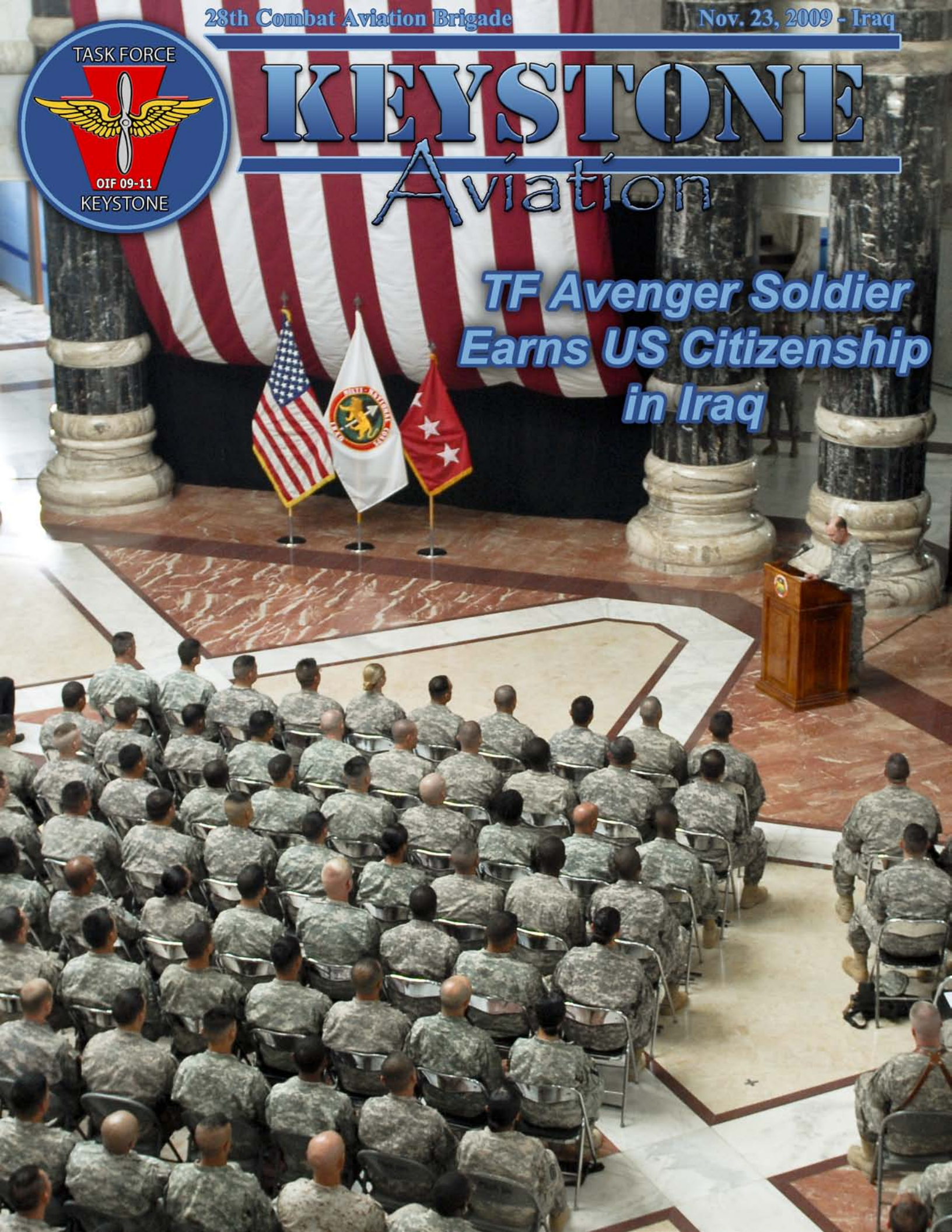




# KEYSTONE

## Aviation

**TF Avenger Soldier  
Earns US Citizenship  
in Iraq**







## KEYSTONE

### Command

**Col. Teresa A. Gallagher**  
Commander

**Command Sgt. Major  
Michael F. Wevodau**  
Command Sergeant Major

## KEYSTONE

### Staff

**Sgt. 1st Class Dale E. Shade**  
Public Affairs NCOIC

**Sgt. Matthew E. Jones**  
Managing Editor

This week's contributor(s):

**Sgt. Andy Mehler,  
Sgt. James Waltz**  
628th ASB

**Sgt. Neil Gussman**  
2-104th GSAB

Keystone Aviation is the official command information publication of the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade and Task Force Keystone. The contents are not necessarily the official

views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, the state of Pennsylvania, or the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The contents are the responsibility of the Task Force Keystone Public Affairs staff. All contributions are reviewed and edited by the Task Force Keystone Public Affairs staff unless otherwise indicated.

# KEYSTONE Aviation

## News and Features:

**Purple Heart Recipient** Pg. 2  
**Soldier Becomes American Citizen in Iraq** Pg. 3  
**VTC: Keeping Soldiers in Touch** Pg. 5

## Departments and Columns:

**MWR Spotlight: Karaoke** Pg. 6



## On the Cover:

Service members gather at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad to participate in a naturalization ceremony. The ceremony took place on Veterans' Day and included a Soldier from the 628th Aviation Support Battalion, Sgt. Edgardo E. Arrazola. (Photo by Sgt. James Waltz)

- Please send suggestions, story ideas and tips, and photo, story or editorial contributions to [TFKeystone@gmail.com](mailto:TFKeystone@gmail.com)
- View our distribution page at [www.dvidshub.net/units/28cab](http://www.dvidshub.net/units/28cab)
- Have an interesting photograph? Submit it to the MND-S Sandstorm at [www.theredbulls.org/sandstorm](http://www.theredbulls.org/sandstorm)



# Purple Heart Recipient Embraces Safer Role in Current Tour

*Story and Photo by  
Sgt. Neil Gussman*

When the IED exploded it ripped through the left side of the Humvee on patrol near Ar Ramadi. The vehicle commander and the other passenger were shaken but not badly injured. The driver, 19-year-old Spc. David Broome was not so lucky. His legs and hands were injured and bleeding. His right thigh was badly injured. Medics were at the blast site in moments. They stopped the bleeding at the scene and stabilized Broome before loading him in an M113 armored personnel carrier for transport to a MEDEVAC site.

After that short ride Broome began a long journey from rescue to recovery to return to duty. From the M113 he was transferred to a MEDEVAC Black Hawk and flown to Baghdad hospital for initial treatment for what he remembers as two or three days. Then he went to the hospital at Joint Base Balad for further treatment for his badly injured right thigh. The next stop was the Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then to Fort Gordon, Ga. In all, Broome was a patient in four hospitals for nearly two months before going home to begin the rehabilitation process. After several surgeries and treatments, he regained the use of his right leg, but some of his thigh muscle is missing so he has limitations.

In 2008, when the pre-mobilization training began for Task Force Diablo, Broome looked at deploying again differently than most Soldiers. He knew how dangerous duty in Iraq could be. But he also was ready to go back. "I'd say I am 50/50 about being outside the wire. Part of me wanted to get back out on the road and see how much had changed from 2005," said Broome. "But part of me is happy to stay here on Tallil."

At 23, Broome already has six years of service. The Manayunk, Pa., native enlisted at 17 after being a member of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Roxborough High School. He went to basic training in June of 2003 then to advanced training in 2004 to be a human resources specialist.

In January 2005 he was mobilized with the Pennsylvania National Guard's Troop B, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment. In June of 2005 he was in Ar Ramadi. Two of the biggest battles of the war were



**Spc. David Broome, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment, received a Purple Heart during his last tour to Ar Ramadi, Iraq, with the 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment.**

fought in Ramadi. According to Michael Fumento, who wrote about 101st Airborne operations in Ramadi, the phrase "The graveyard of the Americans" was scrawled on the walls of this city of 400,000.

Broome was assigned as a human resources specialist, but spent less than a week in that job. "They needed more soldiers on patrol, so I was attached to a Vermont line platoon. My truck commander taught me room clearing, convoy route security and detainee operations," Broome said. "We responded when the gate got attacked. We were attached to a Marine unit for missions."

Broome served four months on security and patrol duty until he was injured and evacuated from Iraq. "I know this tour is rough on some of the first timers," said the Purple Heart Medal recipient resting his hand on his right leg as he spoke. "But compared to my first tour this time is cake for me."





# PA Guard Soldier Becomes American Citizen in Iraq

Story and Photos by Sgt. James Waltz

On Nov. 11 at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, Sgt. Edgardo E. Arrazola became a United States citizen during a naturalization ceremony.

Born in Cartagena, Columbia, Arrazola, his sister and their grandmother departed Columbia to meet up with his parents in Perth Amboy, N.J., where his father was a civil engineer and his mother was a postal worker. “We tried to keep our family heritage by speaking Spanish within our household and eating tradition Columbian food”, said Arrazola, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard’s 628th Aviation Support Battalion.

After graduating from Perth Amboy High School in 2004, Arrazola immediately joined the National Guard. “I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do. The recruiter said, ‘Why not try fixing Black Hawks?’ and I thought, ‘Why not?’ and here I am today, working with Bravo Company with the 628th, fixing Black-hawks in Iraq. How many people get that opportunity?” Arrazola said.

In March, while fixing Black Hawks, working 12-



Sgt. Edgardo Arrazola answers questions from Jonah Hadary, deputy district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services. hour days, seven days each week, Arrazola began his citizenship paperwork. “I was really disappointed I missed the first naturalization ceremony with Vice President Joe Biden and then again in Arifjan, Kuwait. Later, Maj. Baker told me my paperwork went through and I was going to Baghdad on Veterans Day! ”

U.S. service members take an oath during a naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad Nov. 11. Sgt. Edgardo Arrazola, a member of the 628th Aviation Support Battalion, became a U.S. citizen during the ceremony.



Shortly after arriving in Baghdad, Arrazola had his interview with Jonah Hadary, deputy district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services’ Rome District. “The questions were straightforward. They basically checked my comprehension of language and understanding of U.S. history. After immediately answering the first six questions right, my interview was completed within 10 minutes. I am glad I studied as hard as I did,” Arrazola said.

During the ceremony, each Soldier received their Certificate of Citizenship, a flag that was flown over Al Faw Palace from Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, senior enlisted leader of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, and a coin from Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby, I Corps commander.



Sgt. Edgardo Arrazola (left) and Staff Sgt. Robert Smail of the 628th Aviation Support Battalion, pose for a photograph before boarding a CH-47 Chinook for a flight to Baghdad.

Sgt. Edgardo Arrazola, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard’s 628th Aviation Support Battalion, shakes the hand of Robert Daum, the director of citizenship, at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad. Arrazola became a U.S. citizen during a ceremony that morning.







Master Sgt. Harold Miller, LA-10 mayor, and Col. Teresa Gallagher, Task Force Keystone commander, watch the Chambersburg Area Senior High School graduation via video teleconference in June. (Courtesy Photo)

Communication is an essential element for any successful organization. Imagine the importance of dependable communications to a deployed military unit which must be able to talk with fellow units in country as well as command personnel back home.

Master Sgt. Thomas Kemble and 1st Lt. Francis Conroy are both a part of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 28th Combat Aviation Brigade, and currently deployed to COB Adder in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Kemble and Conroy work in the S-6 Shop which is responsible for most types of communication used by the 28th CAB, including computer, telephone, radio and video. Kemble and Conroy make up the crew which is responsible for setting up video teleconferences, and it is their mission to make sure that reliable and secure video conferences are available as needed here.

Kemble, of Palmyra, Pa., said his video teleconferences are used by units of the 28th CAB to communi-

cate together here in Iraq as well as communicate with leadership back home in Pennsylvania. Kemble sets up his video conferences using a computer, a large monitor, a webcam and microphones. The group he plans to link with must have the same setup on their end. "The drawback is limited bandwidth, so we are routed through special communication hubs. We hook into the hub, which then hooks us into a conference," he said.

Hubs that are used in Iraq are located in Baghdad and Basra. "We are in a location that does not have commercial internet support, so we set up our own backbone to access commercial internet," said Kemble. According to Kemble, they use a combination of military and civilian support for their mission. Mission related communications are done on a secure network and non-mission related communications, such as morale events, are done on non-secure networks. "We've set up conferences here on Adder for (Multi-National Division

- South) to hook up with the Aviation Brigade and other commands," said Conroy.

According to Conroy, a resident of Springfield, Pa., AT&T is the owner of the contract and is used as the communications hub at home.

Two recent examples of their morale events were a Halloween party and a Veteran's dinner. Kemble and Conroy set up a conference with a Family Readiness Group back home which held a Halloween party for the families. The kids had on their costumes and they could talk with and see their parents and loved ones who were in COB Adder. The second event was a Veteran's dinner held in Johnstown, Pa., on Oct. 12. Technical support for the event in Pennsylvania was handled by St. Francis University, and Kemble was set up in Adder's Morale, Welfare and Recreation trailer where the Soldiers could gather to participate. "Lt. Col. Kovak interviewed the Soldiers here to give the vets an idea of what it's like here on our end," Kemble said. This event gave older veterans some interaction with today's Soldiers and allowed them a glimpse of daily life and duty in Iraq.

Aside from running conferences, Kemble is the main communication security custodian, which means it is his responsibility to ensure all electronic communications are secure for transmission. Conroy also works with the S-4 supply shop to order all of the needed communication equipment, and issues the cell phones and satellite phones used by the 28th CAB.

Whether it is a mission essential leadership conference or a boost of morale for the Soldiers, this small section of the communications shop keeps Soldiers in touch here and abroad.



Lt. Col. Douglas Compton, Task Force Keystone chaplain, sings while Sgt. 1st Class Kirbie Young mans the controls as DJ Kirbie Krunch at Ciano's, Camp Adder. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dale Shade)

Sgt 1st Class Kirbie Young is a human resources sergeant in the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade, but during Camp Adder's karaoke night he is DJ Kirbie Krunch.

Most Saturday night's you can find him at Ciano's, a small restaurant on post, behind his electronic rig. Despite a lack of alcohol, which tends to be a staple of karaoke in the states, dozens of troops and contractors step up to the mic each week to sing their favorite tunes.

Young said he hasn't given too much thought to continuing his stint as a DJ when he returns home, but noted it could be interesting.

"I haven't thought about doing this stateside, although it's definitely an option," said Young. It would be a new experience where the crowd could be under the influence of alcohol, might make for an interesting experience, and it might pay more than free greasy food."

Although not one to consider himself a true musi-

cian, Young said he can play guitar and piano. "I'm sure at this point my six-year-old daughter knows more than I can remember."

Keeping equipment running here can be a difficult task, and even though Young has had his fair share of difficulties, he definitely considered karaoke night a success. "It's tough to keep the equipment up and running, but every week it seems to get pulled together to still put on a decent show," he said.

"I think it has been successful. The crowd grew quite a bit from when I first took the event over," said Young. He said people have come from all over Camp Adder to sing, and some have traveled from outside the base including "one contractor who actually got on a convoy to get over here from Cedar to go to karaoke."

"I've had a good time, it's good to see the Soldiers having the opportunity to relax and unwind a little bit. It's been a great opportunity to interact with other Soldiers."

