



# Lightning Weekly

## Coaches Bring Hoop Tourney To COB SPEICHER, IRAQ



# Coaches Tour shows U.S. Soldiers how to play the game



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
Pfc. Jesus A. Aranda  
Task Force Lightning Public Affairs

“The Ballers” pose for a photo following their victory over “The Bad Boys” in the final game of the United Service Organization’s “Operation Hardwood 2009,” a single-elimination basketball tournament, held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, August 23. The event invited deployed service members the opportunity to test their skills against their deployed peers under the leadership of some of the top basketball coaches around. Steve Lavin, a former head coach of the University of California, Los Angeles, and head coach of “The Ballers” guided his team to a perfect record of 9-0 during the tournament. “The USO has done great things with this event over the past six years,” said Rick Kell, the director of “Operation Hardwood.” “Without the USO and people who support our troops this event couldn’t have happened.”(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jesus J. Aranda, Task Force Lightning Public Affairs Office)



Jim Crews, head coach of the United States Military Academy at West Point men’s basketball team, rallies his team of service members during a motivational huddle before the first round of try outs for entry into the United Service Organization’s, “Operation Hardwood 2009,” a single-elimination basketball tournament, held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Aug 19.



Task Force Lightning Battalion Commander's Conference  
Commanders and Sergeants Majors met up at COB Speicher, Iraq to participate in the two-day event to share best practices within their area of operations. This event included sports, briefings and hands-on dialog between all the commanders.

Multi-National Division - North  
Battalion Commander's Conference  
Contingency Operating Base Speicher  
August 20, 2009



# From the desk of 'LIGHTNING 6'

Ramadan, Islam's holiest month, began more than three days ago. I ask that leaders at all levels help spread awareness of the importance of Ramadan to the service members under your charge.

By educating our soldiers to show respect and tolerance towards Iraqis during their observance of Ramadan, we can help bridge cultural differences, increase our appreciation of other faiths, and build a stronger friendship, relationship, and partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces and the people of Iraq.

This is the first Ramadan that U.S. Forces and the Government of Iraq have observed since the signing of the Security Agreement. This Ramadan, U.S. Forces are present as guests in Iraq, and we should strive to conduct ourselves as such. Showing respect for Islam's holiest holiday is just another small step forward in improving our relationship with our Iraqi partners, building cultural awareness between our two nations, and proving that U.S. Forces add value to Iraqi operations.

Ramadan this year runs from Aug. 21 to Sept. 20 and there are a few simple rules you should incorporate into your SOPs to help foster a stronger partnership between U.S. forces and ISF. First, do not smoke, eat, drink, or chew gum in front of practicing Muslims during daylight hours.

Avoid offering practicing Muslims any of these items during the day as well. Second, avoid use of profane language or gestures. Finally, avoid visiting homes unless the visit has been planned or is absolutely necessary.

Additionally, a few things to be aware of during Ramadan are the larger than normal concentrations of people outside and attending services at mosques at night.

Also, as the end of Ramadan grows close, the possibilities of random celebratory



Major General Robert L. Caslen Jr.

Task Force Lightning is a disciplined, responsible, and professional *ohana* (family).

We will make every effort to be courteous, respectful, and accommodating to the needs of our hosts during the month of Ramadan. Our actions, our words, and our behavior will prove ourselves as responsible and reliable partners to not only our Iraqi hosts, but to the rest of the Muslim world, all of whom pay very close attention to our every action.

As we continue our deployment here, demonstrate your focus on the Mission, continue to take care of your Soldiers, your families, and finish this deployment just as we started it, strong. "*Ramadan Mubarak.*"

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



# ***SITE SURVEY- THROUGH THE LENS***



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
Photos by  
Staff Sgt.  
Luke P. Thelen,  
Joint Combat  
Camera



Photos of U.S. Army 1st Lt. Julie Leggett, Executive Officer for 25th Special Troops Battalion Security Detachment, 25th Infantry Division and Iraqi Police Officers talking with local residents of Al Khanik about the productivity of fish ponds in Al Khanik, Iraq, Aug 12.

**“COMBAT CAMERA”**



# Iraqi Police train with their own working dogs



An Iraqi Police dog handler instructs his dog to sit during a working dog training course with U.S. Forces at Forward Operating Base Marez Aug. 15. The course is designed to fine tune obedience and explosive detection skills of the Iraqi working dogs and their handlers. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Christopher Kozloski, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**  
Pfc. Sharla Perrin  
3<sup>rd</sup> HBC, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Div.



Iraqi Police dog handlers work with their dogs on basic obedience techniques during a working dog training course with U.S. Forces at Forward Operating Base Marez Aug. 15. The course is designed to fine tune obedience and explosive detection skills of the Iraqi working dogs and their handlers. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Christopher Kozloski, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

**MOSUL, Iraq** — Chew toys and leashes in hand, Iraqi Police dog handlers and their working dogs arrived at Forward Operating Base Marez Aug 16 to fine tune their skill in basic obedience and explosive detection techniques.

The class is part two of initial dog training that the Iraqi Police received earlier in the year. The focus for the IP's is to build a relationship with their dogs and refine basic canine obedience and explosive and narcotic detection techniques.

The initial training consisted of introducing the Iraqi Police to working dogs as a resource, something the IP's did not have until now. In the last month, they acquired working dogs and created a K9 program to utilize these dogs in their everyday working environment.

"[The IP's] have a valuable asset now. A dog's nose is so much stronger than ours," said Navy Master at Arms 1st Class Matthew Nalley, lead instructor for the program.

"I can't smell explosives when I'm walking down the road. These dogs can. If the IP have something that can give them an indication that something is wrong, it can go a long way to help them out."

The IP's and their dogs both showed excitement as they began the training session with basic obedience techniques. Each IP practiced getting their dogs to sit and stay in place. When the dogs performed, they were rewarded with a rubber chew toy and praise.

Both handler and dog seemed to be catching on quickly.

"I was thoroughly impressed with the way they have responded to their dogs. The dogs that they have want to be loyal and work with their handlers," said Nalley, "You can definitely tell that they are building their relationship with their dogs."

The trainers use realistic training aids and walk dog and handler through a training lane allowing them the opportunity to get hands on skills that will benefit them as they begin using these dogs in their daily work.

The training is event driven. The IP handlers walk through a scenario with their dogs as the class instructor observes. As issues or key points arise, the instructor stops the handler and advises them on different techniques.

"We try to do some basic obedience and we plant some explosive training aids. We pay attention to what the dogs and handlers are doing during the training lane and give them advice on what they are doing if there are issues," said Nalley.

"If there are no issues during the training, we praise the teams for doing their job well. If there is something that we need to fine tune, we'll give them the direction that they need."

For these IP's, this is the start of a long working relationship with their new best friends, the dogs. When asked why he chose to get involved with the K9 program, one of the IP handlers said that he had an affinity to dogs and felt that it would be a valuable resource to help sustain security and prevent attacks in his community.

The overall goal of the program is to have a viable K9 program in the Iraqi Police that is sustainable and productive after U.S. Forces have withdrawn from Iraq.

"We want to continue our partnership with the Iraqi Police so that they get the training that they need to sustain their program long after we are gone," said Nalley.

# Diyala Residents Return to War-torn Village



STORIES and PHOTOS BY  
By Spc. Anthony Jones  
1st SBCT, 25th Infantry Division

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, DIYALA, Iraq** – Residents of Jiaffra, in Diyala province returned home Aug. 15 after three years of displacement.

The small village southwest of Baqubah was once a stronghold for insurgent groups, causing the residents of the village to flee for their safety.

A celebration for the returning 16 families was marked with music and dancing in the village.

During the celebration, residents thanked Iraqi and U.S. forces for their help in bringing safety back to the area.

Though there are still struggles in the village for some basic needs, Iraqi government officials promised during the celebration to immediately bring the villagers water and work on their other necessities.

“What a great day for Diyala,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division spokesman, Maj. Chris Hyde.

“It’s wonderful to not only see these people come home, but know that they would not have been able to do this if the security hadn’t improved enough to for them to do so.

I think it’s a testament to the enormous improvements Iraqi and U.S. forces have collectively achieved in making the region and province a safer place.”

Villagers in Jiaffra celebrate after returning to their village three years after being displaced by fighting in the region. (1/25 SBCT Courtesy Photo)



# 2nd STB Keep Lines of Communication Open



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

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq**—Thousands of Soldiers operate out of Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, at any given time.

These Soldiers are constantly on the move, conducting patrols, engaging in key leader meetings, training, and performing combined missions with Iraqi Security Forces. Communication between the different military entities is essential to accomplishing these missions.

Much of the communication is handled on FOB Warrior by a Joint Network Node which is set up, monitored and maintained by Soldiers from 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The JNN is responsible for providing all secret communication lines, non-secret communication lines, and voice and data communication on the FOB, according to Staff Sgt. Herbert Wilson, a Spring Hill, Fla., native and the JNN section sergeant.

“Specific to 2nd BCT, everything goes through our JNN,” Wilson explained.

The 12-person shop that operates the JNN is comprised of three separate military occupational specialties, all of which work together to keep the equipment running 24 hours a day.

“They run regular reports, monitor the system and perform general maintenance on the equipment and generators,” Wilson said of his Soldiers.



Pfc. Preston Hassinger, a Tacoma, Wash., native and a multi-channel transmission system operator and maintainer with 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, climbs the ladder to get access to a piece of communications equipment at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 14. Hassinger and other members of the JNN section are responsible for maintaining, monitoring and performing maintenance on 2nd BCT’s vital communications equipment. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs)



Sgt. Shana Shelby, a New Orleans native and a Joint Network Node operator with 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, performs minor maintenance on signal equipment at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 14. The JNN section is responsible for maintaining the systems that keep communication running for the 2nd BCT FOB Warrior. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs)

“It’s very important,” said Pvt. Larry Holloway, a Joshua Tree, Calif., native and a JNN operator with 2nd STB. “You’ve got to have communication to do anything in the Army - without communication, nothing gets done.”

For the Soldiers that operate the JNN, this deployment has been a chance to learn a little about one another’s various jobs.

“We cross-train,” Holloway said. “We all work together. Not one of us is the most important.”

This deployment has also provided an opportunity to put the skills they learned during their advanced individual training into practice.

“It’s finally not in a schoolhouse; I am in the real world doing my job,” said Holloway. “It’s everything I expected it to be.”

“They do very well considering the obstacles they have to face,” said Sgt. Shana Shelby, a New Orleans native and a JNN operator with 2nd STB.

The Soldiers are constantly battered by the heat, and so is the equipment, which makes it necessary to be ready to perform maintenance at any time.

“At the slip of a moment, we have to be prepared to make it happen,” Shelby said.

“They all come together and work very efficiently,” Wilson added.



# Task Force ODIN welcomes new crew, commander



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**  
**Sgt. Stephanie van Geete**  
**10th Combat Aviation Brigade**



**Lt. Col. Mark Moser and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Johnson, Task Force ODIN III command team, prepare to case the unit's colors Aug. 14 during a transfer of authority ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq. (Courtesy photo)**

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq** – The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's Task Force ODIN welcomed a new crew and commander Aug. 14.

Lt. Col. Dave Holt took command of the ODIN mission from Lt. Col. Mark Moser during a transfer of authority ceremony here, heralding the Task Force's third year of operations in Iraq.

"Task Force ODIN IV is an outstanding unit that I am proud and humbled to command," Holt said upon taking command. "Lt. Col. Mark Moser and his team have done an excellent job of training my team and preparing us to take over the critical mission Task Force ODIN conducts."

Task Force ODIN – an acronym for Observe, Detect, Identify, and Neutralize – was formed in 2006 and activated in Iraq in 2007. Created by then-Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody, the unit was designed to help defeat the threat of improvised explosive devices and give Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) support to lower-echelon field commanders.

Col. Erik Peterson, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and Task Force Falcon commander, called the unit a unique and highly-demanded organization.

"They are our Army's first aviation reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition task force," Peterson said. "Their charter is to reach out across the entire expanse of Iraq, boldly and audaciously seek the enemy, and provide vital information and intelligence to the ground force commander."

The unit is comprised of individuals specifically selected from across the active Army, Reserves and National Guard to fill slots as pilots, analysts and support operations personnel. Because it is not a traditional standing unit, the Task Force mobilizes and deploys a new team for each rotation.

Peterson lauded the outgoing Task Force ODIN III, which flew more than 29,000 hours during their tour and made history in February when one of the unmanned aerial vehicles they were operating became the first armed Warrior Alpha system to fire missiles in combat.

"These Task Force ODIN Soldiers not only fulfilled their charter and accomplished their mission, but they did so with such consistency and proficiency that it almost appeared routine," Peterson said.

"The criticality of your contribution to the mission across all of Iraq cannot be overstated," Peterson continued, addressing the troops. "Your impact and contribution spanned the entire 167,000 square miles of Iraq. From border to border, you've detected, disrupted and denied freedom of maneuver to terrorists and violent extremists, and set the conditions for legitimate governance, peace and prosperity for the beleaguered people of Iraq."

Task Force ODIN III returns to Fort Hood, Texas, where they will disband.

"The reigns of Task Force ODIN have now been handed over to...a capable, enthusiastic team, well-trained, well-led, experienced and ready for the task at hand," Peterson said. "Lt. Col. Holt, Command Sgt. Maj. Kautzman, ODIN IV Soldiers: tens of thousands of U.S. Soldiers and 28 million Iraqi citizens are relying on you. I'm confident that you will not let them down."



**The Soldiers of incoming Task Force ODIN IV stand tall after uncasing their colors Aug. 14 during a transfer of authority ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq. (Courtesy photo)**



# The Division Surg's Corner:

PDHA: Why do I have to do the PDHA? Isn't it just a waste of time? While some see it as yet another survey to complete and another interview that needs doing, we encourage you to take a more holistic approach. The Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) is a critical component of the Warrior Reset Process. Completed anytime from the last 30 days prior to redeployment through the first 30 days after return to home station, the PDHA helps document deployment related health conditions and set the Soldier up for any necessary follow-up care. It is important that Soldiers understand the required steps to complete their PDHA.

The first step is to complete the DD 2796, the Post Deployment Health Assessment questionnaire. Soldiers can access the questionnaire several ways. Most Soldiers will access and complete the form through AKO. Some will get to complete the form using hand held PDAs. A few might even have to fill out hard copies. The important part is that you complete it. The survey includes questions about environmental exposures, traumatic experiences and some specific health related conditions of concerns. There is also space on the form for you to identify any conditions that are concerning to you as well. The intent is to capture and document any relevant physical and/or behavioral health conditions for follow-up care.

At some point after you complete the Form but no earlier than 30 days prior to and no later than 30 days after your redeploy, a medical provider – a physician, physicians' assistant or nurse practitioner – will review your survey.

He or she may also ask you follow up questions concerning some of your responses. Based on your survey and the interview, the provider may recommend follow-on specialty consultation and/or care. The intent is to get you the help you need sooner rather than later.

While we focus considerable energy to resetting our equipment and our training, we sometimes neglect the most valuable weapon system in the arsenal – you, the Soldier.

The PDHA is a formalized requirement intended to help get our Warriors back to 100% as soon as possible. I encourage you to talk to your medics and medical providers if you have any questions about the PDHA or any other part of the Warrior Reset process.

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Your time here is passing by, Your tour is almost up.  
You're still deployed -- Remember your Ethos:

**ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST!**  
**NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMMRAD!**  
**NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT!**  
**NEVER QUIT!**  
**&**  
**FINSISH STRONG**



# LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK



**NAME: SPC STEPHANIE L. BROWN**

**UNIT: CMC, 215<sup>TH</sup> BSB, 3HBCT, 1CD**

**HOMETOWN: SAN ANTONIO, TX**

**DATE OF EVENT: 22 AUGUST 2009**

As a Combat Medic in Charlie Medical Company, 215<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion's Treatment Platoon, SPC Brown has assumed increased responsibilities as a shift leader for clinical operations in the absence of her Squad Leader. SPC Brown has input over 300 patients' information into MEDPROS with 97% accuracy rate. She assisted the patient administration clerk with over 465 medical records, screening them for medical readiness. She personally updated over 200 immunizations for the 130<sup>th</sup> ENG BN and assisted the provider with 22 PDHAs for the 425<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Team, ensuring the information was synchronized with Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) and MEDWEB data base. She accomplishes all tasks with exceptional results. For these reasons she was selected out of 30 medics to backfill the 25<sup>TH</sup> ID, ADC-S medic while she was on leave. SPC Brown displays constant commitment to providing the best medical treatment to service members. For her dedication to duty and performance she is selected as today's Lightning Hero of the Day.

## IRAQ FACTS NINEWA PROVINCE محافظة نينوى

DIYALA IS ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT GOVERNORATES OF THE NATION OF IRAQ. DIYALA PROVINCE EXTENDS TO THE NORTHEAST OF BAGHDAD AS FAR AS THE IRANIAN BORDER. ITS CAPITAL IS BAQUBAH. IT COVERS AN AREA OF 17,685 SQUARE KILOMETERS (6,828 SQ MI).

A LARGE PORTION OF THE PROVINCE IS DRAINED BY THE DIYALA RIVER, A MAJOR TRIBUTARY OF THE TIGRIS. BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO TWO MAJOR SOURCES OF WATER, ITS TOTAL LENGTH IS 275 MILES (443 KM). THE UPPER DIYĀLĀ DRAINS AN EXTENSIVE MOUNTAIN AREA OF IRAN AND IRAQ. FOR 20 MILES (32 KM) IT FORMS THE FRONTIER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THEREAFTER IT FLOWS FIRST INTO A ROLLING PLATEAU COUNTRY, FORMING PART OF THE REGION KNOWN AS ASSYRIA AND CENTERED ON THE OIL-FIELD AREA OF KHĀNAQĪN,

THEN THROUGH THE HAMRIN MOUNTAINS (THE SOUTHWESTERN BOUNDARY OF ASSYRIA) INTO THE FLAT TIGRIS LOWLANDS. SEVERAL DAMS, INCLUDING THE KHAN GORGE, NEAR THE IRANIAN FRONTIER, DIVERT WATER FOR FLOOD CONTROL, HYDROELECTRIC POWER, AND THE IRRIGATION OF WHEAT, RYE, COTTON, RICE, AND TOBACCO IN THE LOWER VALLEY. BAQUBAH, THE MAIN RIPARIAN CENTRE, LIES ON THE RIVER'S LOWER COURSE, ABOUT 30 MILES (48 KM) NORTHEAST OF BAGHDAD.

DIYALA'S MAIN INDUSTRY IS AGRICULTURE, PRIMARILY DATES GROWN IN LARGE DATE PALM GROVES. IT IS ALSO RECOGNIZED AS THE ORANGE CAPITAL OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

Information taken from wikipedia.org, www.history.com

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Muhammad said, "It is indispensable for every Muslim to give alms." The companions asked, "But if he hath not anything to give?" He said, "If he hath nothing, he must do a work with his hand, by which to obtain something and benefit himself; and give alms with the remainder."

**PROPHET MUHAMMAD**





# Greywolf brigade prepares to take over western Ninewah

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**  
**Sgt. Christopher Kozlowski**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Div.**



**MOSUL, Iraq** — The senior commander for U.S. forces in Ninewah province and the command sergeant major toured the edge of the province, Aug. 17, to get an overview of the region in preparation for assuming responsibility of the area from the Marines in the coming weeks.

Col. Gary Volesky, commander, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and Command Sgt. Maj. James Pippin, brigade command sergeant major along with several brigade staff officers, conducted a three-stop introduction and information gathering mission for key areas in western Ninewah to gain situational awareness and an appreciation of the critical infrastructure with this desert terrain.

"We flew into western Ninewah province so that we could see the area we are expanding our forces to in the next few weeks, as well as take the opportunity to meet with our Iraqi counterparts from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division and the U.S. Marines that are currently operating in the region," said Maj. Randy Smith, one of the staff officers in attendance.

The "Greywolf" brigade is set to assume control of western Ninewah from another "Wolfpack" in the coming weeks. The "Wolfpack", 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR), 1st Marine Division, which took control of western Ninewah in early 2009, are set to redeploy to Twentynine Palms, Calif. in mid-October, leaving their area of operations in the capable hands of the 3rd Bde.

"We are really considering this as an expansion of our current operations," said Maj. Steven Cho, operations officer for 3rd Bde.

The 3rd Bde. has been operating in areas in and around Mosul since their arrival to Iraq in January. Their areas of focus have been partnered relationships with Iraqi Security Forces to improve security and stability in the region and capacity-building projects in order to improve quality of life for the people of Ninewah.

With tangible successes in their current area of operations, 3rd Bde plans to apply the same model for success in western Ninewah as they develop a strategy to expand operations along the brigade lines of effort prior to their assumption of responsibility in mid-September.

"We are going to partner with Iraqi Security Forces in the region, employ provincial reconstruction teams and civil affairs teams to develop special projects that are needed in the area and get out and talk to the people in the region," said Cho.

"We are going to make it a daily goal to talk to the Iraqis on the ground to find out what they need and to find out what their concerns are regarding security in their communities. This is what we've done in Mosul and its surrounding areas, and it has been successful."

As the helicopters landed in the operating base known as TAO Tripoli, Volesky and Pippin were greeted by the 3rd LAR commander, Marine Lt. Col. Kenneth Kassner, and the 3rd LAR sergeant major, Marine Sgt. Major Michael Parks, who seemed happy to see their future replacements as they prepare for their redeployment.

Kassner and Parks escorted the 3rd Bde. group for a short tour of the installation and then broke into groups so that each of the staff members could interact with their counterparts and discuss operations in the area.

The 3rd Bde's representatives then moved to an Iraqi Army operating base and broke bread with a deputy commander of 3rd Iraqi Army Division assets operating in the region. The staff was able to ask questions and address questions from the Iraqi Army representatives on how to best partner in the region. Both 3rd Bde. and the IA seemed satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

"We were able to listen to our Iraqi counterparts from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division brief us on their current and future plans for operating in the area as well as share significant ideas on how we could better assist and complement one another with our joined assets," said Smith. "In addition, anytime we have the opportunity to sit down and meet with our Iraqi brothers, it almost always leads to a meal, which all of us enjoy. The sharing and friendship is where we make the most from these meetings. These meetings allow us to share information amongst one another as well as define the transparency we are striving for."

The mission ended near the border between Iraq and Syria, where the brigade staff got a tour of the point of entry between the two countries.

The 3rd Bde is set to move into western Ninewah province as the 3rd LAR begins their redeployment process in mid-September. As the Marines leave, 3rd Bde will ramp up and continue improvement of essential services and quality of life for the population in this region.



Col. Gary Volesky, commander of 3rd "Greywolf" Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, talks with Lt. Col. Kenneth Kassner, commander of Task Force 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, during a visit to his area of operations in Iraq, Aug. 17. Kassner and his Marines are set to hand over operations in the western part of Ninewah province to Volesky and his Soldiers in the coming weeks.



A deputy commander for 3rd Iraqi Army Division assets near Sinjar shakes hands with Maj. Dominic Kusumoto, the civil military operations officer for 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div., while Col. Gary Volesky, commander for 3rd Bde., introduces the rest of his staff officers, Aug. 17. Volesky and the staff officers sat down with the Iraqi deputy commander to discuss operations and capacity-building projects currently ongoing in their area in an effort to better assist the Iraqi Army division when 3rd Bde. assumes responsibility of western Ninewah province.



3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers take a tour of the Alayarobia Border Center, the point of entry into Iraq from Syria, Aug. 17. The border center will become part of 3rd Bde.'s responsibility as they assume responsibility of western Ninewah province in the coming weeks.

The focus for the brigade is continued forward momentum on improving security, stimulating economic growth and improving stability throughout the Ninewah province. "Tomorrow we have one less day to make a difference," said Volesky. "We've been given an opportunity to create the same successes in this region that we have throughout the rest of Ninewah. We are honored to have that opportunity."

**"GREYWOLF"**

# U.S., Iraq Soldiers learn to "STICK" Together



**STORY AND PHOTOS BY**  
**Staff Sgt. Jason Douglas**  
**2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division**



**Iraqi soldiers from the 49th Iraqi Army Brigade demonstrate how to properly administer intravenous fluids during a five-day combat lifesaver course at their headquarters in Kirkuk province, Iraq, from late August. The training, provided by medics from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a Military Transition Team, not only instructed IA soldiers on advanced lifesaving skills, but will allow them to instruct other IA medics. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division)**

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq** – In an emergency situation the difference between life and death could mean minutes, so the initial medical care an injured person receives prior to receiving care at a medical facility could save their lives.

Medical personnel from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a Military Transition Team, traveled to the 49th Iraqi Army Brigade's headquarters in the Kirkuk province of Iraq to train IA medical personnel in a five-week combat lifesaver course in late August.

"Prior to this training, only one of the 49th IA Brigade medics had received medical training," said Maj. Clarence Carroll, a Military Transition Team chief.

Following the initial assessment, a five-day training plan was developed with the purpose of providing advanced first aid skills and combat lifesaver skills to IA medics.

"Eleven IA medics attended the course, and all 11 completed the course," said Carroll. "They [IA medics] were enthusiastic about the class and understood the importance of this training."

According to Carroll, the benefits of this training would not only allow for additional trained medics with the 49th IA, but would also have their own trained personnel to pass on the knowledge to others in their unit.

"Not only will it increase the number of trained medical personnel in their unit, but will also have trained trainers, who can provide sustainment training to others," explained Carroll.

Throughout the course, the IA medics were instructed on everything from evaluating a casualty for injury, properly treating chest wounds and administering intravenous fluids.

Following the completion of the course the trainees received certificates of completion and two IA medics were recognized for their performance during the course.

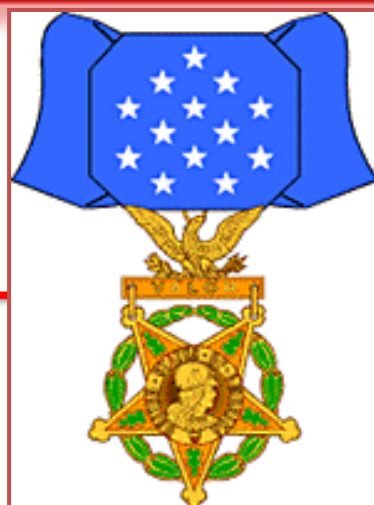
"Pvt. Ismail Mohamad and Pfc. Naim Alaa Sabah finished as honor graduates for displaying superior technical proficiency and leadership through the course," said Carroll. have their own trained personnel to pass on the knowledge to others in their unit.



**An Iraqi soldier from the 49th Iraqi Army Brigade demonstrates how to treat a chest wound during a five-day combat lifesaver course at their headquarters in Kirkuk province, Iraq, late August. The training, provided by medics from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a Military Transition Team, not only instructed IA soldiers on advanced lifesaving skills, but will allow them to instruct other IA medics. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division)**



# MEDAL OF HONOR



**T/4 Laverne Parrish**  
**Med. Det., 161st Infantry,**  
**25th Infantry Division**  
**Born: July 16, 1918**  
**Entered Service: Ronan, Montana**  
**Place of Action: Binalonan, Luzon,**  
**Philippine Islands**  
**Date of Action: 18-24 January 1945**

**Medal of Honor Citation:** He was medical aid man with Company C during the fighting in Binalonan, Luzon, Philippine Islands. On the 18th, he observed 2 wounded men under enemy fire and immediately went to their rescue. After moving 1 to cover, he crossed 25 yards of open ground to administer aid to the second. In the early hours of the 24th, his company, crossing an open field near San Manuel, encountered intense enemy fire and was ordered to withdraw to the cover of a ditch. While treating the casualties, Technician Parrish observed 2 wounded still in the field. Without hesitation he left the ditch, crawled forward under enemy fire, and in 2 successive trips brought both men to safety. He next administered aid to 12 casualties in the same field, crossing and re-crossing the open area raked by hostile fire. Making successive trips, he then brought 3 wounded in to cover. After treating nearly all of the 37 casualties suffered by his company, he was mortally wounded by mortar fire, and shortly after was killed. The indomitable spirit, intrepidity, and gallantry of Technician Parrish saved many lives at the cost of his own.

\* Awarded Posthumously

**COMMANDING GENERAL:** Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr.  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER:** Lt. Col. David P. Doherty  
**DEPUTY PAO:** Maj. Derrick Cheng  
**COPY EDITOR:** Staff Sgt. Tim Meyer and Master Sgt. Michael Wetzel  
**LAYOUT, DESIGN, ART and GRAPHICS:** Pfc. Jesus J. Aranda; Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Manuel Torres and Spc. Daniel Hale

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Spc. Daniel Nelson, Spc. Jazz Burney, Spc. Eric Kenney, Capt. Jeffrey Rhodes, Pfc. Sharla Perrin, Spc. Anthony Jones, Pfc. Justin Naylor, Staff Sgt. Jason Douglas, Sgt. Christopher Kozloski

Contact the *Lightning Weekly* at SVOIP: 770-2190 or email at [mndnpao@25id.army.mil](mailto:mndnpao@25id.army.mil)

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