develop sustainable support for essential services and partnered with several Iraqi Army Filed Engineer Regiments to aid the IA's engineering and information operations capabilities.

The 18th Engineers will return home to Heidelberg, Germany.

"The Soldiers, officers and non-commissioned officers of the 18th have done a great job here and are anxious to get home," said Col. Matthew Russell, 18th Engineer Brigade commander.

We probably moved around more than most brigades' have in the past few years, three major cities, three major moves. We've conducted uncharacteristic lines of operations that a normal engineer brigade doesn't do, but we took it on."



(FRONT COVER) Col. Fabian E. Mendoza, Jr., 130th Engineer Brigade commander (left) uncases the colors with Command Sgt. Maj. Dale A. Moran, 130th Eng. Bde. command sergeant major, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Station Marez, Wednesday. The 130th Eng. Bde assumed responsibility for Mosul reconstruction from the 18th Eng. Bde, who will return home to Heidelberg, Germany after a 15 month deployment. (U.S. photo by SSG Melanie Trollinger, 130th Engineer Brigade, Multi-national Division – North)

# Tal Abtha Road Project Begins its final phase



## STORY BY

Capt. Linda North

3<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

**MOSUL, Iraq** — City council leaders and Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces opened the final phase of the Tal Abtha Road Project, located southwest of Mosul in Ninewa Province, with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 7.

This ceremony symbolizes the progress made towards improving Iraq's infrastructure and quality of life for the local population.

Divided into three phases, the TARP is a 13.1 million dollar project that currently employs 730 Iraqis from the local population along with 50 sub-contractors, instructors and security guards in the area.

Each phase of the road project trains and hires a new class of 365 students plus security and subcontractors. Phase one of the road construction was completed on May 24.

Phase two is ongoing and will run concurrently with phase three.

Upon its completion in November, Tal Abtha Road will be a major road connecting the towns of Qayyarah and Tal Abtha to the Mosul-to-

Baghdad highway. Currently no road through the area exists.

This important essential services project provides temporary employment and schooling to jobless men in the area and teaches them road construction skills that will allow them increased employment opportunities in the future.

After graduating from the road construction program, these local men will be able to apply for grants to build feeder roads linking their nearby villages directly to Tal Abtha Road creating more employment for the area. Plans for three feeder roads to villages north of Tal Abtha Road have already been coordinated and grants are awaiting approval.

The project is a joint effort between the director general of roads and bridges, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, and 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces have provided security and support throughout the entire project.



A new class of students being trained in road construction attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the phase three opening of the Tal Abtha Road Project. Each phase of the road project trains and hires a new class of 365 students plus security and subcontractors. The TARP is a 13.1 million dollar project that currently employs 730 Iraqis from the local population along with 50 sub-contractors, instructors and security guards. (Courtesy photo)



Capt. James Covington (second from left), company commander for E Troop, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a contractor from Dream Team Ltd. (far right) stand with Tal Abtha City Council President Jasm as he cuts the ribbon to launch the third phase of the Tal Abtha Road Project. The TARP is a 13.1 million dollar project that currently employs 730 Iraqis from the local population along with 50 sub-contractors, instructors and security guards. (Courtesy photo)





# ISF medics receive training from U.S. forces



STORY and PHOTO BY  
1st Lt. Walter Kaer  
1st Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

**DIYALA, Iraq** - Medics are a vital piece of the U.S. Army's ability to complete its mission. It's no different for the Iraqi Army, which is why the medical platoon of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, in partnership with the 19/5 Military Transition Team, recently provided training to the medics of the 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division.

"Our main goal with these events is to provide these medics with the knowledge they need to save lives," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Mackey, the medic for the 19/5 MiTT. "Beyond the actual training, we are coaching the (Iraqi Army) brigade's medical leadership in planning and implementing brigade-level training."

After the 19<sup>th</sup> IA brigade surgeon requested the training subjects, Mackey coordinated with the battalions to get their

medics in the right place, at the right time, and in the right uniform. Mackey also planned training around the language barrier.

"We try to minimize the 'death-by-powerpoint' time and lean a more on hands-on approach," said Mackey. "The evaluation time consists of a trauma lane with casualty players, and wound mock-ups. They (IA soldiers) are not only evaluated on patient treatment, but also how well they apply principles of Trauma Combat Casualty Care."

Sgt. First Class Michael Walker, the 1-24 Inf. Regt. medical platoon sergeant on his second tour in Iraq, has trained IA medics before and knows how far they have come.

"We know we cannot pull all of the medics out of the fight, so we are going with a "train the

trainer" approach, which builds on itself every time we meet, and then we challenge them to take the information to their units and share with their soldiers," said Walker.

"So we are not only training these medics, but also encouraging them to 'grow' their NCO corps as well."

Some of these IA medics go for formal schooling in Taji. The rest learn through on-the-job training.

No matter how these soldiers became medics, they are receiving important sustainment training.

"We all know that our medical skills are perishable, so it is so important to keep our skills sharp," Walker said.

All of the trainers agree that, although the medics of 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade aren't highly skilled yet, they are motivated and dedicated to their job.

"It is good to see that the Iraqi medics are progressing," said Walker.

The Iraqi medics are eager to learn and the training is well received, according to Lt. Hatem Abdul Karim, the 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade medical operations officer.

"We are very thankful for the Coalition forces for providing this training.

It is our duty to continue this training and teach our other medics," said Hatem.



A medic from the Iraqi Army's 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Division splints a simulated open leg fracture on Staff Sgt. Nicholas Simmons during an evaluation period of medical training in Diyala province, Iraq. Coalition medics trained Iraqi Army medics on patient treatment and trauma combat casualty care. (U.S. Army photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Walter Kaer)



# Brigade Competition Brings Out 'Heart' of Deployed Soldiers



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**

**Spc. Jazz Burney**

3<sup>rd</sup> IBCT, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq** – Most competitors thrive off of encouragement and cheers from a crowd, but when there isn't a huge crowd to spur a competitor on, that individual has to dig deep and find the determination to press on toward the goal.

Four Soldiers did just this with a minimal crowd as they competed in 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division's four-day Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition, which tested their technical and tactical proficiency in Soldier tasks and drills, July 9-12.

Each Soldier won at battalion-level NCO or Soldier of Quarter competitions, which allowed them to compete for the brigade NCO and Soldier of the Year.

"We decided to put together a brigade level competition so the Soldiers would get...training for that level," said Sgt. Maj. David Armour, the brigade operations sergeant major. "These events take away from the norm of day-to-day operations for Soldiers

and allow them to see and participate in other aspects of their deployed experience."

Each day the Soldiers faced different tactical and technical challenges, with a series of grueling physical and mental examinations designed to push the participants to their limits.

"This was a chance not only to improve myself, but also to come out and compete and see how I will stack up against other noncommissioned officers at the battalion, brigade, and hopefully soon, all of northern Iraq," said Sgt. Matthew Girard, team leader, C Co., 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment.

The competitors completed an Army Physical Fitness Test which was then immediately followed by a six-mile foot march carrying a 35-lb load.

The Soldiers had to ruck their way to the final phase for that day and ended in a shooter's stance, firing their assault rifle for marksmanship qualifications.

"This event was an opportunity to showcase all participants' abilities and how hard we have trained," said Pfc. Stephen Herman, supply specialist,

**(Continue on page 12)**

Sgt. Matthew Girard (right), 27, of Cambridge, Minn., team leader, C Co., 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division is assisted by his fellow noncommissioned officer Sgt. Jason Wheeler of the same unit as he prepared to complete a six-mile ruck march during 3rd Inf. Bde. Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division's four-day Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition, July 9-12. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jazz Burney, 3rd Inf. Bde. Combat Team, 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Bruce Siegal (front), 27, of Tucson, Ariz., squadron battle NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment and Sgt. Matthew Girard, 27, of Cambridge, Minn., team leader, C Co., 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., both of 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, take a written examination on proper intelligence techniques as they competed against each other during the brigade's four-day Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition, July 9-12. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jazz Burney, 3rd Inf. Bde. Combat Team, 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs)



# Iraq, U.S. Cities Exchange Flags, Begin Partnership



**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 longtime symbol of Fort Worth, Texas, the Longhorn Steer, has crossed the ocean to call a second city home—Hawijah, Iraq.

Although a real longhorn hasn't found its way to Hawijah yet, the Fort Worth flag with a Longhorn Steer's silhouette was presented to the Hawijah city council July 15 in hopes of future cooperation Between two cities that Have more in common than one may realize.

"On behalf of the 700,000 people of Fort Worth, Texas, we extend a warm greeting and present to you the flag of our proud city," Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief wrote to the Hawijah city council via e-mail.

"Our two communities are separated by thousands of miles of oceans and mountains. However, we are irreversibly linked by a strong and united vision of peace and prosperity," he continued.

Although Fort Worth has done a lot of growing since its humble beginnings as a pit stop on the Chisholm Trail, where cattle herders would stop for a few days as they moved herds from Texas to the Kansas railheads.

The history of this town is irreversibly intertwined in agriculture making it a great match for agriculturally-dependent Hawijah, said Maj. Tom Hughes, a 490th Civil Affairs Team Chief and Fort Worth native who came up with the idea. "I saw the similarities and contacted Fort



Soldiers and members of the Hawijah city council stand together behind the Fort Worth, Texas flag in Hawijah, Iraq, July 15. The flag was presented by Maj. Tom Hughes (left), a Fort Worth native and a 490<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs team chief, who hopes a relationship will form between the two cities. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 1st Cav PAO)

Worth's mayor," he continued.

We are now family with all of Fort Worth. We want to thank you for your hopes for our small city of Hawijah." The city council members then signed a duplicate flag, which will be sent back to the mayor of Fort Worth.

"We are looking forward to cooperation between our city and yours and building a stronger future together," continued Khalaf.

"And this was just the beginning," said Hughes. Fort Worth has a sister city program that Hawijah will hopefully be able to take part in, which should help raise cultural understanding of both cities and allow individuals from two cities to visit one another, he explained.

"This would have been unimaginable less than a decade ago because Hawijah was a major stronghold of Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party," he said.

"Although it is difficult for us to fully comprehend the gravity of the struggles you have overcome, we pray you will know how much the people of Fort Worth want your city to succeed and prosper," said Moncrief.

"Our message is filled with hope for a more tranquil world," he continued. "A world in which all people, all cities and nations are committed to the paths of freedom, justice and peace.

It is on this message of hope that the future of humanity rests."



Maj. Tom Hughes, a Fort Worth, Texas, native and a 490th Civil Affairs team chief, presents the Fort Worth city flag to Hawijah city council members in Hawijah, Iraq, July 15. The mayor of Fort Worth wrote an e-mail, in which he expressed his happiness at starting a friendship with them.



City council members of Hawijah, Iraq, sign a Fort Worth, Texas flag, July 15, during a ceremony marking the beginning of cooperation between the two cities. One flag was presented to the Hawijah city council to keep and the signed one will be sent back to the mayor of Fort Worth.



# LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

**NAME: SPC SPC KYLE SAYER**

**UNIT: E CO, 1-67 AR**

**HOMETOWN: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

SPC Sayre has been with Echo/1-67 since March 2007 as a member of the Assault and Obstacle section, moving earth and rock for force protection. However, when needed, SPC Sayre has been able to fill in the combat engineer roles and execute missions. On June 24, 2009, SPC Sayre was the rear truck commander with 1/E Combat Engineers during a route clearance mission. Near a high threat area for grenade attacks, the patrol was attacked by two enemy personnel throwing grenades at the vehicle in front of SPC Sayre's truck. SPC Sayre identified the attackers, ordered his gunner to engage and directed his driver to position the vehicle so he could engage. SPC Sayer then opened the door and fired his M4 rifle, wounding one attacker. The attackers were apprehended and taken into custody to be charged with the attack. SPC Sayer's actions displayed great credit upon himself for reacting with swift decisions and positive identification.



## IRAQ FACTS

**How high is tallest point in Iraq?**

*(3600 meters)*

**In 323 BC, how old was Alexander the Great when he died in Babylon?**

*(32)*

**What was one major cause of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1989)?**

*(Water)*

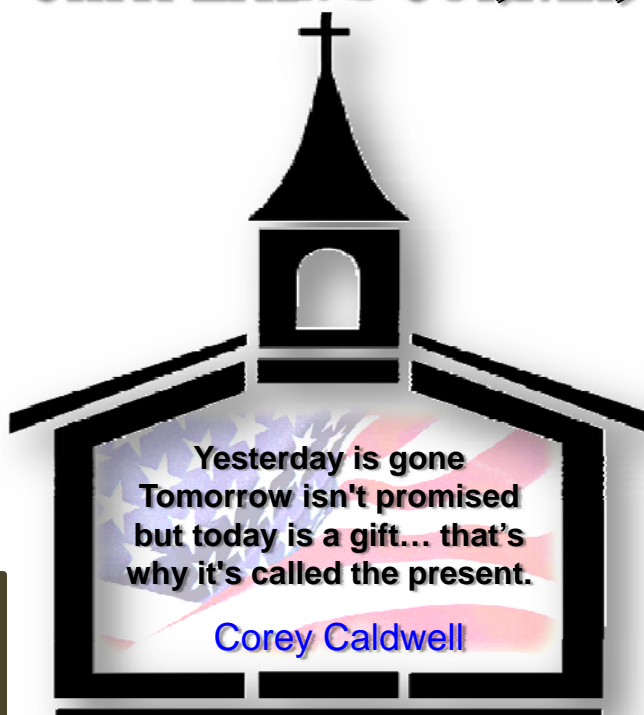
**How many countries participated in Operation Iraq Freedom?**

*(45)*

Some Information compiled from Worldfactbook and Trivia Architect.

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Yesterday is gone  
Tomorrow isn't promised  
but today is a gift... that's  
why it's called the present.

**Corey Caldwell**



# Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers deliver hope in Iraq



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



**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq—** Tomato sauce, rice, canned beans. It doesn't seem like a lot, but it can be the difference between a full stomach and going to sleep hungry.

Many families in the Hiteen neighborhood of Hawijah, Iraq, have gone hungry in the past, but 12th Iraqi Army soldiers and Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, brought bags of food and a message of hope to these families July 14.

"Hiteen has been recognized by the Hawijah city council as the poorest area of Hawijah," said 1st Lt. Sean Spencer, a Sierra Vista,

Ariz., native and the 1st Bn. 8th Cav. Regt medical officer.

"The food delivery by the ISF and U.S. Military supports Hawijah residents by fulfilling attainable goals which will make a difference for the people here," he said.

"It really made them happy, especially when they saw us with the Iraqi Army," said Spc. Andrew Harris, an Ogden, Utah, native and a forward observer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

"I think they picked the perfect town for this," he continued. "We don't really get to travel through [Hiteen] often. But when you come through there and give them food, it makes a big

difference." According to Harris, the IA is still working to visit all of the small villages in Kirkuk province. "This showed the residents of this neighborhood a side of the IA maybe they didn't know," said Spencer.

"It shows they are capable of helping the local residents and also has the added benefit of helping alleviate any misconceptions there might be of the IA in the past."

Eighty of the 165 families in the village received bags during this drop, and the IA is planning to distribute more aid in the near future.

"One bag of food can make a big difference if you're hungry," said Harris.

Families from the Hiteen Neighborhood of Hawijah, Iraq, gather to receive food bags being distributed by Iraqi Army soldiers and Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, July 14. This is the first time that many of these families have seen IA in the area. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Public Affairs)



“BLACKJACK”



*Grete Eliassen*



*Jen O'Brien*



*Nate Holland*



*Sarah Burke*

**The X-Games Tour** invited troops at COB Speicher to meet a group of five X-Games athletes July 18. Summer and Winter X-Games are held every year with a focus on extreme action sports. The athletes touring Iraq:

*Nate Holland – four consecutive gold medal wins in Men's Snowboarder X*

*Grete Eliassen – two gold and one silver medal in Skiing Superpipe*

*Sarah Burke – ESPY award for 2007 Female Action Sports Athlete of the Year*

*Brad Simms – BMX competitor at X-Games 14*

*Jen O'Brien – silver medalist in Women's Vert, competitor in every X since 2003*



**Quote (from USA TODAY article):** "I'm not sure what to expect in Iraq, but our main goal is to meet the troops and give them a chance to relax and think about something fun... We're just honored to meet them. They're our heroes." – Sarah Burke





# Sports Byline Radio Show comes to Mosul



**STORY BY**  
**2nd Lt. Jeff Orban**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division**

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq** — The syndicated national U.S. sports talk show, Sports Byline, broadcasted from the dining facility at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq, on July 14.

The radio broadcast involved key leaders from Multi-National Division-North, as well as four “Greywolf” 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers. The “Greywolf” Soldiers were able to speak with such sports legends as former Seattle Seahawks wide receiver and U.S. senator Steve Largent and current University of Southern California head football coach Pete Carroll.

The San Francisco-based Sports Byline radio has been broadcasting for 20 years and has 2.2 million listeners each week, according to their website. The program was started by radio talk show host Ron Barr, who is on his fifth trip to a combat zone to entertain the troops.

“I grew up in a military family so I have an affinity with the service men and service women,” said Barr.

The four Greywolf Soldiers all had competitive sports backgrounds. Capt. Josh Holden, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment Civil Military Operations Officer, played both football and baseball at West Point, and went on to play minor league baseball for the Cincinnati Reds

organization.  
2nd Lt. Charlie Rockwood, a Field Artillery officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Cavalry Division, was a starting linebacker at West Point for three seasons.

Sgt. Patrick Miller, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, was a college wrestler and football player. He is currently the mixed martial arts heavyweight champion for a Texas regional circuit.

Pfc. Damien Conard, of Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, played linebacker for the University of Missouri football team.

Barr has sincerely enjoyed all his “deployments,” saying, “I get to see Soldiers as people who made a commitment and to watch them put together a team effort and the loyalty and the execution.”

‘It’s something very, very special and amazing.”

Barr appreciated having Soldier-athletes on his broadcast team. “Some of these people could be pretty good sportscasters if they wanted to be,” said Barr. Because the Soldiers were sports veterans they “didn’t ask the coach whether the ball was inflated or stuffed,” Barr said with a laugh.

Having the chance to talk to sports stars was something Greywolf Soldiers were very excited about.

“Talking to Steve Largent was pretty unbelievable, something I didn’t think I would be doing at a DFAC here in northern Iraq,” said Rockwood.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr., commanding general, 25th Infantry Division spoke with famous ABC sportscaster Al Michaels, and Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, deputy commanding general, 25th ID and a former West Point basketball player, spoke with his former coach, now Duke legend, Mike Krzyzewski.

“I thought it was great, for them to come here and do it for us, I think they did a great job, it was good to just get your mind off what we’re doing,” said Miller.



2nd Lt. Charlie Rockwood with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Cavalry Division, participates in a live radio broadcast with Sports Byline host Ron Barr.



In the Army .... NOW!

Episode 04: The Ocean’s Not Enough

By Pfc. Jesus J. Aranda, Task Force Lightning Public Affairs

Hey, we just got a call from some guy saying he needs the Army's help moving the corpse of some alien robot into Egypt. He implied failure would result in a doomsday catastrophe, so this probably meets CCIR Criteria.

So.... this is a hot tasking, sir?

Hey, sergeant, we have a priority mission in the works. We need to discuss the feasibility of troop support in averting global destruction. Priority tasking, so no more than ten meetings and no less than seven.

Roger, sir.

Sir, I just got word from our ground forces that the robot alien threat has been neutralized. Does this mean we no longer need to support preventing the apocalypse?



## FAMILY MATTERS: FATHER, TWINS DEPLOYED IN MOSUL



Army Staff Sgt. Larry Kazmierzak, 49, of Greenwood, Ind., assigned to Company F, 3-338th Aviation, an Indiana National Guard unit based in Camp Atterbury, Ind., is flanked by his twin daughters, Ashley and Kari Kazmierzak, 22, on the runway at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Diamondback, Mosul, Iraq. The Kazmierzaks, who are deployed with the same unit and work in the same department, are on a one year deployment tour to Iraq. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st (SCW) Class Carmichael Yopez)

### (3-25 Competition continued)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. "Not being a field artillery Soldier by trade, but being a supply specialist in my unit, I feel a lot of pride participating here.

Also, I have been receiving a lot of respect from the people in my unit, so this is truly rewarding." Another participant set aside his competitive spirit during the march to show his leadership style to his Soldier, who was lagging behind.

"The most enjoyable and painful experience in this competition was the ruck march," said Staff Sgt. Bruce Siegal, squadron battle NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment. "When we set off toward the range, I watched as the NCO (Sgt. Girard) took off ahead of me;

I realized that he would beat me. I came to accept that and decided to find my Soldier to ensure that we made it to our destination together safe and sound...that was the best part."

As the competition continued, leaders provided the Soldiers well-rounded hands-on and mental tactical scenarios that ranged from quick maintenance on military vehicles, to rules for escalation of force, to proper radio use.

The first of the tactical scenarios in the competition gave Soldiers the task of examining a Mine Resistant Ambush

Protected vehicle from the inside and out. Soldiers were then tested on proper EOF procedures, showing how to respectfully treat a driver while performing a search on his vehicle. Soldiers then demonstrated their communication proficiency by setting up a radio and portable antenna.

Brigade leaders explained the process, intent and impact that having the competition in a deployed setting has done for the participating Soldiers.

"This is a first-class show for our Soldiers. The personnel who put this competition together understood that in order for these Soldiers to go up to division and represent, they would have to be trained and tested on the tasks they would be executing," said Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Marrero, brigade command sergeant major. The competition came to an end as senior leadership from throughout the brigade tested the mettle of the Soldiers in a formal board.

The winners of the competition were Girard, 27, of Cambridge, Minn. and Herman, 21, of Escanaba, Mich.

The runners-up in the competition were Siegal, 27, of Tucson, Ariz. and Spc. Ryan Blunk, 24, of Layton, Utah, also of 3rd Squadron, 4th U.S. Cav. Regt.

The winners will go on to compete at the division level to match up with other elite Soldiers who have made the same advancements around northern Iraq.

**"EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT."**



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



(Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Luke P. Thelen)

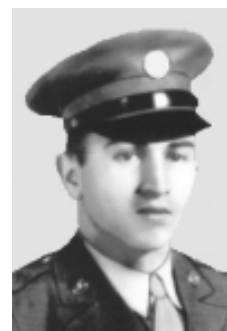
The Salah ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team along with their Iraqi counterparts talk to Iraqi citizens about the various programs such as the Organization of the Iraqi Family , an Iraqi group dedicated to the professional development of Iraqi women, and a teacher and program director for the group during a visit to the Mujamma Women's Computer Training Center in Mujamma, Iraq, July 11, 2009. The center is the first success of it's kind in Iraq and was initially started with a grant from the U.S. State Department through the Salah ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team.

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. WILLIAM G. FOURNIER
- Co. M, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reg., 25 ID
- Entered Service: Norwich, Conn.
- Place of Action: Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
- Date of Action: 5 June 1943



## Medal of Honor Citation:

**Citation:** For gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. As leader of a machinegun section charged with the protection of other battalion units, his group was attacked by a superior number of Japanese, his gunner killed, his assistant gunner wounded, and an adjoining guncrew put out of action. Ordered to withdraw from this hazardous position, Sgt. Fournier refused to retire but rushed forward to the idle gun and, with the aid of another soldier who joined him, held up the machinegun by the tripod to increase its field action. They opened fire and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. While so engaged both these gallant soldiers were killed, but their sturdy defensive was a decisive factor in the following success of the attacking battalion \*

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

\* Awarded Posthumously

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