



# Sanctuary for service members

Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Chap. (Capt.) William Cale, the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division chaplain speaks to Soldiers during a church service at the Engineer Chapel, here, Nov. 4.**

**Story by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – For service members who need spiritual uplifting, they don't have to go very far to find their preferred religious service on Camp Liberty.

"We try our best to accommodate every religious background and

every schedule," said Maj. Terrell Jones, the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division chaplain. "We conduct many events throughout the week because there are a lot of guys who have crazy work schedules."

There are three chapels on Camp Liberty: Division Chapel, Engineer

Chapel and Warrior Chapel, each one providing a variety of religious services and open events.

"This is not my first time attending church here at Camp Liberty," said Spc. Christian Wright, a Soldier assigned to the 229th Military Police Company. "I decided to come to the

Engineer Chapel because it was closer to where I live and work,"

The chaplains and staff that conduct the services said they welcome anyone to visit, even if just to check out the chapel and maybe meet and make a few new friends.

"Rank, race, gender

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and religious background doesn't matter because there is something for everyone at one of the many services provided at Camp Liberty, Iraq," said Wright, a Newport News, Va. native.

For some Soldiers, attending one of the religious services can also help in dealing with issues they encounter while deployed.

"By coming to a service, I can get away from the hustle and bustle of the day to day work and just focus on my spirituality," said Pvt. Deshawn Turner, a Lorain, Ohio native. "I find that I have more peace when I do that."

Others do it to decompress from the stress of the combat environment.

"Many Soldiers show up to these services after



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

(Top) CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Protestant congregation members start their service with singing and music at the Engineer Chapel here, Nov. 8.

long missions to recharge their internal batteries," said Warrant Officer 1 Matthew Ratliff, a Pierce, Neb. native.

If Soldiers have a need or an issue or just need someone to talk to, the chapel is a place they can

go to get help, explained Capt. William Cale, 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div. chaplain.

"These are services and people that are available to help with Soldiers and their spiritual needs, so

take advantage of them," said Cale, a Macomb, Ill. native. "The better we take care of our higher or spiritual needs, the better we can handle many stressful situations and difficulties."

## Chaplain assistant trains with PSD

Story by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – Following the command "Dismount!" a group of Soldiers jumped off the ramp of a Stryker and scanned the area for potential threats. Surrounded by Soldiers whose main job it is to protect the commander, Spc. Jacob Barbe, a chaplain assistant, trains with the personal security detachment in order to learn how to better protect the chaplain.

Barbe's mission in the Army is helping the chaplain with impor-

tant services, preparing sermons, and providing religious support throughout unit. When those tasks are done or there's nothing going on, he searches for a different, but equally important mission, tagging along with the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division PSD.

It's necessary to train with the PSD to gain experience and knowledge of tactics used when outside the wire in order to effectively protect the chaplain, said Barbe, an

Ocala, Fla. native, now assigned to 2nd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt.. Chaplains are designated as non-combatants and do not carry weapons.

I'm with the PSD for everything except for physical training and when I'm working with the chaplain, said Barbe.

Chap. (1st Lt.) Jake Snodgrass, a native of Ames, Okla., now the 2nd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt. chaplain believes spending so much time with the PSD Soldiers is good for Barbe.

"It gives him a broad understand-

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ing of tactics and his job and builds relations with Soldiers in the unit,” said Snodgrass.

Barbe first began training with the PSD during the brigade’s June 2009 rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. After the summer training and deployment to Iraq shortly after, Barbe is indistinguishable next to the other guys.

“They consider me PSD, not chaplain assistant,” he said.

Still, the bond with the PSD Soldiers is unexpected and Barbe said he is surprised at how well he and the combat arms Soldiers get along.

Spc. Curtis Bitterly, a scout with 2nd Sqn., 1st Cav. Regt.’s PSD, acknowledges Barbe’s freedom to train with him and his detachment and admits that, in a way, he envies the option.

“He just comes up here as a

dismount and comes on missions if he wants to,” said Bitterly, a San Antonio, Texas native.

Barbe enjoys the choice of going between jobs and benefits from aspects of both.

Being a chaplain assistant is rewarding for Barbe because he facilitates activities that help boost the morale of Soldiers and make everyone have a good day.

He also likes being a part of the PSD because they allow him the opportunity to do “Hooah Soldier stuff seen on TV” that being a chaplain assistant doesn’t exactly offer.

“You can’t shoot off a [.50 caliber machine gun] in the chaplain’s office,” he said.

Snodgrass highly recommends other chaplain assistants train with PSD or infantry platoons to develop them as Soldiers.

“If he’s [Barbe] doing missions, he knows the ins and outs and can



**BAGHDAD – Spc. Jacob Barbe (left), a chaplain assistant with 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, provides security with a personal security detachment in Zaidon, Nov. 12. Barbe trains with the PSD as a way to gain skills needed to protect and assist the chaplain.**

brief me about procedure in case anything goes wrong during a mission,” said Snodgrass.

Whether he’s out on patrol with the PSD or setting up a sermon, Barbe has the skills and techniques of both a chaplain assistant and a PSD Soldier that allow him to protect and assist the chaplain the most proficient way possible.

## Why are worship services important downrange?



“We drag through the mud throughout the week and the services help to get back up.”

*-Pfc. Josh Cone  
native of Houston  
HHC, Bde.*



“It is important to have them available to everyone. A lot of guys depend on them to help spiritually.”

*-Maj. Ethan Mills  
native of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.  
HHC, Bde.*



“It helps Soldiers who need it.”

*-Pfc. Joshua Campbell  
native of Cleburne, Texas  
PSD, HHC, Bde.*

# RAIDER ROLL-UP...



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

**Sunday November 29, 2009**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Commanders and command sergeants major from every battalion of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, to include the brigade commander, Col. John Norris, and brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins, gather together at brigade headquarters, Nov. 29 to discuss future operations. The gathering was the first time the leaders united since deploying to Iraq in the summer.

**Col. John Norris**

**Commander**

**Command Sgt. Maj.**

**Jeffrey Huggins**

**Command Sgt. Maj.**

**Capt. Christopher Ophardt**

**Public Affairs Officer**

**Sgt. Bryce Dubee**

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**Tuesday December 3, 2009**

JOINT SECURITY STATION AQUR QUF -- Spc. Mark Feis, a military working dog handler with 72nd Military Police Detachment, commands his working dog, Gero, to search the side of a closet inside a home north of Fira Shia, Dec. 3. while assisting 1st Platoon, Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and 24th Bde., 6th Iraqi Army Div. Soldiers in a search for caches.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.



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**Friday December 4, 2009**

JOINT SECURITY STATION AQUR QUF, Iraq – Spc. Josh Millwee (far left), a Stryker driver, Spc. John Bailo, a vehicle commander, Pvt. Edgar Garcia, a grenadier, all with 2nd Platoon, Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, jump off a UH-60 Blackhawk onto the ground and dive onto their stomachs while aiming at an imaginary, distant target during air assault training here, Dec.4.

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