

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SENTINELS

49th MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE

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**Produced by the 49th Military Police Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

SENTINELS

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Iraqi Police officers distribute toys, muffins and gifts to an Iraqi elementary school with the support of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Detachment 2, from Camp Styker, Iraq, 10, Nov. More than 300 school children from town of Dijla participated in the humanitarian event.

Full story on page 10 & 11

From the Brigade Commander

MPs

The 49th MP Brigade has now been on mission for more than 60 days. As I visit units and Soldiers throughout the country, I am encouraged by the caliber of Soldiers that make up our team. Although four of our five battalion headquarters have been on their current mission less than 90 days, many of our companies have been working in their current assigned areas of responsibility for much longer.

As I speak with units in the field, I stress three things. First, our mission requires agility in how we approach our task. In addition to combating the complacency that arises from familiarity with repetitive tasks, we must be willing to change the way we approach our work in an effort to keep pace with a country that often changes the way it does business.

After the implementation of the 30 June 2009 Security Agreement, we have witnessed wild swings in how the Iraqis value the training we have to offer them. Initially, many Iraqi military and police leaders, facing political pressure, resisted our offers of training. In response, MP units began shifting to more common Soldier tasks, such as FOB security. As time passed, the Iraqis in most areas have been more receptive to our offers of training, but demand that it be done on their terms. My intent is to honor their request.

As we move forward, it will not be enough to simply “train” the Iraqis - we must partner with them. Central to our mission in Iraq are our Police Transition Teams (PTTs), the very heart of our partnership efforts with the Iraqi Police forces. Our PTTs must embody the Army Values - respect, integrity, selfless service - in all their interaction with their Iraqi peers. Such behavior is foundational to any instruction or professional mentoring we might provide. Without it, our efforts are in



Brig. Gen. Donald Currier

vain.

Aside from character and moral fiber, we must offer the Iraqis our law enforcement experience and expertise. We must provide them both the advanced skills they want - such as crime scene preservation - and the basic skills they need - community policing practices.

We must also offer our knowledge and mentorship in a manner that reduces our footprint. We must remain involved and strengthen our partnership while reducing our role in the public eye. This is a necessary balance with significant impact on how the Iraqi Police forces are perceived.

The second thing I stress is safety. We have reached a point in this conflict where we are inflicting more casualties on ourselves than the enemy. Excessive driving speeds and failure to use safety equipment is taking far too high of a toll on our forces. Our mission is still dangerous, so we cannot afford to add unnecessary risks by failing to follow

safety procedures. I expect each leader to complete pre-combat checks every time before leaving the FOB. We have to watch out for the safety of our fellow Soldiers just as we would in a firefight.

Finally, I talk a lot about misconduct. As Military Police, we are - and should be - held to a higher standard; we are placed in a position of greater trust than most Soldiers. In this newsletter, you will find a list of Soldiers whose conduct has fallen below the standard of what we expect from professional MPs. These are good Soldiers who made bad choices. They were held accountable for their actions, but in many cases, their misconduct will continue to haunt their fellow Soldiers throughout the deployment. Don't allow your performance or the reputation of your unit be defined by misconduct. We can all think of examples where this has happened. Don't be “that guy” or “gal” who brings discredit on your fellow Soldiers.

I know the mission you are tasked with can be very demanding, sometimes monotonous, often frustrating and always dangerous. I thank you for your hard work, professionalism and diligence. The vigor, enthusiasm and courage with which you approach your task are nothing short of inspirational. I ask you remain strong, agile and unrelenting in your pursuit of mission accomplishment. It's important that we watch out for our fellow Soldiers in every way. As we make the most of our time here during the holiday season, please understand it can be a tough time for many of our subordinates and peers. Please make an effort to connect with one another as persons, and not just Soldiers, mirroring the benevolent spirit of the season. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as your brigade commander. ■

Furat IP Training Center Graduates 1600

BAGHDAD — A training milestone for the Iraqi Police (IP) was reached when more than 1,600 new IP officers graduated the Furat Iraqi Police Training Center's Basic Recruit Training Course, Oct. 29.

The 100-yard-wide courtyard was filled with multiple company-sized formations of graduating IP. In front of each separate group, one IP proudly displayed the unit's colors. Surrounding this massive formation, dozens of uniformed guards wielded four-foot by six-foot Iraqi flags.

The new IP were all at attention and facing a podium as the top IP officer spoke. "What you are doing here today is making Baghdad safer," said Maj. Gen. Ali Adnan Yunis, commander, Provincial Directorate of Police. He told one of the largest classes of graduating IP officers, "When Baghdad is safer your families at home are safer."

The ceremony was also attended by Soldiers of the California National Guard, 49th Military Police Brigade (MPB) Police Transition Team (PTT), civilian police advisers and the IP Center's trainers, who stood to the right in a viewing section and faced the crowd.

"The partnership between the three organizations has been seamless, but it has not been without its challenges" said Sgt. 1st Class David Northrup, 49th MPB, PTT non commissioned officer in charge.

The training for the new officers is thorough, and some blocks of instruction are similar to the tasks that U.S. Soldiers complete.

"A few of the classes covered [in recruit training] included basic first



Maj. Dillon Haynes, (left), Sgt. 1st Class David Northrup, (right), both members of the California National Guard 49th MP Brigade, IPS, (Iraqi Police Service), PTT, (police transitional team), attend a graduation ceremony for more than 1,600 Iraqi Police officers at the Al Furat Police Training Center in Baghdad, Iraq on October 29.

aid, human rights training, patrol training, small arms training and search techniques," said Northrup.

The new Policemen varied in age, but most were in their 20s. All wore light blue shirts and dark pants.

"The IPs standing here are faced with a lot of obstacles just to make it to the training center, but they do the best they can with what they have," said Northrup. "I have to give them a great deal of credit to make it to this point and graduate."

Five honor graduate students came forward and received special recognition and awards following a prayer and a speech by graduating students.

The hour-long graduation ceremony also included displays

of strength and agility with IP teams conducting martial arts demonstrations with different types of throws and attacks. One IP trainer stole the show when he dazzled the audience of Policemen and visitors as he broke multiple cinder block bricks with his fist, elbow and head.

The road to a secure Iraq is moving forward with every Policeman that completes his training and hits the streets of Baghdad.

"Our mission here has been one of success," said Col. Rudy Arruda, the 49th MPB's deputy commander. "There are now more Iraqi Police that are qualified to protect and serve the people of Baghdad." ■

Photos and story by Sgt. Kenneth Bince, 49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Office



Maj. Gen. Ali Adnan Yunis, commander, Provincial Directorate of Police gives a speech to graduating Iraqi Police officers at a graduation ceremony for more than 1600 new Iraqi Police officer. General Ali told the new officers, "treat the people of Iraq with respect, and never abuse your authority".

From the Brigade Command Sergeant Major

I have been traveling abroad in Northern Iraq, touring and speaking with the heroes of the Brigade. The 336th MP BN has been conducting a "Relief in Place" (RIP) with the 93rd MP BN as they are rapidly approaching their end of tour here in Iraq with honor and distinction. Their tour has been a difficult one to say the least. Our brothers and sisters in arms have brought distinct credit to the Military Police Corps. The price has been very costly. Please take a moment to remember those that have paid the ultimate price for defending freedom and our way of life.

For those units that are approaching their end of tours, I would like to express my personal gratitude for allowing me to know you, visit with you on occasion, and share in your trials as you expertly executed your duties here in Iraq. I would also ask that you remember safety first. Now is not the time to become complacent. NCOs please continue to live the NCO Creed and keep your Soldiers safe no matter what. There is still room for improvement in our defense now, and upon our arrival back home. NO SOLDIER IS EXPENDABLE! We can't afford to lose anyone.

For those units that the Deputy Brigade Commander and I visited recently, thank you for allowing us to interrupt your day or evening. The Brigade leadership truly is interested in what is happening now and in the future. We are interested in what concerns you and how it affects your lives. COL Edinboro and I conveyed to unit leadership that PTT is still our main focus and we want our MPs out and heavily engaged with the Iraqi Police. Building the Iraqi police is paramount to a successful government and a credible, trained, and effective police force. Believe it or not, the sooner we accomplish this, the sooner our political leadership can make the assessment to pull all US forces out of Iraq.

I would like to draw attention to a few of our MP companies: the 384th MP CO, Indiana National Guard, Capt. Cottone and 1SG Warren, the 88th MP CO, Capt. Malentestinic and 1SG Beatty, Fort Eustis USAR, and the 114th MP CO, Mississippi National Guard, Capt. Taylor and 1SG Brooks. I have nothing but high praise for these unit Command Teams. They were



Command Sgt. Maj.
Robert Liles

warm and fully accommodating during our stay. They were more than willing to insert us into their convoys or just escort us to the Soldiers doing their daily duties. Again, thank you all very much for allowing us to come visit you.

I would like to share a personal thank you to SGT Juan Ortiz and SPC Shaun Barber from the 384th MP Co. These heroes teach Combative's training, during their personal time, to not just their own unit, but to anyone who desires to learn. This is definitely a selfless commitment from two truly exceptional Soldiers. I can see why First Sergeant Warren was so willing to direct my attention to them. Great job Gentlemen.

1SG Beatty coached an end of tour baseball game for the 384th MP CO and it was a great game. COL Edinboro and I had the pleasure to speak to the entire 384th MP CO. We found that morale and Esprit de Corp were extremely high and I am sure it had something to do with them going home in less than 22 days. COL Edinboro and I took note that no one was counting the days. Well, sort of. Overall, I have noticed that all the Soldiers are in high spirits and leaders are keeping their subordinates busy either in the field or in extracurricular events.

I would like to challenge the NCO Corps to continue to focus on physical fitness and educational opportunities. Now is the time to increase your own personal horizons. I challenge every NCO to be do some long range planning for your own career and think deep. NCOES is changing and I don't want you to allow the grass to grow under your feet. Go online and look at ATRRS to seek your next level of NCOES. NCOERs are rapidly approaching and I would like to make sure that leaders at all levels are actively counseling their subordinates appropriately. The use of the 2166-8-1 is non-negotiable and mandatory. Juniors should expect and demand that their leaders counsel them on their expectations, past, and present performance.

Awards should be IPERmed and coded. For National Guard units this is a promotional nightmare if the award is not part of your OMPF or on your 2-1. APFT is critical to all Soldiers. Although the APFT is not a mandatory requirement in theater the Commander can have a diagnostic APFT to assess the overall fitness of the unit to meet future requirements for the mission. I challenge all National Guard Soldiers to take the APFT test. This adds to promotion points, and if you are interested in helping yourself, you will want to take an APFT. All NCOs will graciously accept the challenge of the APFT, they know their limitations and areas in which they need to achieve more.

Responsibility. All leaders have it and no leader can delegate it away. NCO's, I ask you all to take one more minute to enforce the standards of our NCO Creed. For those of us that are into our first two months, or for those that are about ready to end your tour, live the Army Ethos and Warrior Values. Make the on the spot corrections and hold the line. Look out for each other and have a safe and great holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at your FOB and back home. I am honored to know you and serve as your Brigade CSM. I have an open door policy and if you need to exercise that right, please do so. I only ask that you utilize your Chain of Command and NCO Support Channel. ■

Iraqi Scuba Diving

By 1st Lt. William Marquez
49th Military Police Public Affairs Officer

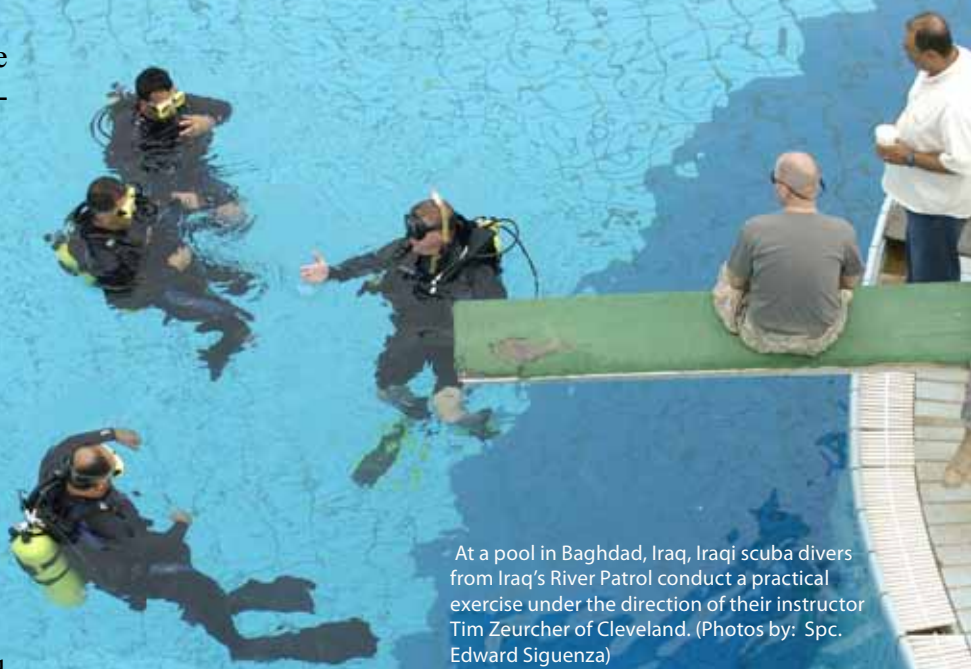
BAGHDAD, Iraq – At a swimming pool that was once part of an exclusive club for Saddam Hussein's officers, but later became a wartime oasis for U.S. servicemembers, Soldiers from the 49th Military Police Brigade, Maj. Dillon Haynes and Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund from Sacramento, Calif., supervise Iraqi River Patrolmen as they practice scuba diving.

A pool that was once teeming with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines sunbathing, diving, splashing and swimming beneath a piercing Baghdad sun is now quietly tucked away within the International Zone. The pool, once known as the "Freedom Rest Pool," is no longer used by servicemembers to rest and relax from the stresses of combat.

Iraqis now manage and care for the pool, but the pool is rarely used. The Iraqi scuba divers are rare visitors whose use of the pool pleases Sgt. 1st Class Sandra McIntosh who advises and assists the Iraqi pool managers. "It is good that the pool is getting used. They are getting training that they may not otherwise receive," said McIntosh. When Haynes and Eastlund, during their meetings with officials from the Iraqi river patrol, discovered that the divers of the river patrol no longer had a place where they could receive training from highly trained and experienced American divers employed by the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, the two Soldiers from the 49th began calling, emailing and visit-

ing Iraqis and Americans who they thought could help. Eastlund, remembering that he heard about a pool in the international zone during his deployment in 2005 and 2006, located the pool and asked McIntosh and the Iraqi pool managers if the river patrol divers could use their pool as a training site. "I heard about the pool when I was here three years ago. I tracked it down and spoke to the American sergeant working there. Iraqis working at the pool and sergeant McIntosh had no problem with our training plan. In fact, they were happy to help," said Eastlund. The Iraqi divers training at the pool are not new to diving. They are current members of the river patrol, but they are participating in the training to sharpen their skills

and prepare themselves to instruct new river patrol divers on basic scuba diving techniques. "This is a train the trainer program. The Iraqi divers trained here will have the capacity to demonstrate what they learned to new divers joining river patrol units," said Haynes. The Iraqi divers training at the "Freedom Rest Pool" are lead divers in Iraq's River Patrol. These men help lead and develop the many Iraqi divers patrolling the banks and depths of the Tigris and Euphrates to ensure that their fellow Iraqis remain safe as they enjoy and use these great waterways. They primarily recover bodies and sensitive equipment. "They are good at body recovery. When they find a missing person, it puts the family of the deceased at ease.



At a pool in Baghdad, Iraq, Iraqi scuba divers from Iraq's River Patrol conduct a practical exercise under the direction of their instructor Tim Zeurcher of Cleveland. (Photos by: Spc. Edward Siguenza)

Not long ago, River Patrol divers recovered a deceased family member of Iraq's Prime Minister, and they recovered sensitive items belonging to an American security firm that had a vehicle roll over into the river," said Tim Zuercher of Cleveland, who is the lead instructor training the Iraqi divers.

Zuercher, along with his colleague, Mark Cushman of Oregon, are employees of CPATT, and worked closely with Haynes and Eastlund to set up the training at the "Freedom Rest Pool." In the pool, Zuercher and Cushman take their time with the Iraqi divers, speaking clearly and slowly so the Arabic translator can make sure the Iraqi divers

understand their instructions. The American instructors are patient with the Iraqi divers, and the Iraqis are very attentive. The Americans teach a lesson to the group as a whole, but test them one at a time to ensure that each of the Iraqi divers understand the lesson without confusion. "They are learning new techniques that will bring them closer to international scuba diving standards. Our goal is to make sure that they have the ability to demonstrate, to their fellow River Patrol divers, the skills we are teaching them here," said Cushman.

In what was known as the "Freedom Rest Pool," Iraqis and Americans dive together to ensure that Iraqi progress in securing their ancient rivers, which continue to

nourish a civilization thousands of years old, does not halt when Americans return home. These Iraqi divers will train a second generation of Iraqi divers, and the second will build upon what they learned from the first and train a third generation of Iraqi divers, and so on, long after Americans leave. "As Americans, our challenge is to understand that everything cannot be accomplished overnight. We thought we could when we first arrived. Now, we are smarter. I'm just glad that I can help build good working relationships that will help this process along," said Eastlund. ■



MND-SOUTH - at a glance



(U.S. Army Photo by Private 1st Class Alex Stevenson, 543rd Military Police Company, 203rd Battalion, 49th MP Brigade, MND-South)

Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq (2009 NOV 03) – Members of 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, 543rd Military Police Company are conducting an ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) mission in the Dagmara area of operations in order to gather intelligence from local nationals, locate trails within the AO and deny insurgents freedom of movement. The mission was led by Sgt. Matthew Helgeson 1st Squad's Alpha Team leader. Soldiers pictured here shown conducting interviews with local nationals while providing security (from left to right) are 2nd Lt. Danny Janssen, Private 1st Class Christopher Rivers, Sgt. Matthew Helgeson and Cpl. Paul Maxwell.

Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq – Members of 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 543rd Military Police Company are pictured assisting and advising Iraqi Police officers, from the Shafiyah, Iraq police station. The squad is conducting an ISR mission in the Shafiyah AO in order to gather intelligence from local nationals, interact with local Sheiks and record grid locations of dirt trails, which could be used by the insurgency in attacks against Coalition Forces. The mission included Cpl. Bean from 3rd Squad, who is consistently the first to volunteer to go on a mission, if a squad needs to fill an empty Team Leader position. Cpl. Bean is on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and has proven to be a tremendously reliable asset to the platoon. Soldiers pictured here (from left to right) are Cpl. JB Bean, Spc. David Cloer and Sgt. Pete Eichen. The Soldiers are shown assisting Iraqi Police changing a blown tire on mission.



(U.S. Army Photo by SGT Susanne Hicks, 543rd Military Police Company, 203rd Battalion, 49th MP Brigade, MND-South)

MND-SOUTH



(U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sergeant Ralph Rowells, 810th Military Police Company, 203rd Battalion, 49th MP Brigade, MND-South)

Basra, Iraq - Spc. Clayton Smith and Staff Sgt. Larry Moore participate as the villains in a given scenario for the Iraqi Police to brush up on their searching skills. Spc. Clayton Smith hid a Gerber, a 600 Multi-Tool Knife that resembles an Army Swiss pocket knife, within his boot to test the Iraqi Police's ability to conduct a thorough search. It is extremely important that training in this case is hands-on, because this offers the opportunity to learn by experience and to grow from trial and error. This exercise taught the Iraqi police to always stay consistent and thorough while conducting a search. The Iraqi Police enjoy practical exercises and whenever given the opportunity to learn new techniques. The IP's are always more than willing to participate. Staff Sgt. Moore's idea to give IP's an everyday scenario provided everyone a chance to prepare them for any future real life situations. Without the practical exercise, mistakes cannot be identified making the exercise successful and efficient. Both Spc. Clayton Smith and Staff Sgt. Larry Moore are assigned to 2nd squad, 2nd Platoon, 810th MP Company.

Al Kut, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Jeremy Joyner, of Alcoa, TN, helps download supplies at the Al Kut Provincial Headquarters. Updated radio equipment was given to the Provincial Headquarters to assist them with their communications. This type of assistance helps with the partnership between Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Police. SSG Joyner is a squad leader with 6A Squad, 252nd Military Police Company, 203rd Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, and Multi-National Corps Iraq.



(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Massaro, 252nd Military Police Company)



(U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Contiguglia, 252nd Military Police Company)

“MAKING CONTACT”

Al Kut, Iraq – SSG Randall Merrick, of Maryville, TN makes his first meeting with IP Chief CPT Nasser in Deboney, Iraq on November 1, 2009. They discussed CPT Nasser's need for vehicles to use on patrol. CPT Nasser stated that he had little maintenance assets at his disposal. This interaction is part of the PTT mission that SSG Merrick is conducting. SSG Merrick is a squad leader with 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, 252nd Military Police Company, 203rd Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, and Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

“Grunts of the **Air Force**” Partnering with the Iraqi Police and the U.S. Army



10 November, in Dijla, a small town in a rural area on the outskirts of Baghdad, Senior Airman Tony Williams of Lawton, Oklahoma, pulls security as his fellow Airmen from Detachment 2, 732nd Expeditionary Forces Squadron conduct a humanitarian mission at an elementary school with the local Iraqi Police. (US Army photo by 1st Lt. William Marquez)

By 1st Lt. William Marquez
49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGHDAD, Iraq – On Nov. 10, in the town of Dijla, Iraq, members of the 2nd Detachment, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, conducted a joint humanitarian mission with the local Iraqi Police. At an elementary school in the small town located

in a rural area on the outskirts of Baghdad, Airmen and Iraqi Police handed out toys, muffins, and gifts to approximately 300 children, as Army helicopters very quietly provided over-watch.

According to the Airmen of 2nd Detachment, there are two good reasons for performing a humanitarian mission with the Iraqi Police. If successful, the operation

will strengthen the credibility of the local police, and it will bring a rare pleasure to children who are not accustomed to receiving toys. “If the people of Dijla see the Iraqi Police positively engaged with the town, then the citizens of Dijla will trust the police and will work with them when it comes to enforcing the law,” said Tech. Sgt. Todd Rajek, Police Transition Team Manager for 2nd Detachment. “It will also bring some joy to children who have grown up in poverty and conflict.”

While a small team of Airmen helped Iraqi policemen handout toys and treats to the children of Dijla’s elementary school, a larger element of Airmen secured the main road in front of the school and Dijla’s perimeter. There were Airmen on rooftops, in gun trucks and on foot; and during the entire operation, a team of Airmen continually communicated with aviation support provided by an Army Stryker brigade. This mission had many facets and consisted of many moving parts. It was part civil affairs, information operations and public affairs, and the operation required close coordination between security elements on the ground and in the air.

In preparation for this school-drop mission, the Airmen of 2nd Detachment conducted a key leader engagement with the Iraqi police leadership at the Dijla station. In this initial meeting, Air Force, Army and Iraqi Police leadership discussed enemy activity in the region and the needs of the station, and discussed

how they would positively engage the people of Dijla. During this key leader engagement, the Air Force and the Army leadership were very interested in finding ways to work together to help the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army jointly secure the Dijla area.

“The Stryker Brigade normally works with the Iraqi Army, and 2nd DET. normally works with the Iraqi Police. One of the goals of the mission is to bring the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army together by building a strong working relationship between us and the Stryker unit,” said 1st. Lt. Brian Mack, the Flight Commander of the Airmen responsible for advising and assisting the Dijla police. Capt. Bernard Balsis, of the Stryker Brigade, reinforced the importance of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police working together, especially when it comes to important events, such as the upcoming national parliamentary elections. “We are interested in the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police conducting more joint patrols. With the elections coming up, we would like to see them securing polling sites together. Schools are often used as polling sites,” said Balsis, a Company Commander from the 4-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, who is responsible for advising and assisting the Iraqi Army based in Dijla.

When it comes to the needs, interests, and capabilities of the Iraqi Police, the Airmen of 2nd Detachment have a lot to share with the Soldiers of the Stryker unit. For the last ten months, as the Iraqi Police increased their responsibility for the security, and law and order of Iraq, the Airmen of 2nd Detachment advised, trained and assisted the

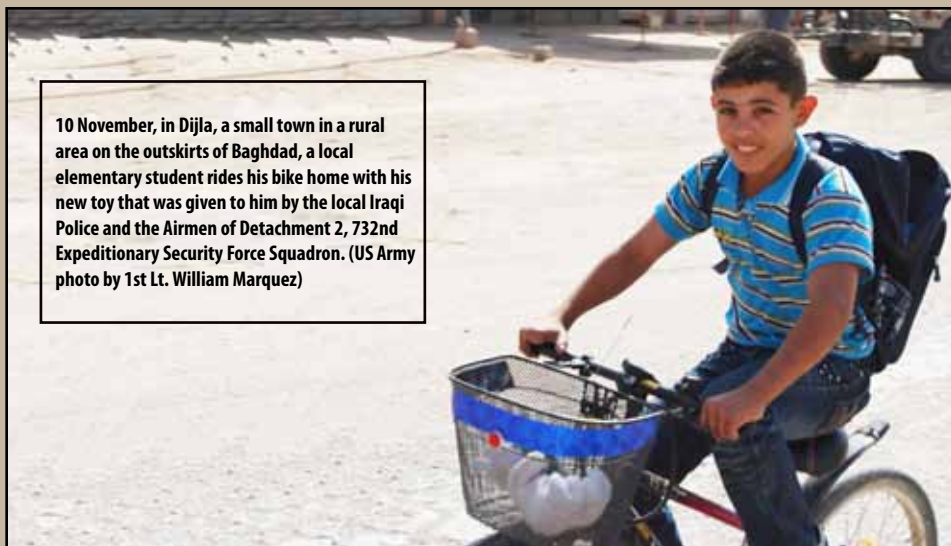


10 November, in Dijla, a town in a rural area on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, a local Iraqi policeman gives a stuffed animal to a student attending a local elementary school. Airmen from Detachment 2, 732nd Expeditionary Security Force Squadron supported the Iraqi Police serving in Dijla as they executed this humanitarian mission.

Iraqi Police in Baghdad and its surrounding areas. Rare in the Air Force ranks, Security Force Airmen who are part of a Police Transition Team (PTT) mission must serve twelve consecutive months in a combat theater.

Another unique characteristic of the Airmen in the 2nd Detachment is that they all volunteered for their PTT mission. “All of us doing PTT in Iraq volunteered to do it, and we didn’t volunteer to sit at a desk

for four, five or six months. We volunteered to go “outside the wire” for an entire year,” said Sgt. Joseph Hilguero, Team Leader of Charlie team, fourth squad, 2nd Flight, 2nd DET, 732nd Squadron. “We have a lot in common with Infantry and Military Police Soldiers who go on patrols. When soldiers ask me to explain my job in the Air Force, I just tell them we’re the grunts of the Air Force. They seem to understand,” said Hilguero. ■



10 November, in Dijla, a small town in a rural area on the outskirts of Baghdad, a local elementary student rides his bike home with his new toy that was given to him by the local Iraqi Police and the Airmen of Detachment 2, 732nd Expeditionary Security Force Squadron. (US Army photo by 1st Lt. William Marquez)

Frame of mind

Therapy dog boosts morale



Soldiers assigned to 571st Military Police Company enjoy playing fetch with Truvy, a therapy dog assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion unit ministry team. Photos by Capt. Joy LeMay



Sgt. Tiann Smith, the 93rd Military Police Battalion chaplain assistant and Truvy's owner, takes Truvy to different areas of Prosperity.

*By Capt. Joy LeMay
Joint Area Support Group
Public Affairs Office*

Truvy is unlike other dogs working in the International Zone. Instead of guarding entry control points or sniffing for explosives, Truvy has the unique and important mission of lifting the spirits of deployed soldiers around her.

As a certified therapy dog assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion's unit ministry team, Truvy is trained to provide affection and comfort to people in stressful situations and also serves as a link between troubled troops and the UMT.

"Studies have shown the stress of deployment compounds," said Lt. Col. Thomas Byrd, commander of the 93rd MP Battalion. "Anything we can do to help the UMTs or commanders reach soldiers, help soldiers, get soldiers to open up with what they're actually thinking is something worth supporting."

To give soldiers a chance to interact with Truvy, Sgt. Tiann Smith—the unit chaplain's assistant and Truvy's owner—takes the 2-year-old black lab and German shepherd mix almost everywhere she goes, including unit social activities, walks around company areas, religious services, and helicopter rides across Iraq.



Soldiers assigned to 571st Military Police Company enjoy playing fetch with Truvy, a therapy dog assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion unit ministry team. Photos by Capt. Joy LeMay

“One of the most rewarding parts of my job is simply seeing the soldiers faces light up when I bring Truvy around,” said Smith. “The simple act of petting or playing fetch with her helps remind them of life back home and relaxes them.”

Truvy’s affectionate and playful personality makes her great at her job.

“We love having Truvy around,” said Sgt. Tanesha Baldwin, of the 93rd MP headquarters company. “When you’re having a bad day you can always count on her to be around to help you out with that. She’s a great asset to the unit.” “She’s not a mascot,” Byrd said. “She’s here for a reason. She’s a great stress reliever and morale booster for the soldiers and is part of the team.” ■



Spc. Michael Beavens, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, stops to pet Truvy and chat with Truvy’s owner, Spc. Tiann Smith, a chaplain’s assistant with 93rd Military Police Battalion

Sexual Assault is incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos



The Army's Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program (SAPRP)

For more information or to report an incident,
contact the 49th MP Brigade Deployed Sexual Assault
Response Coordinator (DSARC)

LTC Barbara McPhail

(DSARC CELL) 0770-444-2519, (NIPR) 847-3194, (SIPR) 242-7211

Barbara.j.mcphail@MND-B.Army.Mil

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INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.



1st Lt. Paul Dordal
336th MP Battalion

Hope In The Desert

By CH (1LT) Paul Dordal - 336th Military Police Battalion Chaplain
Forward Operating Base Prosperity

(Isaiah 43:18-19) "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

So often the past comes back to haunt us; the things we have done that we are not proud of, and those important things that we have left undone. Unlike Frank Sinatra, who sang "Regrets, I have had a few," most of us have had several regrets and disappointments. But we are reminded today to forget those former things, and not to dwell on those wrongs we have committed and the wrongs committed against us. God's mercies are new every morning!

Instead, God says we have a lot to look forward to. He wants to give us hope and a future; He has a good plan for us, a special mission, if you will. Throughout Scripture God reminds us that His perfect plan for us is for our good, and not our harm. We are directed to look for what good God has in store us: do you not perceive it!

I remember traveling through the Arizona desert several years ago, and as I drove, I noticed several rivers that had no water flowing in them. How ironic—a river with no water. I began to understand the above verse from the Prophet Isaiah. God, it seems, is concerned about the desert. What He wants to do through you is to bring life where there is death; hope, where there is despair; and freedom, where this is oppression.

The work that you are doing in Iraq is making a way in the desert and bringing a river of living water to the streams of a once oppressed and dried up land. You are bringing hope in the desert!

Military Police Soldier Training the Trainer at Baghdad's Patrol Headquarters

By 1st Lt. William Marquez

49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - On Nov. 22, at Baghdad's Patrol Headquarters, Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund of the 49th Military Police Brigade conducted a class with a group of Iraqi patrol policemen serving in Baghdad. The purpose of this class was to help prepare the Iraqi patrolmen teach classes on crime scene preservation to their fellow patrolmen at Baghdad's Patrol Headquarters.

Sgt. 1st Class Eastlund is no stranger to teaching others how to teach. Before he joined the National Guard shortly after 9/11, Eastlund trained corporate executives on how to effectively give presentations and conduct classes. In his introduction to his Iraqi patrol students, he mentioned his corporate background to establish credibility and a connection with his students. "It's good to speak a little about your experience and expertise in the subject you are teaching. It gives your students confidence that you know what you are talking about," said Eastlund to his Iraqi patrol students.

Although Eastlund emphasized the importance of expertise in a field, he also made it clear to his students that a good instructor will never try to teach something beyond his area of expertise. "A good instructor should know his subject inside, and out, and he should never merely repeat what is written. However, he should also never try to teach more than he knows," said Eastlund.



On Nov. 22, at the Baghdad Patrol Headquarters, Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund uses different techniques of how to get and keep the attention of Iraqi student while giving blocks of instructions.

Another theme Eastlund emphasized throughout his presentation was the importance of a teacher knowing his audience. "When you know your audience, you can anticipate questions, and you can pick the most effective teaching methods and tools," said Eastlund. Eastlund's students seemed to all agree that the teaching style that is most effective is one that stresses learning through practical exercises and seeing the correct way to perform a task, rather than learning solely through reading and listening. When Eastlund made this point, nearly all of the patrolmen in his class nodded their heads in affirmation.

Eastlund's class was an example of what he referred to as "modified lecture." His class with the Iraqi

patrolmen consisted of a presentation by Eastlund combined with classroom discussion, and was driven by student questions and Eastlund prompting the students into sharing their ideas. "Student interaction is very important. Students learn from each other," said Eastlund.

Sgt. Major Saeodoon, a Sgt. Major in charge of the patrolmen attending the train the trainer course, agrees with Eastlund that the best way to learn a skill is a combination of discussion, demonstration, and practical exercises. "If you separate talking about a lesson from practicing a lesson, knowledge is not possible. Combining discussion with practice makes knowledge possible," said Saeodoon.



On Nov. 22, at Baghdad Patrol Headquarters while conducting the "train the trainer" course, Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund sits with his Iraqi Police students as his interpreter translates questions and comments from the class.

Based on his personal experience with American Special Forces trainers, Saeodoon believes American training doctrine has a positive influence on the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army. "One of the things that our Special Forces trainers emphasized was doing something

until you learned it. In the old days, you did it once and you were qualified; but what matters is practicing something until you get it right," said Saeodoon. At the end of any lesson, Saeodoon's American Special Forces Trainers expected Saeodoon and his

fellow Iraqi soldiers and policemen to know what was taught. Their American trainers' commitment to effective teaching left a deep impression on Saeodoon. "Their insistence on us understanding what they taught was very motivating. They taught us that today is today, and tomorrow is tomorrow. Be serious in your work, and don't depend on Insha' Allah, (God's Will)" said Saeodoon. ■

An Iraqi Police lieutenant in charge of instruction at the Baghdad Patrol headquarters takes attendance of Iraqi Police officers waiting to receive training Nov 22.



Iraq's "Baghdad Brigade" has new U.S. Military Partner



On 25 November, during the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the 93rd and 336th military police battalions, at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, in the International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq, Spc. Michael Lang and Pvt. Amy Grant, of the 591st Military Police Company, prepare the Colors for casing.

By 1st Lt. William Marquez
49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGHDAD, Iraq – On Nov. 25, at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, in the International Zone, the 336th Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, assumed authority from the 93rd Military Police battalion of the International Zone security mission. The 336th, an Army Reserve unit from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will assist the Iraqi Army's 56th Infantry Brigade with securing Iraq's center of government.

The International Zone (IZ), located in Central Baghdad, is where many of Iraq's national government buildings are located, along with

the United States Embassy. Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003, insurgents and terrorists attacked the International Zone using rockets, mortars, automatic weapons and suicide bombers. However, during the last year, the number of attacks significantly decreased.

On January 1, 2009, with the implementation of the Security Agreement between the United States and Iraq, Coalition Forces handed over responsibility for securing the International Zone to the Iraqi Army. Currently, Iraq's 56th Infantry Brigade is responsible for securing the IZ. The 56th is known as the Baghdad Brigade.

During the Transfer of Author-

ity ceremony between the 336th and 93rd, the commander of the 93rd Military Police Battalion, Lt. Col. Thomas Byrd, spoke about the importance of defending the IZ with the Iraqi Army. "The IZ is a primary focal point of the enemy. We must continue to successfully work with our Iraqi counterparts in defending this strategic and vital piece of Iraqi property," said Byrd.

According to Lt. Col. Byrd, the military police working with the Iraqi Army in the International Zone is the only operation that consists of a partnership between Army military police and the Iraqi Army. American military police usually work with the Iraqi Police, and the Iraqi Army usually works



On 25 November, at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, in the International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq, Lt. Col. Marc Garcia, commander of the 336th Military Police Battalion, Pittsburgh, PA, salutes the Colors during a Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the 336th and the 93rd Military Police Battalion.

with American armor and infantry units. Although Iraq's 56th Infantry Brigade did not have military police experience, Byrd was very impressed with his Iraqi Army partners. "The Iraqi Army made significant strides while we worked with them in the IZ. They were always open to suggestions on how to improve force protection. They are on the right path to providing security for their democracy," said Byrd.

The commander of the 336th Military Police Battalion, Lt. Col. Marc Garcia, made it clear to his soldiers and the Iraqi Army leaders at the transfer ceremony that he would work closely with the Iraqi Army, continuing the important relationship that the 93rd established with Iraq's Baghdad Brigade. "This is a zero defect mission. There is no room for error. We will continue to strengthen our relation-

ship with the Iraqi Security Forces protecting the IZ. The drawdown of forces will not affect us. We

cigars, drank chai tea, told jokes and discussed how to improve the security of Central Baghdad.



On 25 November, following the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the 336th and 93rd military police battalions, at an outdoor café in the International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq, from left to right, Lt. Col. Marc Garcia, commander of the 336th, Lt. Col. Thomas Byrd, commander of the 93rd, and Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, pays close attention to Col. Muthanna, commander of Iraq's 56th Infantry Brigade.

will help secure the IZ until we go home," said Garcia.

Following the transfer of authority ceremony, Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, and Col. Muthanna, deputy commander of Iraq's 56th Infantry Brigade, along with Lt. Col. Garcia and Lt. Col. Byrd, went to a nearby Iraqi café where they smoked



Bucca Iraq – Members of 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, 810th Military Police Company take a break from training to snap a photo. This squad continues to cultivate their working relationship with local Iraqi Police Stations. They have been working together for just four short months but have accomplished so much. They have not only conducted the necessary training but have also earned the respect of the local Iraqi Police. This is a critical piece of the Police Training and Transition mission here in Iraq. It is only once respect has been established, that the Iraqi Police Officers fully participate in training and begin to understand the importance of what they are learning.



Basra, Iraq – SSG Josh Misenhimer coordinates with the Security Team Leader for the British prior to movement. On 25 Nov 09, the 203rd MP BN Security Squad escorted the British Consulate General and her entourage to the Vocational Technical School and the Basra Palace as they conducted their key leader engagements. The Security Squad has supported the British on several of these missions and continues to develop an outstanding working relationship between our governments.

(U.S. Army Photo by SFC Chris Schur, 203rd MP Battalion, 49th MP Brigade, MND-S)



Diwanayah, Iraq – SGT Johnny Tillman, age 42, from Placerville, California (Zip 95667) is the Alpha Team Leader for 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, 543rd MP Company, 203rd MP Battalion, 49th MP Brigade. SGT Tillman is conducting over watch for Dagharah IP's while they conduct a random vehicle search to combat weapons trafficking. The focus was on Community Policing and improving relations with the local national population by making them feel more safe in their local area.

(U.S. Army Photo by SSG Danielle, Talton, 543rd Military Police Company)



MPs conduct police training in Al Huqna

(Story and photos by SGT Matt Scotten 384th MP Company)

Al Huqna, Iraq – Soldiers from 384th Military Police Company, stationed at FOB Sykes, visited here Oct. 21, 2009 to train local IPs in vehicle and personnel searching techniques.

"This was really a refresher course for these guys," said 1st Lt. Jenna M. Langvin, Bright, Ind. native and platoon leader, 1st Platoon, 384th Military Police Company. "We added to the searching skills they had already, giving them a few additional techniques to make them more proficient."

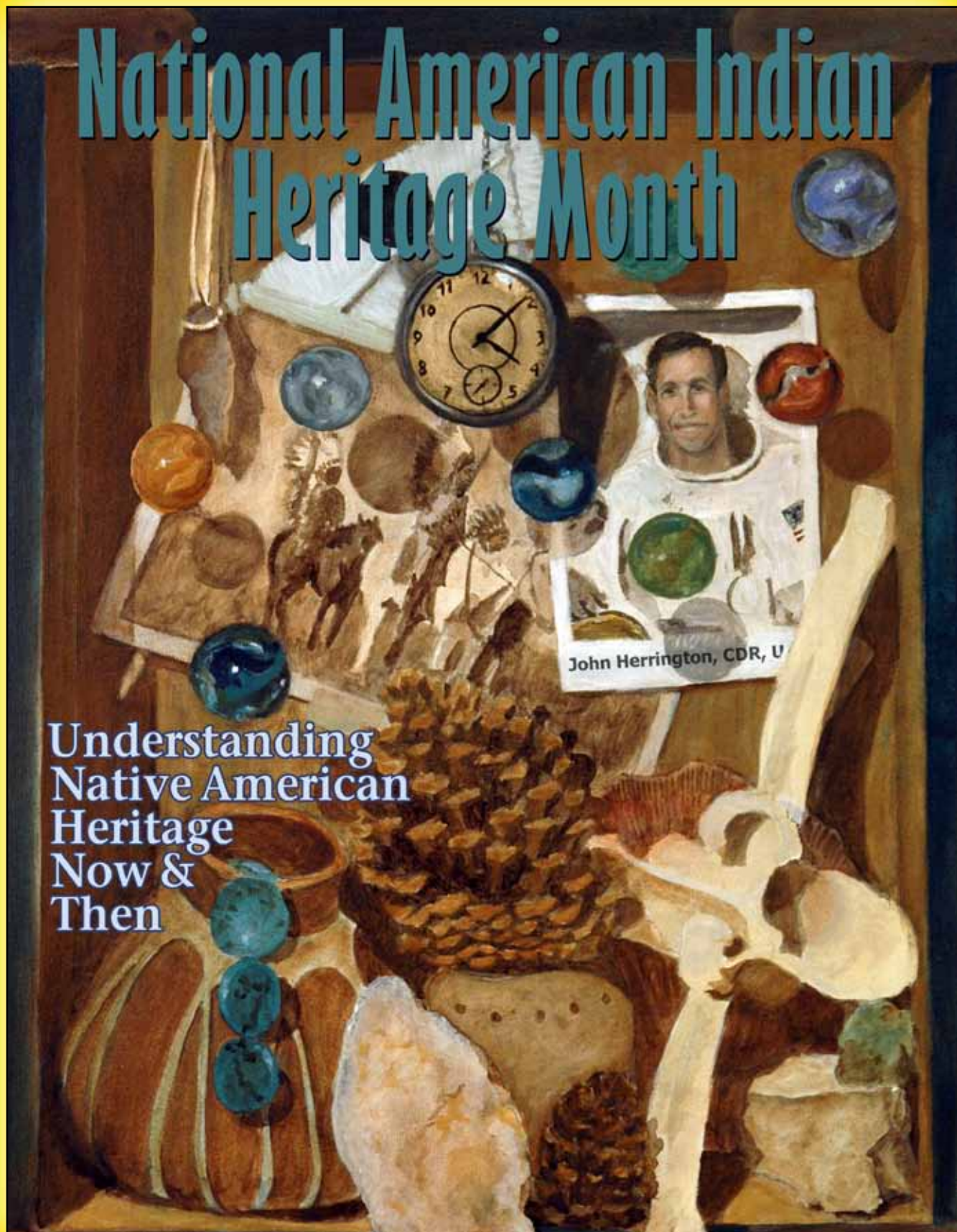
According to the Sgt. Kevin R. Lindsey, Huntington, Ind. native and team leader, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, 384th MP Co., some of the additional searching skills taught included searching compartments on vehicles that IP had not been searching prior to the class, as well as some personnel searching techniques that made searching safer for the IPs.

"We taught them how to keep someone off-balance while they are getting searched," said Sgt. Lindsey. "This makes searching personnel safer for all involved. It was some good training."

National American Indian Heritage Month

Understanding
Native American
Heritage
Now &
Then

John Herrington, CDR, U



Spirit of giving

Kentucky Guardsmen spread holiday cheer

By Sgt. Fernando Ochoa

222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment

With the Christmas season soon upon us, the spirit of giving was shown in Baghdad Nov. 16 by a personal security detail with the National Guard's 301st Chemical Company from Maysville, Ky. With their own funds, the 301st's soldiers delivered food, toys and clothes to the Dar Al Salem widow's camp in the Kadhimiya District of Baghdad.

The primary mission of the 301st is PSD for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), but on this day they went above and beyond the call of duty to carry out a humanitarian mission. They went into the Red Zone to deliver much needed supplies to the less fortunate.



Staff Sgt. Travis Dugan, 301st Chemical Company, shakes hands with each of the dozens of children who came to receive clothing, food and toys. *Photos by Sgt. Fernando Ochoa, 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment*



Spc. John Wayne Hall, 301st Chemical Company, holds one of the dozens of children who received humanitarian aid at the Dar Al Salem widow's camp.

"I have a bittersweet feeling about this camp and I wish circumstances like these didn't exist," said Staff Sgt. Travis Dugan, 34, from Maysville, Ky. "I just feel grateful that I can bring a smile to these deserving faces."

The Dar Al Salem widow's camp is refuge to as many as 150 families. Established more than two years ago, it takes in women and children of soldiers and police officers who have been killed or kidnapped. "I feel like I'm a small part of something bigger," said Staff Sgt. Jonathon Smith, 31, convoy commander, from Flemingsburg, Ky. "Maybe if everyone does their part, then we may be able to accomplish our mission. I hope the Iraqis use our example to do their part too," Smith said.

As a convoy of MRAPs pulled into the small complex of prefabricated housing units, the children came running up to the soldiers. With smiles on their faces, laughs and giggles filled the air with excitement. The crowd of children began to make lines in anticipation of the gifts that had arrived. Soldiers like Spc. John Wayne Hall began to greet the children, showing them attention and compassion, and



Children from the Dar Al Salem widow's camp line up to receive clothing, toys and food from the 301st Chemical Company, Kentucky Army National Guard.

trying to help as much as he could.

"Once we realized that we were coming, we gathered up everything we could," Hall said. "When we help these people we help ourselves and if we have to give of ourselves, then count me in."

When it came time to hand out the gifts, a surge of children came forward and began grabbing and carrying away the toys, clothing and food. The sparse conditions in this refugee camp have made its inhabitants weary. At times, there is no water and electricity, and many of the widows have no income at all.

"When I see these kids and how they have to struggle, I try not to get emotional," said Spc. Kelly Goode, 39, from Louisville, Ky. "I have kids at home and when I look into these children's eyes I see my own."

Soccer balls were the hot item. In fact, Staff Sgt. Smith held one until the end so that he could give it to the winner of a relay race —and the winner of the race had the biggest smile of all. The mission was a success and

as the MRAP convoy pulled away, the soldiers of the 301st felt a sense of accomplishment.

They hope to have more missions like this one.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Smith, a member of the 301st Chemical Company's PSD team, uses his interpreter to talk with a Dar Al Salem elder

Photos by Sgt. Fernando Ochoa, 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment

49th Military Police Brigade Heroes



Hero of the week. Being part of the Quick Reaction Force for the City of Basra, Specialist Croteau exhibits pride in all his duties and takes his position as the driver for his team very seriously. "I was brought up to work hard and taught at an early age that if you are going to do something, you might as well do it right the first time."



Heroes of the week, A1C (E-3) Jessen, Christa, Sra (E-4) Fuentes, Danielle, and SrA Tiffany Le. A1C Jessen and SrA Fuentes are part of the combat medical staff and SrA Le is the only dedicated S-1 assigned to the unit; all of which are ultimately assigned to the Detachment 2, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. These young airmen devoted over 27 man-hours to inspire esprit-de-corps for the entire unit. They designed, developed, sketched and finally painted a Det 2 mural, located on the T-wall in front of the Tactical Operations Center, which will now and forever carry on the legacy of one of only two Air Force Police Transition Teams in Baghdad, Iraq. All three individuals worked long days in their respective positions to just return in the evenings and devote their time-off to create a wall painting that could be viewed by current and future visitors to the organization.



Over the past three months while working the Entry Control Point's (ECP) surrounding the International Zone, Baghdad, there has been many up's and down's. The requirement for females Soldiers at several ECP's can complicate the scheduling process. The company allocated female soldiers from different Headquarters sections and assigned them to work in a Military Police Capacity. SPC JoeyAnn Schatschabel, a mechanic by trait, was assigned to 3rd platoon, 1st squad to augment the SECFOR mission due to a lack of females in the unit in order to support the search and holding areas of the ECP's #5 and #3. She immediately became a quick to learner, is always eager to volunteer, and spent her spare time learning the MP functions in a deployed environment. Her unwavering dedication to her platoon and the unit has been nothing short of superb. She has set the example of a mission focused Solider, putting the job at hand ahead of her personal time promoting self-improvement. Without SPC Schatschabel's support and motivation this would be a difficult platoon mission to accomplish. For these actions and dedication to mission accomplishment, SPC Schatschabel is strongly recommended and elected as the 93rd MP Battalion's "War Eagle of The Week".



(LEFT), Sgt. Ellis and Private 1st Class Harrod were honored to receive a "thank you" visit from two contractors that were involved in a fatality traffic accident in the Kirkuk province, in which Sgt. Ellis's squad conducted the CASEVAC to get the two British Coalition Forces contractors the medical attention they needed at FOB Warrior EMEDS. Private 1st Class Harrod has been the primary "go to" MP for first aid knowledge within 2nd PLT, 218th MP Company, and he did not hesitate to put his expertise into action when 2/2/218 MP acted as the first responders to the scene providing life saving techniques he learned as a civilian. Private 1st Class Harrod's efforts included stopping bleeding of a extremity, controlling shock, and evaluating a casualty during transportation; at which time one of the contractors was fading in and out of consciousness. Every member of the two units involved recognized the part each played, as the rest of the contractors remained behind to complete the traffic report. The visit acknowledged the shared values that different Coalition units strive to uphold and have created a lasting bond between all the individuals involved.

From the Brigade JAG

Last month we focused on the fact that approximately one fourth, or 25%, of the investigations and military justice matters in our brigade involved allegations of inappropriate relationships, or sexual misconduct. As you recall, many of those cases are pending courts-martial, or other actions. This month we publish the results of the disciplinary actions taken in the 49th Military Police Brigade in Iraq since the transfer of authority on 13 October 2009.



MRAP SAFETY

MRAP vehicles present higher profiles & higher balance points compared to vehicles that most Soldiers are accustomed to operating MRAP vehicle crews must constantly adjust their focus on:



- Changes in roadways (improved / unimproved)
- Canal roads
- Slopes / Shoulders / Soil composition
- Effects of weather (severely wet or severely dry)
- Load vehicle to keep the center of gravity low.