

February 2009

# Call of the WOLF





Greetings to the Soldiers of the Arctic Wolves and to the entire team dedicated to our mission here in Diyala Province, Iraq.

We are now well into the fifth month of our deployment and it is nearly impossible to keep up with your many accomplishments. It is absolutely impressive to watch this team in action performing tasks that range from security patrols, clearing palm groves, working water irrigation projects, participating in tribal reconciliation meetings, local and provincial governance councils, to overseeing countless projects throughout all of Diyala.

Perhaps your greatest contribution has been your work with our Iraqi Security Force (ISF) partners. With your security force partners you have established a safe and secure environment which serves as a catalyst for progress in this critically important Province.

Just in the past two months you have identified, registered and paid over 9,000 Sons of Iraq (SOIZ), you have assisted our ISF partners in the planning, preparation, synchronization and execution of elections in a Province with over 1.2 million citizens. In short, you have provided the citizens here in Diyala with an incredible opportunity for growth and prosperity. Although many challenges await us, there is a strong undercurrent of hope and optimism from the citizens of Diyala for their future and each of you has contributed significantly to this optimism. I thank you for your dedication to the cause.


We are now over the 120 day mark on

our deployment; I need you all to remain vigilant. Historically, we are in a high risk period in our deployment and the risk, that even the best units face, at this point is "complacency." You all have proven your "competence" in every task and challenge you have faced. However, if

we are not careful our "competence" can lead to "overconfidence" in our abilities. "Over confidence" can lead to "complacency" and "complacency" unchecked can lead, ultimately, to failure.

I would ask that every Soldier and Leader in our combat team continuously assess where you and your unit are in this regard. Continue to strive to master your individual skills and to hold your battle buddy accountable. I challenge leaders at every level to set the right example and continue to stay focused on discipline and maintaining standards. Many challenges remain ahead of us and we all have worked too hard over the past 25 months together to lose focus and momentum. Stay true to yourselves, to each other and to your work.

Again, I thank you all for what you are doing here in Diyala. Please be safe and continue to take care of each other, fight hard and always serve with honor!

*The Wolf* 



**Col. Burt Thompson**

# The Wolves Howl

**H**ooah, Arctic Wolves and Black Knights!

We are well into our Environmental Morale Leave (EML) time period. Col. Thompson and I are proud of all that you have accomplished and the emphasis you are putting on safety. As you go home on a well deserved break, we want you to have fun and enjoy yourselves in the company of your Family and friends. Do not do anything that will bring discredit to your accomplishments. Allow your loved ones to spoil you. You may not feel like a hero, but you are their hero and they want to show their appreciation. Talk to your loved ones about the importance of being a Battle

Buddy. When you are on leave, your loved ones are your Battle Buddies. Allow your loved ones to lookout for you, but also listen to their concerns. Your loved ones want the best for you. I also encourage you not to drive any type of motor vehicle, especially motorcycles. Keep in mind that as a Soldier you are required to wear protective gear when participating in high risk activities; for example, motorcycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, hunting, boating, etc...and remember to always set the conditions for success.

As I ask to apply the Battle Buddy concept to everything you do and include it when you are at home on leave, I also ask that you live the motto, "**Prepare, Polite, Professional**" when you are at home with your loved ones. This motto sets conditions for a success in everything we do in or out of the combat zone. As we have discussed before, while at home on leave, the **Pre-**

**pare** part covers everything from planning for a designated driver, to the backup plan if the designated driver fails his mission, providing your loved ones with your plan and what to do if the plan changes. Apply the composite risk assessment to everything you do. The **Polite** part refers to; dignity, respect and consideration for others, exercise politeness in everything you do. Do not be a "Mr. Billy Bad Ass"; be humble and be proud of being an American. America is proud of you; do not ruin it by being unprofessional and arrogant. **Professional** refers to who we are and what we stand for. Everyone expects Soldiers to be Prepared, Polite, and Professional and nothing less. Remember that you are part of something much bigger than yourself. You also represent the Arctic Wolves, and the most disciplined and the best trained Army in the world.

Again, COL Thompson and I are proud of everyone of you. Continue to be safe here in Iraq and at home with your loved ones. Thank you for your dedication and service. May God bless you all.

Respectfully,

*Wolf7*



**Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes**

## Judge Advocate General: Providing legal assistance to Soldiers

The 1/25 SBCT Brigade Operational Law Team is a service-oriented organization with a multifaceted mission face. Taking care of Soldiers is our first duty in the day-to-day. If a Soldier needs help we do what we can to provide it at any given time.

We complete notaries, give powers of attorney, draft wills, answer questions, offer legal guidance, provide information and set up consultations with our legal assistance attorney, whenever the need arises.

The Rule of Law mission involves meeting with a variety of our Iraqi counterparts – Judges, attorneys, police chiefs, politicians – and visits to local law enforcement facilities, court houses and jails in order to establish the level of advancement or provide guidance in rule of law.

Fiscal Law primarily involves

reviewing a variety of requests for project funding, financial liability investigations, and the occasional request to fund an equipment purchase.

Operational Law principally involves advising commanders on Rules of Engagement, the Status of Forces Agreement requirements for legal process and targeting options.

We also process all UCMJ actions against soldiers from 1/25 SBCT, provide legal review of all 15-6 investigations and generate chapter packets for soldiers who should not remain in the Army.

Finally, our Claims mission helps remedy the ills of war by meeting with local Iraqis, considering their claims and paying as just a compensation as law and policy will allow.

***For more information about legal services provided to 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. Soldiers operating in Iraq, visit the JAG office or call at 770-5076***

Judge Advocate General



To enforce security measures, 1st Platoon, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conduct a security patrol in Tahrir, located in Diyala, Iraq, to secure possible sites for election day. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Opal Vaughn, 14th Public Affairs Detachment)



## On the Cover



Private 1st Class George Biggerstaff, infantry soldier, Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pulls security outside a building housing a suspected insurgent during a reconnaissance mission. (Photo by Spc. Opal Vaughn, 14th Public Affairs Detachment)

# Contents

The Iron Bar Inn.....	Page 6
Seek and Destroy.....	Page 7
Election Sites.....	Page 8
Ashura Observed.....	Page 9
IPs Set the Standard.....	Page 10
The Stability of Iraq.....	Page 12
HBIED Clearance.....	Page 16
Soldiers Take on New Roles..	Page 18
Necessary Challenges.....	Page 20
Chaplain's Corner.....	Page 22
Hear Them ROAR.....	Page 23

**1/25 SBCT Commander**  
Col. Burdett Thompson

**1/25 SBCT Command Sgt. Maj.**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes

**1/25 SBCT Public Affairs Office**

Maj. Chris Hyde.....Public Affairs Officer/Editor  
Staff Sgt. Christina Harwell.....NCOIC/Broadcast Journalist  
Spec. Opal Vaughn.....Print Journalist/Contributing Designer  
Pfc. Alisha Nye.....Print Journalist/Design and Layout  
Spec. Joe Keller.....Contributing Designer

The Call of the Wolf, a command information magazine, is authorized for members of the U.S. Army and the 1/25 SBCT community. Contents of the The Call of the Wolf are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or Department of the Army. The editorial content of the magazine are the responsibility of the 1/25 SBCT Public Affairs Office.

The Call of the Wolf is prepared monthly by the 1/25 SBCT Public Affairs Office, which includes Soldiers from the 14th Public Affairs Detachment. Any story or photo submissions should be forwarded to the editor at [richard.hyde@us.army.mil](mailto:richard.hyde@us.army.mil)

CORRECTION from January: 1LT Jorgenson was not killed in action. He died from wounds suffered outside of combat.

# STAFFING THE IRON BAR INN

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

It seems as though whenever there are detention facilities in the movies, ones kept in a war-torn nation, the depictions are all the same – squalid living conditions, sleep and food deprivation and abuse.

The movies are wrong.

It takes time, patience, understanding of your fellow man, cultural awareness, extensive training and sometimes even a little finesse to keep a detention facility, such as the one located on Forward Operating Base Warhorse in the Diyala Province of Iraq, running smoothly and professionally.

The team running the facility is a mix of people in several different job fields, including medicine, mechanics and cooks, said Capt. Lindsay Hale, detention facility and Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

“A little bit of everything in the BSB got pulled together to do this mission and it’s completely outside the normal scope that a support battalion would do,” Hale said. “There are Soldiers from about 7-9 different jobs that were pulled – the majority of them being mechanics.”

Despite the difference in job experiences with their current job tasking, Hale has the utmost confidence in her Soldiers to properly run the detention facility at FOB Warhorse due to the sheer level of training they receive regularly.

“They’re constantly going through training every day,” Hale said. “There are 25 critical detention facility tasks. Each day, to keep us current, they go through train-

ing on one of them when they come on shift.”

Hale said this training is put to

good use when a detainee comes through the facility. The first steps are always the same – search, paperwork and in-processing.

Once a detainee is searched and any contraband and personal items are taken and stored in either a storage unit or the evidence room, he is then brought to the control point.

“This is where the magic happens,” said Spc. Brian Shea, controller of the detention facility control point, Bde. Support Bn. “This is where the bad guys get in-processed.”

When a guard brings a detainee to the control point, Shea takes his picture, iris scan and fingerprint scan and runs his information through a computer database in order to figure out whether or not that particular detainee has been to the facility before. If he has not come through before, his basic information is taken and put into a new file, which is then stored in the control point, said Shea.

“The CP is like the brain of the facility,” Shea said. “We have a tracking board here that basically gives the layout of the facility – who is in what cell, what religion they are, when they’ve been fed, when they’ve showered – so we can keep track of all of that stuff.”

After the search and initial in-processing, the detainee showers and a guard brings him to see the medic on duty.

“We basically do a miniature physical on each detainee and we check them for scars, bruising or anything that indicates abuse,” said Spc. Ashley White, detention facility medic, Bde. Support Bn. “If there is abuse or if he claims abuse, we have to fill out serious incident reports and

get doctors involved right away.”

The detainees at the facility are well taken care of, especially medically, said White.

“We use interpreters to ask them if they are on any medications, if they have any past injuries, heart attacks, anything serious that we need to know about,” White said. “That’s pretty much it, unless they complain about something. Then we give them medication as we see fit.”

After the medical screening, a guard takes the detainee back to his cell.

The cells at the detention facility, while they are not luxury suits, they do come prepared with living and worshipping essentials.

“Each cell has a copy of the Geneva Convention in their language, a layout of the cell and it also has the facility rules in their language,” Hale said. “There’s a sign to tell them which way to pray – which way Mecca is.”

As well as these things, the detainees are also provided with a bed, a blanket, a prayer rug and a Quran.

“From start to finish, it’s a very locked down facility,” Hale said.

While locked down, this is one place Soldiers enjoy what they do.

“I really like my job here,” White said.

Shea agreed.

“I love working here,” said Shea. “I do. It’s a little more laid back when there are no detainees, but when the detainees come in, we treat them humanely and we get a lot of pats on the back. It makes you feel important, so that’s always good.”

The detention facility, a place where cooperation, understanding and a love for the work can be easily found, is also a place where there is unquestioning trust between the Soldiers who work there.

“We’ve got a common bond and trust here,” said Hale. “If we didn’t have that within each other, it wouldn’t work.”



# SEEK AND DESTROY

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Speaking militarily, the term “reconnaissance” means to actively seek to determine an enemy’s intent by gathering information about his composition and capabilities along with relevant environmental factors. This is done through observation by specially trained troops.

Soldiers from Recon Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division are troops who meet this standard and routinely serve in that capacity by engaging in carefully projected reconnaissance missions.

“Our mission is a lot different than the missions of other platoons,” said Staff Sgt. William Pearson, team leader, Recon Platoon, HHC, 1st Bn., 24th Inf. Regt. “We don’t go out and patrol. We strictly do direct action on targets.”

This is a job that can be much more simply summed up than it is done, especially when a “target” is a person usually connected to an improvised explosive device cell with the sole intent of insurgency activities.

“We pretty much directly target specific individuals inside certain groups – certain IED cells,” said Pearson, a native of Plymouth, Mass. “It helps to collapse those cells.”

When these individuals are found, they are handed over to appropriate authorities for further detention, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Barrera, platoon sergeant and acting platoon leader, Recon Platoon, HHC, 1st Bn., 24th Inf. Regt.

There are times, however, when means of getting to an individual directly in a cell may be blocked, so alternative measures are necessary.

“If we can’t target individuals within the cell then we try to target individuals who may be associated with it but not necessarily in it,” said Barrera, a Green River, Wyo. native. “That way, we can get information to get to the cell.”

The role of a recon Soldier is a difficult one to fill, especially when his sole purpose is to aid in the capture of individuals who would gladly see him killed. But to the Soldiers serving in the capacity, reconnaissance missions are difficult for different reasons.

“We’re always going to different places,” Barrera said. “Now we’re getting to the point where we’ve been to a lot of places. But before, when we first got



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from Recon Platoon, HHC, 1st Bn., 24th Inf. Regt., stand proud as an essential element to the unit’s mission in the Diyala Province of Iraq.

here, we’d get familiar with one area and then we’d all of the sudden have to work in another area where we’d never been. It’s difficult when you’re not familiar with an area.”

To Pearson, it’s the terrain that proves difficult.

“It’s hard to move around in this type of terrain,” he said. “There are a lot of canals and a lot of these towns are so isolated. It’s hard to creep up on a town in the middle of nowhere. There’s only so many ways in and out.”

Whatever the challenges, the Soldiers in this platoon do not fail to complete their mission, having just recently caught a “high-value individual” on lists for both Multi-National Division- Baghdad and Multi-National Division-Central.

“The guy had been getting chased all over the place,” said Barrera. “He wasn’t actually a target in our area, he just happened to come into our area and we executed a raid to capture him.”

The capture of this man was monumental because he was the number one target on the lists for MND-B and MNC-I, said Barrera.

“He’s been tied to the abduction of an American Soldier that occurred in 2006,” said Barrera. “He’s the only Soldier who is actually still missing right now. The target is also directly related to a significant number of IED and explosively formed projectile attacks in Baghdad that have killed Americans.”

Capturing individuals such as this make the Soldiers of this platoon believe that the challenges are well worth it and keeps them contentedly carrying out their reconnaissance missions.

“They’re the some of the best guys in the battalion,” said Barrera. “They’re the guys that really want to be here and those are the guys we really want.”

Pearson agreed.

“It’s just a bunch of self-motivated Soldiers who want to be here and execute these missions,” he said. “They aren’t just going through the motions. They actually care.”

# SECURING SITES FOR Elections



Two Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, motion for local Iraqi civilians to stay back while they pull security at a possible election site for the upcoming election in Tahrir, located in Diyala, Iraq.

---

Story and photo by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

---

With looming elections, Iraqi elections that is, security is imperative to ensure Iraq remains a safe environment during the weeks leading up to Election Day.

To enforce security measures, 1st Platoon, Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conducted a security patrol in Tahrir, located in Diyala, Iraq, to secure possible sites for the upcoming election, Jan. 7.

"We're out here assessing the security of possible election sites," said North Pole, Alaska native, Sgt. 1st Class John Knott, a squad leader with 1st Platoon, Bravo Co., 1-5 Inf., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. "We're working with the Tahrir IPs to make sure they have

all the necessary security measures put in place and making sure they have a grasp or thorough understanding of what they need to do on the election day."

Knott continued, "The election is near the end of the month, so it may seem like we are jumping the gun kind of early. But we like to make sure that we are always prepared for anything," Knott stated. "The IAs and IPs tend to jump on things at the last minute so we want to instill in them good planning process and procedures. We will continue to check in on them until the day of the election by making sure they understand what their security responsibilities are."

Leading up to the election, several measures of securing the possible elections sites are taken to include assessing entrance and exit points, how many people the building may house and the surrounding environment, according to Knott. "Once the event kicks off, we want to ensure the IPs and IAs have a good grasp on the procedures needed in case of emergency," Knott stated. "Keeping accountability, counting ballots and transferring ballots, just the overall picture of the election needs to be taken into consideration."

"We've established a good working relationship with IPs in Tahrir, so we stop by on a regular basis to check up on them and just to sit and chat. Sometimes we talk about work, we talk about family, we drink chai tea and joke around; just basic relationship building," Knott smiled.

In order to keep an open relationship, the ongoing transition process of giving Iraq back to its people, is still a big part of relationship building with regards to Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces.

"We have a general idea of how we would like the IPs to set up security for the election day but obviously, we want them to be able to do it on their own," said 1st Lt. Andrew Garwitz, 1st Platoon leader, Bravo Co., 1-5 Inf., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. "We're not going to tell them exactly how to do that because we are here to provide a general framework for them, to help them, to set up their security."

"We looked at several factors," Garwitz stated. "Basically, what type of defensive measures do they have in place, structure of each facility, entrances and exits and avenues of approach. We will continue to make regular visits to different possible elections sites up until the election."

Garwitz continued, "Even when the Election Day arrives, we will continue to assist with security. We will always provide a quick reaction force so if need be, we can roll in and assist our Iraqi counterparts. As for now, it will primarily consist of IP and IA running their own security. But we will be on standby, over watching the whole process."



# ASHURA observed

By Jonathan Rivers and  
William Sharpe  
3-21 IN, 1-25 SBCT

The first week of January marked the annual observance of the Islamic Ashura holiday. In the Gimlet area of operations, approximately 15,000 people marched through the streets of Muqdadiyah in celebration of the holiday, primarily observed by Shi'a Muslims.

A combination of Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, Sons of Iraq and Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, synchronized their efforts in securing the march route and yielded a successful and peaceful march in Muqdadiyah.

Staff Sgt. John Smerbeck stated, "The large number of citizens who showed visually demonstrates the growing trust they have with the security situation and Iraqi forces."

Ashura is an Islamic holiday observed on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic year. Traditionally, for Sunni Muslims, Ashura is a voluntary fast that commemorates the day Noah left the arc and the day Moses was saved from the Egyptians.

Among Shiites, however, Ashura is a major festival. It commemorates the death of the 3rd Shi'a Imam, Husayn, grandson to the Prophet Muhammad, on the 10th day of Muharram in Karbala, Iraq. The Battle of Karbala led to the split between the Sunni and Shi'a sects of Islam and is of central importance in Shi'a Islam. The Day of Ashura marks the beginning of a 40-day mourning period in commemoration of

Husayn's sacrifice at the Battle of Karbala, which ends with the Shi'a observance of Arba'een.

To commemorate Husayn's martyrdom at the Battle of Karbala, many Iraqi Shiites make pilgrimages on Ashura to the Husayn and Abbas Shrines located in Karbala, Iraq, which serve as the final resting place for Imam Husayn and his brother Abbas.

In addition to Iraqis, Shi'a pilgrims from Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and other countries also travel to these holy cities to worship at the shrines and participate in the large parades and pilgrimages. Husayn's martyrdom is widely interpreted by Shiites as a symbol of the struggle against injustice, tyranny, and oppression.

For Shi'a Muslims, rituals and observances on Ashura consist primarily of public expressions of mourning and grief. This is intended to connect them with Husayn's suffering and death as an aid to salvation on the Day of Judgment. Passion plays commemorating the death of Husayn are also presented on Ashura. The regime of Saddam Hussein saw this as a potential threat and thus banned Ashura commemorations for many years.

In neighboring Iran, the festival became a major political symbol during the Islamic Revolution, as also occurred in Lebanon during that country's civil war. The year 2004 marked the first year the Ashura Holiday was celebrated in Iraq after the removal of Hussein's regime. Ashura celebrations in 2004 were marred with sectarian violence.

On Jan. 7, 15,000 Shi'a Muslims gathered in Muqdadiyah, Diyala Province to take part in a 10 kilometer march, through the city, in observance of Ashura. The observers chanted prayers and conducted self flagellation to a ca-

dence played by drummers. The main body of the crowd stretched to almost 3 kilometers.

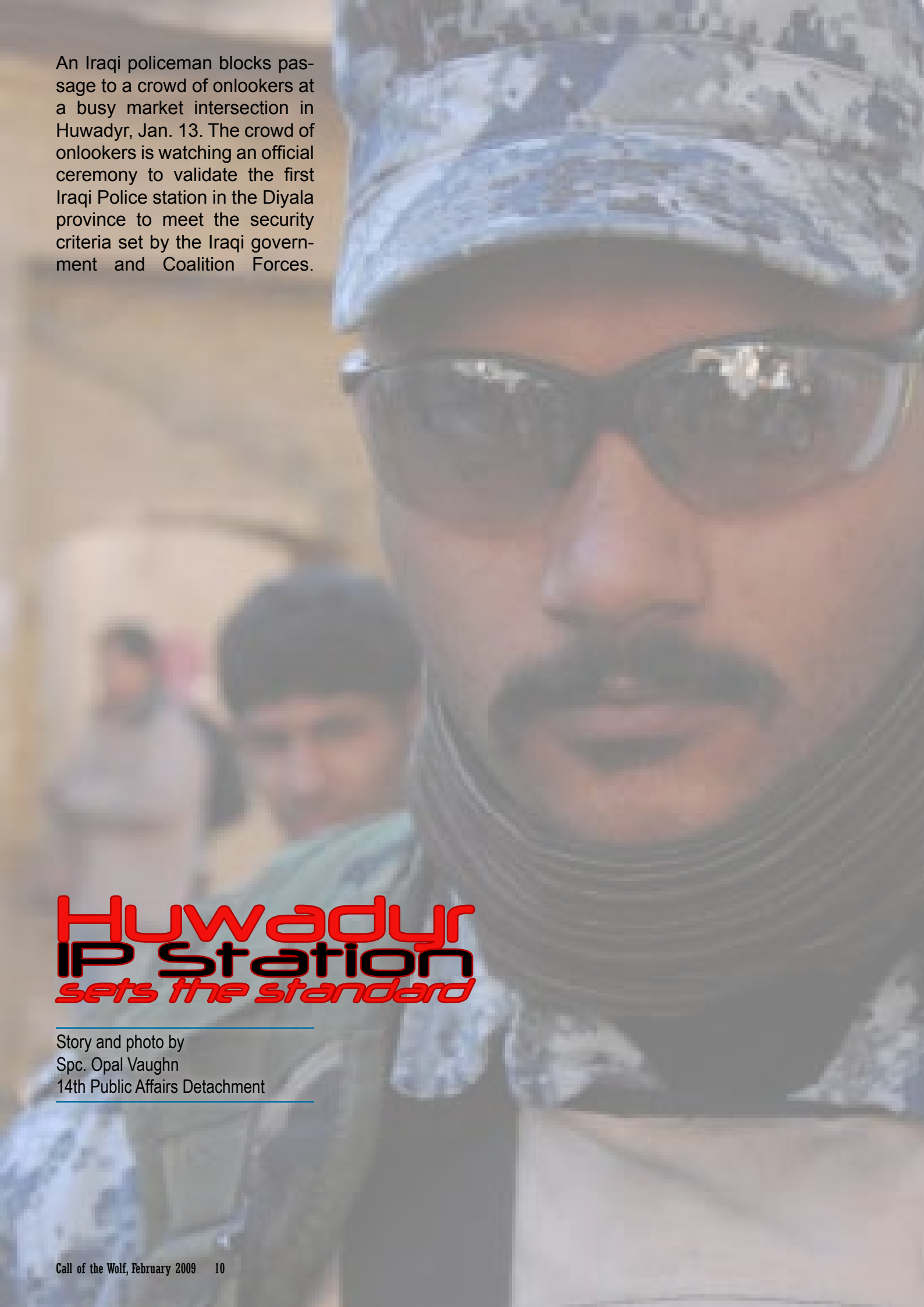
Spc. Matthew Sapien observed, "The Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and U.S. Army coordinated together as we oversaw a very well organized and undisturbed demonstration."

The peaceful nature of this year's march is significant in that the previous year's march included observers carrying AK-47s and driving trucks with mounted machineguns. This year, weapons were banned from the ceremony and security was primarily enforced by Iraqi Security Forces. The success of the ISF's ability to secure the area brings hope to Iraq's future and is proof that, in an area once troubled with sectarian violence, religious holidays can be celebrated openly without incident.

Spc. Evan Taft commented, "Judging from my vantage point the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army had the demonstration very well secured and it went very smoothly."

This successful demonstration reflects the improved security in the area due to the professionalism and competence of the growing ISF and their partnership with coalition forces. The ability of Shi'a and Sunni to celebrate Ashura together is a critical step forward in providing a better future to the people of Iraq and testament to the great work of both our ISF allies and our Soldiers.





An Iraqi policeman blocks passage to a crowd of onlookers at a busy market intersection in Huwadyr, Jan. 13. The crowd of onlookers is watching an official ceremony to validate the first Iraqi Police station in the Diyala province to meet the security criteria set by the Iraqi government and Coalition Forces.


## Huwadyr IP Station *sets the standard*

---

Story and photo by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

---





**B**rg. Gen. Fadan, the Deputy Iraqi Police Chief of Huwadyr, Capt. Bassim, the Huwadyr station captain, a local Sheik and Coalition Forces, held a ceremony to validate the Huwadyr Iraqi Police station for being the first in the Diyala province to meet the security criteria set by the Iraqi government and Coalition Forces, Jan. 13.

“We are holding this ceremony to validate the Huwadyr IP station,” Capt. Terry Brown, commander, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

“They have proven that they are fully capable of securing their area of operations on their own without Coalition Force assistance,” Brown stated. “This day is significant in that the IPs have taken great steps forward and showing Iraqi security forces can do just that and keep the safety of their people.”

In order to be validated, the criteria set are based on several requirements, according Brown.

“The criteria is based on how the IPs do their book keeping, regular patrols in their AO, how they’re securing their environment, dealing with detainees and how they communicate with their chain of command,” Brown stated. “We do a lot of joint patrols with the IPs and 202nd MP Co., and doing this allows us to ensure the IPs stay on track toward fulfilling the set criteria.”

“We only want to see the IPs succeed,” Brown stated. “I’m very grateful that we were able to hold this event, it lets us know we’re making significant strides for-

ward in order for the Iraqis to take complete control of their area. I see a bright future for Huwadyr. Hopefully we will be able to limit the Coalition Forces action in this area but still be able to provide them with the assets to continue to be successful in the area.”

After several speeches were made, Bassim addressed the audience of Coalition Forces and Iraqi Police counterparts, thanking them for attending the ceremony. “Thank you all for coming out today,” Bassim began, “We will continue to ensure the safety and security of the local people of Huwadyr.”

Closing out the ceremony, Capt. Shannon Newell, commander, 202nd Military Police Company, 7-28 Military Police Battalion, presented Fadan and Bassim with a certificate of appreciation for setting the standard for Iraqi Police stations, all around the Diyala province.

“We would like to say thank you for all your hard work and the dedication you have made to ensure Huwadyr is a safer place,” Newell stated. “This is an important day. You are the first to be validated in the Diyala province and I would hope other IP stations will follow suit. Keep up the good work.”

Following the ceremony Fadan, Bassim, a local Sheik and Staff Sgt. Robert Everly, a squad leader with 202nd MP Co., cut a cake to officiate the validation and soon after a banquet of traditional Iraqi foods was served.

New Baquba IP station has also met the criteria set by Iraqi security forces and Coalition Forces and will be validated at a later date.

# The STABILITY of IRAQ

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

When the going gets tough the tough get... comfy? As confusing as it sounds, a new SOFA has been emplaced between the United States government and the government of Iraq in an effort to further combat terrorism in Iraq and contribute to the country's overall peace and stability.

"It's the new agreement between the U.S. and the Iraqi government because the United Nations agreement ran out Dec. 31," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Moore, platoon sergeant, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. "It consists of rules governing our conduct over here and correlation between the Iraqi government forces and U.S. forces."

The new Status-of-forces-agreement between the U.S. and Iraqi governments outlines the rules applied to and behaviors of American forces occupying the country of Iraq. The two most effective changes, said Moore, have been in regards to missions between U.S. Forces and Iraqi Security Forces and detentions and arrests made.

"The Iraqis are taking over more power," Moore said. "So we're doing combines patrols and missions with the Iraqi Security Forces and detainees have to be turned over to the Iraqi government within 24 hours."

The overall purpose of the new SOFA is of an enormous importance, said Sgt. Jerry Poe, cannon crewmember, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 8th Field Artillery.

"It is to, basically, transition control of the government and the country back to the Iraqi people," he said.

With this goal in mind, the attitude is changing for not only American troops training in the states, but Iraqi Security Forces training in Iraq, as well.

"It's changing out mindset – basically, how we're training back in the rear," said Poe. "It's not as much of kicking in doors anymore as it is trying to help the economy and ensuring the people that we're trying to work with the Iraq people to keep their country safe."

This is an ambition that is radiating from the Iraqi Security Forces, as well.

"Definitely, compared to my last deployment, they've made leaps and bounds," Moore said. "Just like any army or military they could always use more training and some are better than others, obviously. But, I think, as they continue to grow and learn over the next few years they'll definitely be able to fully take over their own country."

Poe agrees.

"I have a lot more confidence in them," said Poe of the ISF. "I always see them out on patrols – there's always a presence here around the Diyala Province. I really think they grasp what they're doing."

The development seen in the ISF can only continue to improve under the new SOFA agreement.

"I think it's good," Moore said. "It takes some of the workload, honestly, off of the U.S. forces. It gives some substance to the Iraqi Security Forces. Hopefully, it'll also build more confidence in the security forces that they have the ability to take control over their own country."

The developments, so far, have been amazing, Moore said.

"Every one of them is far past where he was before," Moore said. "I think the majority of them are ready to take over. Two years ago, I wouldn't even consider it. To see where they are now is definitely amazing."



(Background) Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, use metal detectors to clear an area of land located by palm groves in the Diyala Province of Iraq while conducting a combined patrol with Iraqi Police. (Below) A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, discusses the detention of a local man in a small town in the Diyala Province of Iraq shortly before the man's subsequent arrest.



(Below) A Soldier with 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and an Iraqi Policeman assist their counterparts onto the roof of a building possibly armed with a house-borne improvised explosive device just before entering the structure in order to clear it of threats during a combined patrol. (Right) An Iraqi policeman looks on as one of his counterparts assists Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, with speaking to local villagers in a small town located in the Diyala Province of Iraq.





**I**N Terrehaute- “I think Shakespeare probably made it up.” - **Spc. Darryl Willem Jr., 202nd MP Co.**  
**I**A Davenport- “He was a saint, at some point, and maybe gave cards and good tidings and good wishes out to people.” - **Staff Sgt. Andrew Carpenter, U.S. Airforce**

“How do you think Valentine’s Day originated?”

**Winner: The correct answer**



**CT** Newington- “It actually originated as a holiday in Rome. All of the single women in the city would throw their names in a big bin or large container and all the men would go by and grab one and pick out their ‘mate for the year.’ It frequently led to marriage but, generally, just led to a good year. After the rise of Christianity, obviously, this holiday was replaced with the tradition of exchanging cards and

other romantic acts.” - **1st Lt. Jeff Chase, 2-8 FA**





**VA** Virginia Beach-  
 “We need more love in the world. That’s why we have Valentine’s Day.” - **1st Lt. Aaron Mann, 2-8 FA**

**FL** Largo- “I think Valentine’s Day was started by a man who highly encouraged love.” - **Staff Sgt. Steven Feldhaus, Co. A, 1-5 IN**

**AK** Anchorage- “I believe Valentine’s Day originated in the European state of France because France is the place for lovers and romance.” - **Spc. Tony Desarro, 202nd MP Co.**

**PA** Pittsburg- “Valentine’s Day is a conspiracy put together by greeting card companies and chocolate conglomerates in order to increase their sales during this time of the year.” - **Spc. William Parker, D 52nd, Anti-Tank Co. BTB**

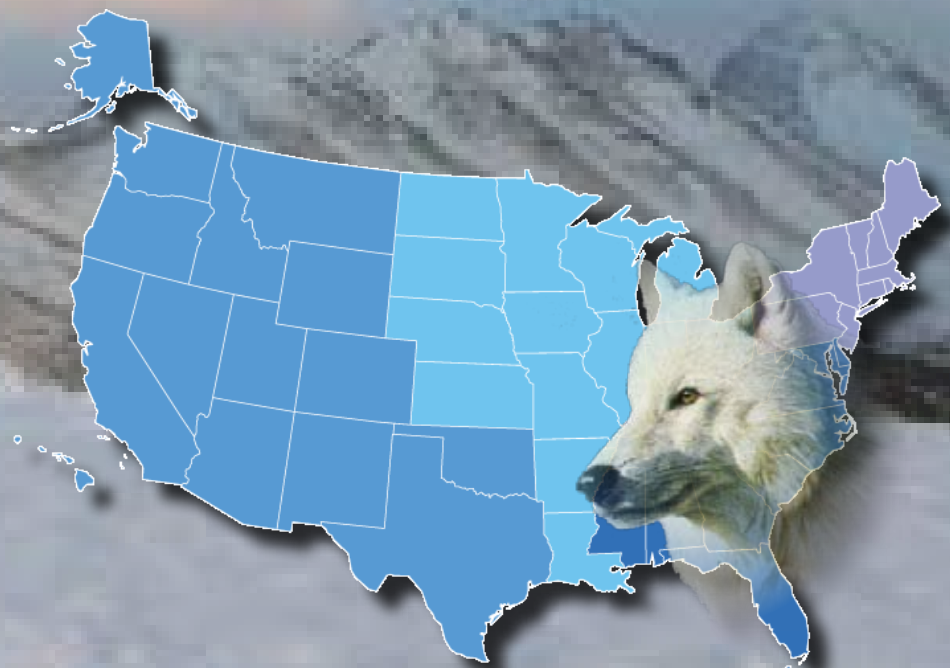
**VA** Suffolk- “All it is is a holiday for women to get sweets.” - **Pfc. Jessica Pelkey, 25th BSMC**

**GA** LeGrange- “Valentine’s Day is about a man loving a woman.” - **Pfc. Robert A. Finn, Co. A, 1-5 IN**



A Soldier gets down and muddy at Forward Operating Base Warhorse after two of his fellow Soldiers failed epically and got a vehicle stuck sideways in a ditch after a bout of torrential rain.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, demonstrate their engineering skills by building a human pyramid during downtime while on a resupply mission at Forward Operating Base Gabe. The resupply missions occur two to three times weekly.



# NAVY EOD<sup>teach</sup> SOLDIERS HBIED *clearance*

Story and Photo by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

“Okay stop,” says Navy Lt. Chris Hussey, a platoon officer with Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit 1, based out of San Diego, Calif., as he walks through a set of t-wall barriers, which compose the entrance of a House-Borne Improvised Explosive Device training site. “What did you guys do wrong?” Hussey asks a group of Soldiers he’s training.

Hussey looks around and smiles seeing no one raising a hand to answer his question. Slowly he crouches down on one knee, “You see this?” he points to what looks like an ant trail but to the Soldiers surprise, a wire protrudes at the end of the trail. “These are the kind of mistakes that get people killed and that is why I am going to train you guys on what to look for and how to clear a house properly.”

“Now line back up and let’s try this again, step by step,” Hussey grins.

And just as quickly as the command is given, the Soldiers quickly set back up behind the barriers to start the Level 1 class on HBIEDs while at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Jan. 9.

“Typically we train Coalition Forces here at Warhorse or within our area of operation,” said Hussey. “But we have been starting to integrate the Iraqi Army into our training as well.”

“HBIEDs and booby trapped buildings have been a pretty decent threat out here; we’ve had a few casualties,” Hussey stated. “We’ve created this training to give some

safe tools to the Soldiers so that they can stay safe and be confident in what they’ve learned.”

The HBIED training site is composed of a wood house and several CONEXs converted into buildings. Each room is booby trapped with different scenarios which are realistic to what a Soldier might see when out in the field, according to Hussey.

“We try to keep things pretty realistic to the devices that are found in our AO,” Hussey explained while pointing out different places where IEDs could be hidden in the walls of the house at the training site. “Simple things like victim-operated devices such as crush wire, IEDs, trip wires in doorways, anti-personnel landmines and command wire IEDs. They are all pretty basic and things the Soldiers can identify and learn proper safety procedures to work around them,” Hussey stated.

“They are devices we’ve recovered from the field; things we’ve built up that are simulations of devices that are actually out there,” Hussey said, walking toward the next training station.

“Make sure you guys communicate with each other. There’s no since in trying to clear something by yourself. You have to work together as a team,” Hussey shouts to the Soldiers.

Hiding himself inside a room of one of the houses, Hussey continued to explain, “Prior to even touching a house, do a 360 degree reconnaissance around the outside. Get any type of information you can gather on the house by looking inside windows, looking outside

and around the house, look above the house, look for anything that may look suspicious, anything out of the ordinary like piles of brush in the doorway, command wire routed along the ground and through windows, entry and exit access to the house; these are all key factors to look for,” Hussey stated.

“Seeing inside those windows is really important to see if you can identify any type of hazards inside or any type of unknown materials that you can check out once you enter the house,” Hussey said. “But if you identify these threats prior to entering the house, you’ve mitigated an extensive amount of risk prior to entering it.”

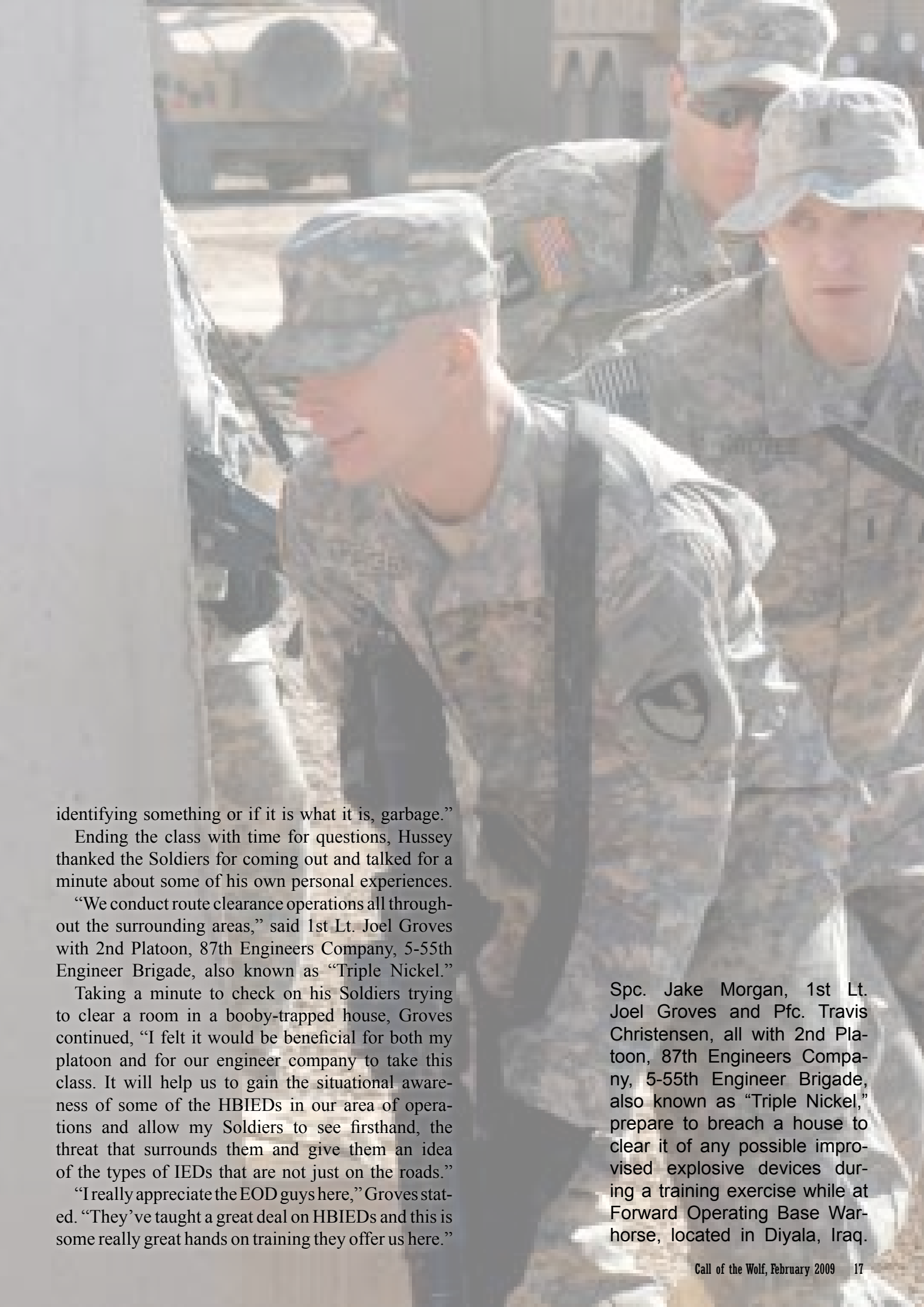
“You must ensure to check everything, even if it’s something as simple as knocking on wood,” Hussey tapped on the wall with his hand.

Even though Navy EOD offers two levels of HBIED classes, Hussey integrates techniques from both classes into his training to better prepare the Soldiers.

“We teach two levels; level one is simple recognition of the threats and going through techniques to teach the Soldiers to be safe. Level two is more identifying the threats as soon as possible and taking appropriate measures like knowing when to call EOD for help,” Hussey said leaving the training site. “Also, knowing what things you can identify and clear without our help.”

Hussey continued his class outside the barriers, “There’s a lot of trash in these houses, well, in Iraq in general. We want to help give you guys the confidence to interrogate those threats and the potential unknowns; clearing something and





identifying something or if it is what it is, garbage.”

Ending the class with time for questions, Hussey thanked the Soldiers for coming out and talked for a minute about some of his own personal experiences.

“We conduct route clearance operations all throughout the surrounding areas,” said 1st Lt. Joel Groves with 2nd Platoon, 87th Engineers Company, 5-55th Engineer Brigade, also known as “Triple Nickel.”

Taking a minute to check on his Soldiers trying to clear a room in a booby-trapped house, Groves continued, “I felt it would be beneficial for both my platoon and for our engineer company to take this class. It will help us to gain the situational awareness of some of the HBIEDs in our area of operations and allow my Soldiers to see firsthand, the threat that surrounds them and give them an idea of the types of IEDs that are not just on the roads.”

“I really appreciate the EOD guys here,” Groves stated. “They’ve taught a great deal on HBIEDs and this is some really great hands on training they offer us here.”

Spc. Jake Morgan, 1st Lt. Joel Groves and Pfc. Travis Christensen, all with 2nd Platoon, 87th Engineers Company, 5-55th Engineer Brigade, also known as “Triple Nickel,” prepare to breach a house to clear it of any possible improvised explosive devices during a training exercise while at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in Diyala, Iraq.

# Adaptation: **SOLDIERS TAKE ON** *new roles*

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Adapting to change has continued as Soldiers ready themselves to take a back seat in the development of Iraq resulting from the ongoing efforts of Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces.

“Historically, as an anti-tank unit we would go out and conduct one on one battle with enemy tanks because we are tank killers for the brigade,” said Lafayette, La. native, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Fulkerson, a platoon sergeant with Delta Company, 52nd Infantry, Anti-Tank, Brigade Support Bat-

talion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. “However, in Iraq there is no tank threat so that necessity is no longer needed, thus we were broken down once we got over here to provide a Personal Security Detail for the brigade.”

“It’s good obviously, because I don’t want to go out and be fighting tanks,” Fulkerson added. “I don’t think there is any bad side to it. What we do; providing security for the Provincial Reconstruction Team civilians, is important because they are essentially the main effort. The PRT civilians are trying to reestablish all of the local works- electrical, water, all the systems that every state, every

government, every country has to have and if they don’t assist the Iraqi people in reestablishing those assets, then once we leave the country it will fall apart again,” Fulkerson stated.

With the transition process initiated, Soldiers find themselves on stand-by rather than fully engaging in operations which are now lead and ran by Iraqi Security Forces. Now, Soldiers once compared to warriors have started to adapt to the change and have evolved to serve in other ways.

“We’re being extremely flexible. Sometimes we feel that our hands are tied but we have to look at the overall mission and we have to look at the betterment of the country,” Fulkerson stated. “So it’s essential that we do change and we do become flexible with the new changes that have come out, especially with the new SOFA agreement.”

Even taking a back seat, Delta 52nd Soldiers serve in the unique role of assisting in the reestablishment of the Iraqi government.

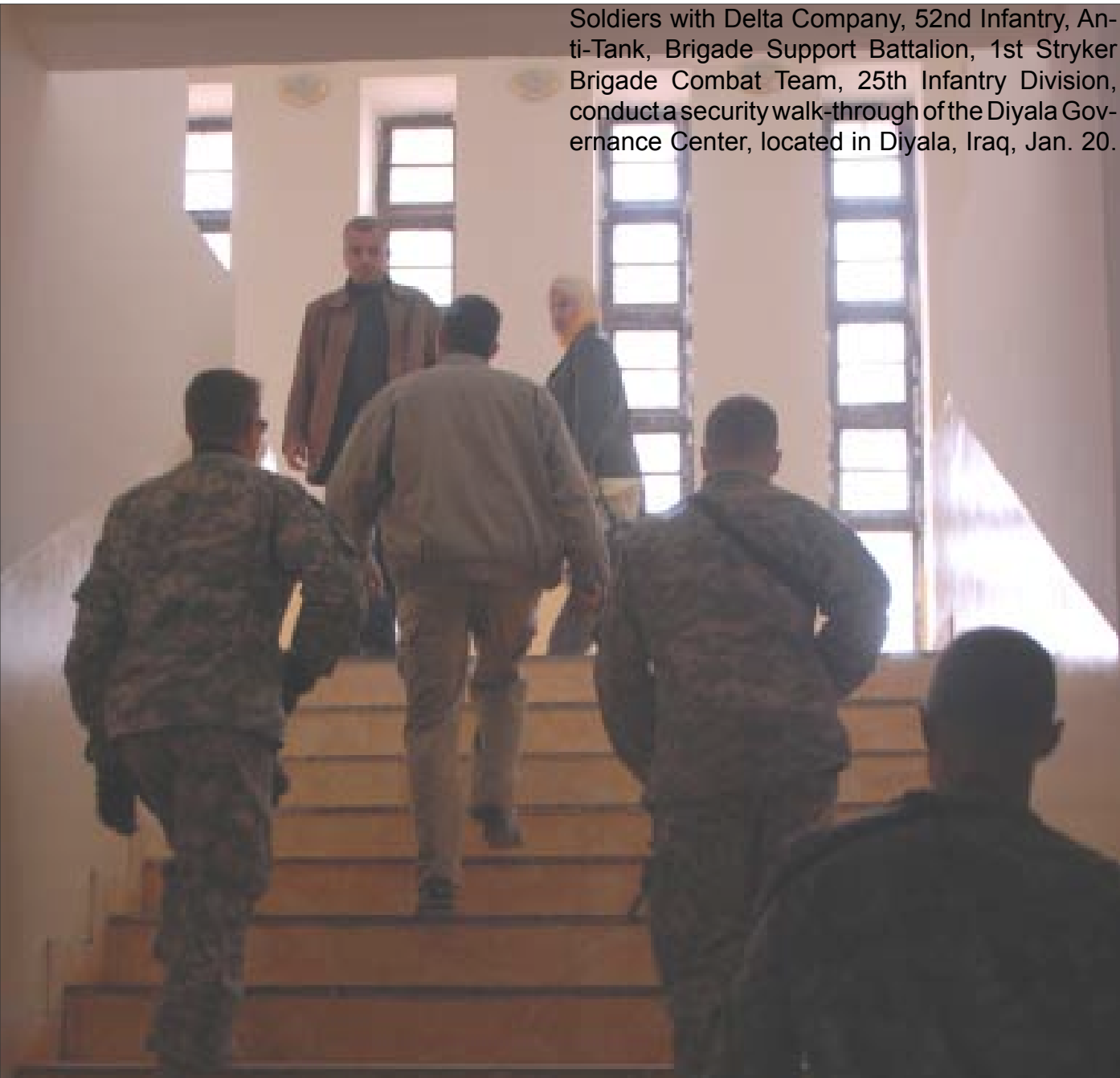
“Our mission is a vital role in itself,” said La Grange, Ga. native, 1st Lt. Steven Huckleberry, a platoon leader with Delta 52nd. “These guys have meetings; they have specialties within their own areas. So when they are having that meeting with the mayor, the cabinet member or the government official, they don’t have to worry about something else like safety.”

“If we weren’t here to provide security or protection, their job might not get done. Their job is very key and pivotal in order for us to get out of Iraq,” Huckleberry added. “Transporting these guys around allows them to set up a



Paradise, Calif. native, Spc. James Elliott, a team leader with Delta Company, 52nd Infantry, Anti-Tank, Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pats down a local national entering the Diyala Governance Center, located in Diyala, Iraq.





Soldiers with Delta Company, 52nd Infantry, Anti-Tank, Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conduct a security walk-through of the Diyala Governance Center, located in Diyala, Iraq, Jan. 20.

government so that when we leave this country it can continue to sustain itself and I truly believe what these PRT guys do is very key in achieving that.”

As simple as the job may seem, Delta 52nd takes their job very seriously.

“This job is a little bit more lax compared to our line job. It’s not as rough a schedule because it is a daily job,” said Sgt. Jayme Cox, squad leader Delta 52nd. “Honestly I’d rather, and all these guys would rather, be back in the field but we understand that we were tasked to help out the brigade and help out the PRT.”

Cox, who has been deployed to Baghdad, explained that, although executed differently, his responsibilities as a Soldier are for the betterment of Iraq and its people are the same.

“Compared to my last deployment and to this one I’ve noticed a huge progress overall in this country,”

Cox stated. “I can see the steps that have been taken since ’05 and ’06 when I was here last time. So yes, I feel like we are definitely making an impact and we’re helping. As long as we continue even until 2012, when we’re suppose to pull out and even if we stay longer I still feel like we’re doing are part,” Cox added.

With the assistance of Delta 52nd, progress is being made which will, in the future, enable the Iraqi people to facilitate their country to prosper on their own, Cox stated.

“In some of the places we go, it seems like we’re making a difference,” said Paradise, Calif. native, Spc. James Elliott, infantry team leader, Delta 52nd. “The people here are willing to change and then in some places, there not too accepting of the help from us; they’re not so apt to change. But as a whole we are making a difference.”

A tall, cylindrical guard tower under construction against a clear blue sky. The tower is made of concrete and has a flat top. It is the central focus of the image.

# **Life support systems:** *the necessary challenges*

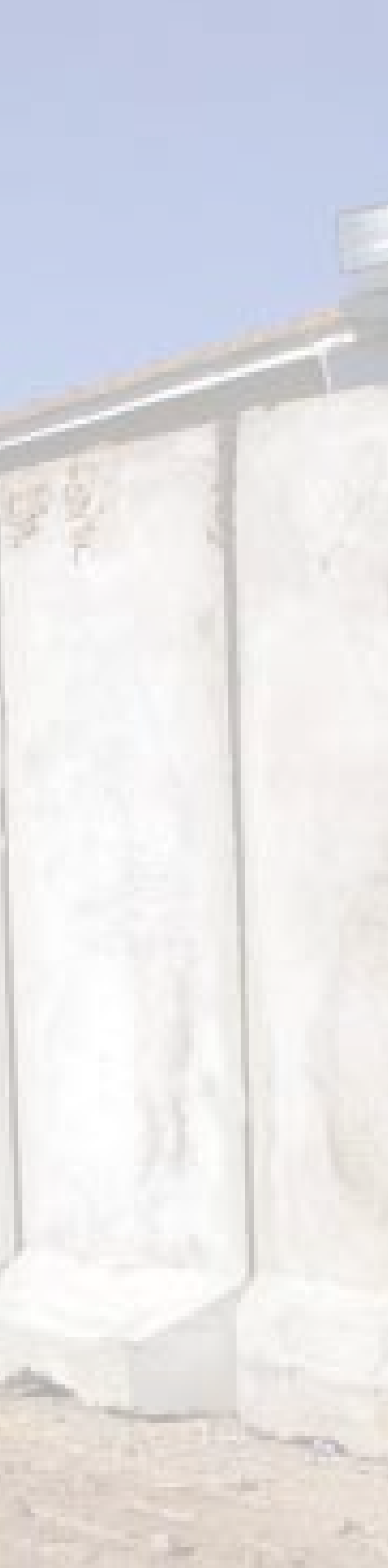
---

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

---

A guard tower at Combat Out Post cobra is in the process of being constructed as part of the life-support improvements taking place on the COP. (Courtesy Photo)





It would be an understatement to say that life for troops deployed to Iraq is no cakewalk. However, some Soldiers have it worse than others. This is why a life-support system is becoming standard at combat out-posts across Iraq and leaders such as 1st Sgt. William Collins, Troop B, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, have taken it upon themselves to single-handedly ensure the improvement of Soldiers' living conditions while deployed.

"The life-support system here consists of keeping this place up and running," said Collins of Combat Out-Post Cobra, the place where he and his Soldiers will be calling home for the next nine months.

This task is no simple undertaking. It consists of keeping the power on, keeping up two water stations and pump houses, making sure supply deliveries arrive on time with a full load, downloading supplies, stowing them and keeping proper inventory on them as well as making sure Soldiers are fed well and improving the overall force protection of the COP, said Collins.

"I have two water stations and two pump houses," said the Warrensburg, N.Y. native. "So we have our own water for showers and we don't have to have it shipped in. I do have potable water brought in, about 20,000 gallons a month, but as far as water for showers and things like that, we use the water out of the pump houses."

Fuel is also a crucial necessity to the COP, as well.

"We run off of a generator here," Collins said. "We have one generator. It goes through about 500 gallons of fuel a day. With the two troops that are here, as well as the

attachments that are here, we go through about 7,500 gallons of fuel a week."

Hot meals are also, of course, in high demand at the COP.

"As far as food goes, I've got about four cooks," Collins said. "They cook about four hot warm meals per day."

Even with the responsibilities of keeping the post running and full on supplies, Collins does not want to see the Soldiers living on COP Cobra to merely subsist. This is where the force protection piece of this job comes into play, he said.

"When we got here there really wasn't any force protection," Collins said.

In the three months that he and his troops have been living at the COP that fact has drastically changed.

"We've gone through and put up HESCO barriers around the living area and dining facility," said Collins. "We also put up T-barriers around the dining facility, doubled HESCOs around the motor pool and around the tactical operations center area."

Collins has also helped to have resources brought in to improve the overall morale and wellbeing of the Soldiers on the COP.

"We put in a phone center and an internet café," said Collins. "We also have a laundry area now for the Soldiers so they can wash their clothes."

Making these improvements to the COP has been no easy task, Collins said, but it is one that has been well worth it, all the same.

"It's been a pain right in the backside," Collins said. "I mean, we don't have like all the other FOBs around here do, but we're slowly getting there. Every day it's something else – we're improving on something else."

# Chaplain's Corner

## Coach Wooden's Fourth Fundamental

In this article, we continue by looking at Coach John Wooden's fourth fundamental. As previously mentioned, Coach Wooden, the most successful basketball coach in history, attributed more than 40 years of victories to four things: 1) knowing players. 2) Getting them to fulfill their roles as part of the team. 3) Paying attention to fundamentals and details. 4) Working well with others.

The fourth fundamental is focused, more than any other, on relationships. I often think of relationships as the "oil" to the organizational machine. Healthy relationships seem to allow the organization to function at its peak performance without over-heating or seizing up.

As I reflect on my time as a Chaplain in the Army, the most rewarding part of this job has been the people with whom I have had the opportunity to work. Relationships in the Army are much more like family than many other professions. We are together a lot and we don't get to choose who we work with. Like family, they are chosen for us. For most of us, we are with the people at work more than we are with our own families. We can choose to work at building these relationships or we can just tolerate them. If we choose to build them, I believe we will have an enriching and

prosperous journey. If we choose otherwise, it is most likely that we will be miserable and probably radiate that unhappiness to those around us.

Relationships and working well with others is more about the journey than the destination. A few years ago, there was a survey conducted with people over the age of ninety. They were asked one simple question, "If you had it to do over again, what would you do differently?" One of the answers researchers consistently heard was, "I would stop and smell the roses, reflect, and enjoy relationships more with the people around me."

I believe it is impossible to work well with others without healthy relationships and it is impossible to have healthy relationships without genuine love and appreciation for people. Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Love is a critical ingredient. There are many flavors of love. There is romantic love between lovers, brotherly love between brothers and comrades. There is the God-kind of love known as agape love. It is an unconditional love. Love is the life-blood of every friendship.

*Love ignites, keeping friendships  
alive and strong  
Without it they quickly die  
Emptiness invites, people no longer  
get along*

I am reminded of F.W. Bourdill-



**Chaplain (Maj.) Roderick Mills**

lion's poem Light. He describes the enormous impact of love on someone's life and relationships. He writes,

*The mind has a thousand eyes,  
And the heart but one;  
Yet the light of a whole life dies  
When love is done*

I believe God has blessed us with every relationship for a reason. As we continue this journey together, let us enjoy and appreciate those with whom we work and live. Every day is a gift from God and every relationship is a gift as well. King Solomon said, "As iron sharpens iron so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Without friendship there is no sharpening. If we follow Solomon's advice, we will be a friend to the people around us. We will sharpen and we will be sharpened. People with friends are sharp people; and they work well with others!

---

## FALLEN WOLVES

**SPC Heath Pickard, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 18 Sept 1987 - 16 Oct 2008**  
**PFC Cody Eggleston, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 17 Sept 1987 - 24 Oct 2008**  
**Military Working Dog, Jok, Brigade Troops Battalion, 14 Nov 2008**



# HEAR THEM ROAR

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

There was once a time in U.S. military history when it would have been impossible to think of troops in combat without the assistance of tracked battle vehicles. In modern warfare, tracked vehicles are being replaced by wheeled vehicles and the calls of tanks are seldom heard.

However, there are still select locations in today's theatre of war where the roar of an M1A1 Abram's Main Battle Tank can still be heard. The Diyala Province of Iraq is one of those place

Diyala, currently the home to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, has recently taken on a new resident – Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate.) The unit recently deployed in support of their Stryker brethren.

"Based on the real estate that they have out here, I guess the division felt it necessary to bring an additional battalion task force out here to be able to cover such a vast amount of area," said Maj. Joseph Pepper Jr., TF 3rd Bn., 66th Arm. Regt., TF executive officer. "From how they have their forces arranged with 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment primarily focusing on the northern part of Diyala, the brigade needed an additional battalion task force to be able to assist with the operations down south."

Task Force 3rd Bn., 66th Arm. Regt. was the choicest of battalions 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., had to select from, said Pepper.

"I think they wanted the best battalion they could get, so they called Task Force 3-66," he said.

Pepper's logistics noncommissioned officer in charge agreed.

"I think our battalion's professional and efficient reputations is what got us picked for 1-25 from our brigade combat team," said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Hardin.

The unit itself is an asset to 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. because it is an armor battalion.

"We bring a heavy capability that most units over here in this brigade don't have," Hardin said. "We bring the M1 and the Bradley series to help accomplish the mission. That provides them with an additional capability they're not used to."

Pepper concurred.

"We bring a lot of manpower and equipment that's not common to theatre anymore," Pepper said. "Particularly, we bring two infantry companies which add a lot of personnel – infantrymen. In addition, we bring heavy armor, which is the M1A1 tank as well as the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, which is the M2A2. We also have

one 20 millimeter mortar section, which consists of four M264 mortars – a significant amount of combat fire."

The Soldiers in this unit and manning this equipment will be dutifully deployed, Pepper said.

"We plan on doing a series of clearing operations that include route clearance and area clearance operations focused on specific areas that we identify over the next couple of weeks," Pepper said. "We're looking to do some combined operations with the Iraqi Army, as well, which will give the Iraqis the capability to sustain the area, in terms of security, once we do leave."

Overall, Pepper said, the Soldiers of Task Force 3rd Bn., 66th Arm. Regt., are happy to be providing 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., with an additional in-theatre asset, as well as they are happy to let the roar of their tanks ring across the battlefield as one of the few armor units left in a combat zone.

"We're really happy to be here to be able to support the 1-25th," Pepper said. "We're glad that they chose us to be part of their team and we're looking forward to seeing the successes of both the brigade as well as the task force in this endeavor."



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers with Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment prepare for a mission in the Diyala Province of Iraq shortly after deploying in support of 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

## **The Arctic Warrior March**

We conquer the mountains and the  
valleys!

We train in the winter's bitter cold!

Alaska Soldiers! Arctic Warriors!

Sentries of the North!

So pick up your weapons and your  
snowshoes!

We're ready to fight and to defend!

The finest Soldiers! Arctic Warriors! From  
the last Frontier!

## **The Stryker Creed**

Strike fear into the enemy's hearts and  
minds; I am a lethal and skilled warfight-  
er with unmatched intestinal fortitude.

Being disciplined, professional Soldier, I  
live the Army Values.

Committed to my fellow Soldiers, unit and  
country, I am ready to answer my na-  
tion's call -- NOW!

Tough, both physically and mentally, and  
instilled with warrior spirit, I can accom-  
plish my mission. Anytime. Anywhere.

Arctic Wolves!

Arctic Tough!

