

SENTINELS

VOL I, ISSUE III

49th Military Police Brigade

JAN 10, 2010



AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES FORCES

FROM IRAQ AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES DURING THEIR TEMPORARY PRESENCE IN IRAQ. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ, REFERRED TO HEREFTER AS “THE PARTIES”: RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF: STRENGTHENING THEIR JOINT SECURITY, CONTRIBUTING TO WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY, COMBATING TERRORISM IN IRAQ, AND CO-OPERATING IN THE SECURITY AND DEFENSE SPHERES, THEREBY DETERRING AGGRESSION AND THREATS AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY, SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF IRAQ AND AGAINST ITS DEMOCRATIC, FEDERAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM; AFFIRMING THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS BASED ON FULL RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH OF THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER; OUT OF DESIRE TO REACH A COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT STRENGTHENS COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM; WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS TERRITORY, WATERS, AND AIRSPACE; AND PURSUANT TO JOINT UNDERTAKINGS AS TWO SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT, AND COEQUAL COUNTRIES; HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING: THIS AGREEMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS THAT REGULATE THE TEMPORARY PRESENCE, ACTIVITIES, AND WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES FROM IRAQ. WHILE CONDUCTING MILITARY OPERATIONS PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, IT IS THE DUTY OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES AND OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT TO RESPECT IRAQI LAWS, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND CONVENTIONS AND TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIVITIES THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THIS AGREEMENT. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THIS PURPOSE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES AND OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT, THE UNITED STATES FORCES MAY NOT TRANSFER ANY PERSON INTO OR OUT OF IRAQ ON VEHICLES, VESSELS, OR AIRCRAFT COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT UNLESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE IRAQI LAWS AND REGULATIONS, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS AS MAY BE AGREED TO BY THE GOVERNMENT

Our 2010 plan: Progression

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th MP Brigade Commander

2010 will be an important year for the Brigade and all of our assigned battalions supporting Iraqi partnerships. MNC-I and MNF-I have merged into a single command, United States Forces-Iraq. Multi-National Divisions (MNDs) are now referred to as United States Divisions (USDs). The force signature will begin to draw down with greater momentum in May 2010.

But despite these adjustments and the increase in turbulence we are likely to experience, there are some enduring principles I would like to highlight:

-- Your assignment, though more challenging, is just as important our success in Iraq.

-- The premium on your professionalism is as high as ever.

-- We must continue to let the Iraqis drive what we do.

-- We must add value to the maneuver commander.

-- We must take calculated combat risk and mitigate all safety risk.

The fact is, American forces are drawing down significantly in 2010. This makes your assignment to Iraq extremely challenging. Days might not go by as quickly. But you must understand that every Soldier in this Brigade, in every MOS, is serving a vital purpose to the mission.

As a Brigadier General, I am no more important than the mechanic in the motor pool, or the supply clerk in the arms room. Each of us has a role in our larger mission. We must all realize the Army is an organization that succeeds due to the efforts of its collective parts, not because of one or two leaders.

"... This is the greatest contribution we can make to an independent Iraq. Promote initiative everywhere you go. Sometimes the most valuable assistance we can provide to the Iraqis is to simply stay out of their way ..."

Know this each minute while you serve in Iraq: I need each Soldier's best effort and most positive attitude until you are released from active duty. To use a business parlance, we must "close the deal" on the wonderful work, strong efforts and great sacrifice of our predecessors. Whether or not we make a difference while we are here is up to you.

Safety:

We are losing more Soldiers due to accidents and illness than combat. It is human nature to think that accidents will happen to the other guy; but everyone is vulnerable when we don't take proper risk mitigation. Your behavior toward safety precautions is an issue of professionalism.

A professional contributes to safety while

tackling his or her work on any given day. This requires an incredible amount of discipline and commitment, but I know each Soldier wants to return home healthy and safe.

So I ask each of you to wear your seat belt, wear your protective equipment, insure



Security Forces (ISF) needs to be driven by the Iraqis.

This is the greatest contribution we can make to an independent Iraq. Promote initiative everywhere you go. Sometimes the most valuable assistance we can provide to the Iraqis is to simply stay out of their way. This is counterintuitive to a competent U.S. Soldier, so this approach requires great restraint.

But at this point in the mission, it is central to our IP partnerships. Ask questions and find ways to assist our partners with the training they want and need.

Before 2001, an MP's primary function on the battlefield was to secure the Corps Commander's rear area of operations to insure

... Continued on PAGE 5 ...

Video Contest

The second annual Peer to Peer Video Contest, sponsored by the US Army Combat Readiness Safety Center, has begun. The Army wide competition encourages Soldiers to create safety videos. Winners will receive up to \$2,000. For more information, log onto: <https://safety.army.mil/peertopeer>

Death March

The 21st annual Bataan Memorial Death March will be held March 21 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. This event memorializes those who died in the tragic 1942 event in the Philippines. Registration is open. Log onto www.bataanmarch.com for more information.

Freedom Award

National Guardsmen and Army Reservists are encouraged to nominate their civilian employers for the Employer Support Freedom Award sponsored by the Secretary of Defense. The honor goes to businesses that have provided exceptional support. Go to www.freedomaward.mil.

Say it Loud

"If they can make penicillin out of mouldy bread, they can sure make something out of you."

-- Muhammad Ali

Wild Guesses

What does man love more than life? Fear more than death or mortal strife? What do the poor have, what the rich require, and what contented men desire? What does the miser spend, the spendthrift save, and all men carry to their graves?

ANSWER: Nothing.

SENTINELS

COMMANDER, 49th MP BDE
Brig. Gen. Donald Currier

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, 49th MP BDE
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, 49th MP BDE
1st Lt. William Marquez

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC
Sgt. Kenneth Bince

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
Spc. Eddie Siguenza

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

SENTINELS is the product of the 49th Military Police Brigade for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2009-2010. It is produced for personnel of the 49th MP BDE and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of SENTINELS are not necessarily the official views of the US government, the Department of the Army, or any part of Multinational Forces, Iraq.

In this issue:



4

Clue Collectors

Iraqi law enforcers train under the watchful eyes of the 591st Military Police Company and civilian instructors at Camp Taqaddum,



10

Securing Iraq

The 810th Military Police Company works diligently to secure southern Iraq. The unit focuses on strengthening relations with the local police and community.



12

Fight Night

A pair of mixed martial arts veterans will return to the octagon. Former Ultimate Fighting Championship heavy-weight champion Randy Couture meets Hall of Famer Mark Coleman.



12

The BIG Show

It's playoff time in the National Football League. In less than three weeks, the final two squads will square off in Super Bowl XLIV in Miami. The fan favorites pick the Dallas Cowboys to win it all, but there's more to see.



3

Martin Luther King Day

Every third Monday of January is honored to reflect a brave man who fought for human rights.



1

Tricare update

Whether you're activated for federal duty or non-activated, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers can receive Tricare Dental services abroad and at home.

F E A T U R E S



The Brigade: Year-round service

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles
49th MP Brigade Command Sergeant Major

reflected in the excellent job that I witnessed of these Soldiers on the front line.

I also had the opportunity to visit and speak to the Airmen of Det 2-732nd Expeditionary Security Forces. These Airmen are departing our ranks very soon and I was amazed during my last visit that they were still very active and RIPing with their counterparts. As you REFRAD home and back to a much better environment, I challenge you to keep your Airmen safe and continue to train. I also hope you will keep us in memory as we continue to serve here in Iraq. We will be thinking of you and your imminent reunion with your loved ones. Congratulations on a great mission. We wish you the best and safe travels.

For the 93rd Military Police Battalion, we also wish you safe travels and best wishes in all that you do. Most of you will return home to Fort Bliss and reset for whatever comes next. I would like to mention that CSM Ripplemeyer was selected as the incoming Brigade CSM for the 42nd Military Police Brigade at Fort. Lewis WA. I know it is bitter-sweet when you leave a unit that you put so much into. Congratulations in your selection and best wishes to your Soldiers, NCO's, and officers that carry on. We will miss all of you.

For our brothers and sisters in the 151st Military Police Battalion, I personally have not had the pleasure of touring your Area of Operations (AO), however, I know you have had some very significant challenges with your battle space and evolving Responsible Draw down of Forces, (RDoF). Do not become discouraged. Grow from this experience. The battle space is changing and you are a vital piece of the puzzle. More so, and like I stated above, you are becoming a piece of history in turning these bases back to the Iraqis. Our mission will always change and we need to stay flexible in our skill sets and embrace this change.

For those of you recently moving into the 203rd Military Police Battalions sphere

"Standards are your benchmark. Dignity and Respect are your foundations."

of influence, welcome! The 810th and the 178th have all but departed and there are new players at bat. Keep the standard and focus. You have a full six months to go and this is not a sprint. It is a marathon and you need to pace yourself. STANDARDS are your benchmark. DIGNITY and RESPECT are your foundation. Never stray from these Core Values and Warrior Ethos. Foremost, welcome to the Sentinel family and I will see you in the near future.

For the 317th Military Police Battalion, I was supposed to arrive as a surprise guest visitor during the Soldier/ NCO of the Quarter last week. Unfortunately, military air failed and I was not able to attend. CSM Dorsey contacted me and was very excited about the level of performance of his Warriors that we conversed for quite a while. CSM Dorsey conveyed to me that his Warriors are going to smoke my Solider\NCO of the Quarter board. Congratulations to everyone that competed on this board and thank you for your commitment while deployed. It says volumes that you were willing to perform your war time mission and still find time to study and openly compete against your peers. AWESOME JOB! I wish you the best of luck in January.

Last but not least, the HHC 49th Military Police Brigade. Another month down and we're still counting. I have participated in a couple of the base runs and personally been challenged by the Soldiers of the HHC. Great job. These runs are not mandatory and when I see the Soldiers volunteer their free time it tells me that there is a sense of Esprit de Corps. I would challenge you to continue to run and inspire your subordinates to come out and enjoy their comrades. If you have not come out to witness the run, you might

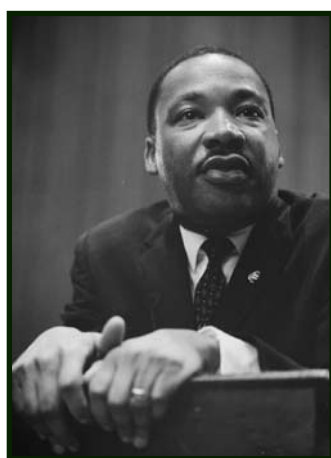
want to keep your eye on SPC Max Valdarama. He is clearly a land shark when it comes to running. Please forgive me if I miss quote this, but SPC Valdarama ran the 3.1 miles in under 23 minutes! That's kicking butt, and great job. Now the rest of you know what the mark is.

I also would like to publicly acknowledge the Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee (MWR). Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald, Sgt. Alexandra Trivison, and Sgt. Laurel Benghauser work tirelessly and above and beyond on their commitment to creating truly spectacular Christmas and holiday events for the HHC! Kudos to our guests that roasted the pig and everyone in the PSD who assisted with the decorations and basic set up and tear down. I was a little concerned about Santa, but those elves were awesome! Our Public Affairs Office, as usual, was there to capture everyone in their splendor. Spc. Eddie Siguenza and Sgt. Kenneth Bince developed a remarkable video for the families to enjoy and laugh at later. To all, thank you for your time and energy in making this a most enjoyable holiday season away from home.

For those Sentinels who are either Army Reserve or National Guard, I strongly encourage you to excel in your level of physical fitness, mental fitness, and spiritual fitness. This is absolutely paramount to you and I ask that you consider the Soldiers that you lead in your daily duties. NCOs, this has been reaffirmed over the last couple of months and we have conducted a safety stand down at the Team and Squad Leader level empowering you to stave off minor and major incident, that degrade the force.

In closing, we still have a long way to go. For those of you that have not been on leave yet, I encourage you to remember you're a Military Police member of a tried and true tradition of pride and honor. Exemplify that honor in all that you do. Live the NCO Creed and display the Warrior Ethos.

Happy New Year!



Federal observance: Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a United States holiday marking the birthdate of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King's birthday, Jan. 15. It is one of four United States federal holidays to commemorate an individual person.

King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which success-

fully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. He was assassinated in 1968.

The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination. Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed in 1986. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was

officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was founded as a holiday promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations. After King's death, United States Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan) introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday.

The bill first came to a vote in

the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. However, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage. Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive, and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to longstanding tradition (King had never held public office).



HEROES OF THE WEEK (See Page 8) is a program led by the 49th Military Police Brigade command sergeant major. All units are encouraged to nominate a Soldier for his/her outstanding accomplishment, sacrifice and dedication to duty. Contact your chain of command for further information.





Clue COLLECTORS



591st trains Iraqi law enforcers on evidence gathering

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

TAQQADUM, Iraq – More than a dozen Iraqi law enforcers earned US recognition for successfully completing a four-day Crime Scene Investigation program sponsored by the 591st Military Police Company, 151st Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade.

The Iraqi officers, representing three distinguished organizations, earned Army certificates and kudos from 591st instructors and the 49th's commander, Brig. Gen. Donald Currier. They completed a series of training that included classroom and field work in evidence collection.

"We focused on crime scene processing. We gave them scenarios and tools and let them do their thing," said Staff Sgt. Ismael Leon, 591st instructor.

The first of four days set the tone for this unique training. The Iraqi participants engaged in a question-and-answer session with a prestigious Iraqi judge, who provided invaluable suggestions on what adjudicators like to see in criminal cases.

"That was really impressive. That doesn't happen a lot when a judge speaks to detectives," said Capt. Violeta Sifuentes, 591st company commander. "There was really good back-and-forth communication. The judge talked about forensics and crime scenes, things



US Army photo/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

Iraqi law enforcers, under the tutelage of the 591st Military Police Company from Fort Bliss, Texas, scan for evidence and clues after a car was detonated on purpose during the last of a four-day training session at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq.

591ST MP CO., Texas

that are important to a case, things judges like to see."

The 591st, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, opened this training to various law enforcement sectors in this Iraqi region. Close to 20 officers responded. They represented the National Iraqi Information Agency, Criminal Investigation Division and

Counter-Terrorism Unit. They're experienced officers but still gained valuable training the 591st provided.

Another highlight took the participants outdoors to a secluded site. There, they united to investigate a vehicle blown up purposely.

"The goal is to have them become proficient in the collection of evidence," said Capt. Sifuentes. "Properly collecting and handling evidence can lead to the conviction of suspects in a criminal case."

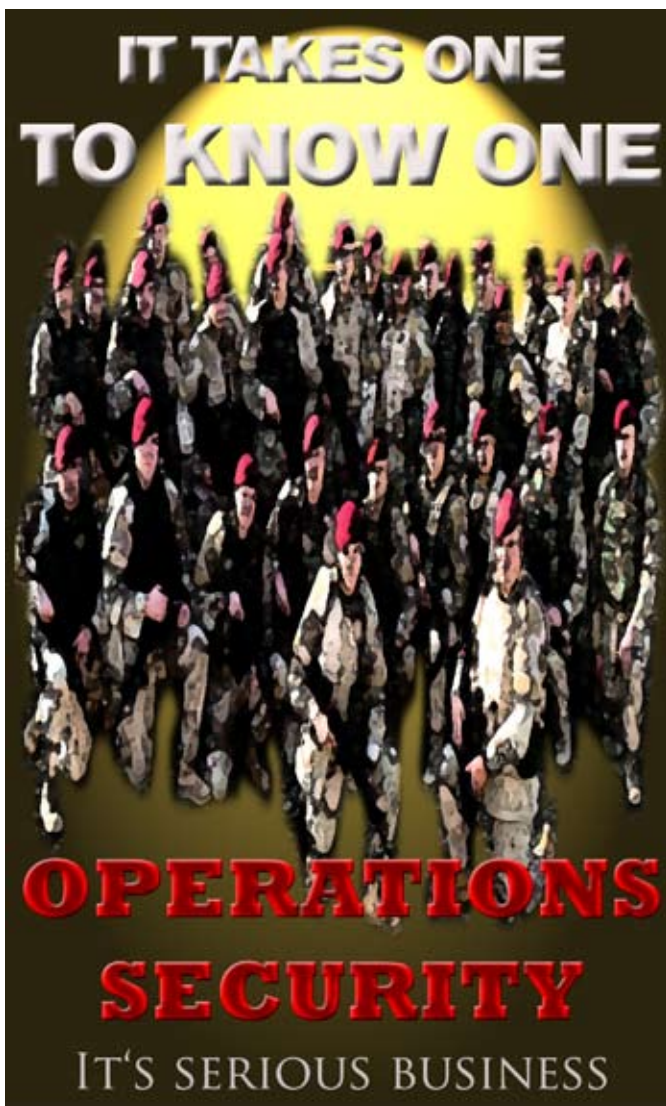
"Things like getting fingerprints, that's a big thing as far as evidence," added Staff Sgt. Leon. "Fingerprints make it easier to solve cases. It's really important in getting cases solved."

Leon led instructions on properly "booking" suspects. He taught the class on properly getting suspects to place their fingerprints onto sheets of paper. "It looked easy at first, but then when they tried it, they found it wasn't as easy as it seems," said Leon.

The training derives from crime scene investigation (CSI) policies. CSI is a systematic search of a secured location. Once secured, evidence can be collected. And once evidence is properly processed, it can be used to prosecute and/or convict suspects of crimes.

"What we wanted the most was to get them to understand they have to work as a team," added Capt. Sifuentes. "And they have to learn there are different techniques of collecting evidence. There's also officer safety that they need to keep in mind."

The training concluded with a graduation ceremony honored by Gen. Currier's presence. Currier assisted in handing out certificates.



810th in action

BASRA, Iraq – Members of 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, 810th Military Police Company pose for a picture with the leadership at an Iraqi Police Battalion. After just a few short months these police officers have built a respect for one another and their respective cultures through key leader meetings and collective training efforts. The desired result is to stabilize and secure Iraq as U.S. troops continue to withdraw.

In this photo from left to right front row: Cpl. Bradley Stevens, Sgt. William Wilrycx, Spc. Edward Levine, Spc. Candice Gaskins, Spc. Sean Penton, Staff Sgt. Alina Kennedy, Staff Sgt. Michael Burke, Staff Sgt. Rebekah Gray, Iraqi Police Advisor Arlie Slack, Spc. Brett Volin, Sgt. Nicholas Perez, Specialist Anthony Fortis, and Spc. Alexander Aguilar.

(U.S. Army Photo/STAFF SGT. ALINA KENNEDY)



ARMY STRONG.

Commitment.
Dedication.
Courage.

Need not say more.

49th Military Police Brigade

Making a difference
in

2010



2010: Progression

... Continued from Page 2 ...
the steady flow of men and material. Today, we find ourselves operating within a layered battlefield involving Combat, Combat Support, and Combat Service Support units performing asymmetric operations.

Indeed, this crowded real estate presents multiple and complex challenges. But make no mistake, this is a maneuver Army and it is incumbent on us as Military Police to coordinate our efforts with the supported maneuver commander.

This is not to say we are less important than maneuver units. It simply means tact, discipline and finesse is the order of the day. Whenever I meet with a division or assistant division commander, my goal is to ensure they understand the capabilities of our Military Police formations.

Even more important is the ability to convey our support of their operational priorities. Their success is our success and vice versa. The Military Police branch continues

to struggle with this concept and in the final analysis our relevance is reduced. So I implore each of you to add value to your supported maneuver commander. It is how I gauge my subordinate commanders' success.

The highlight of my service as a brigade commander is visiting Soldiers in the field. Inevitably I learn something about our units, our Soldiers and our mission that is new to me.

I need to hear the bad news with the good, though. My experience is that senior leaders always think morale is better than the true climate of a unit. I implore you to constructively express concerns about your unit's strengths and weaknesses to your chain of command and to me personally when I visit your unit. I have an open door policy and I have an Inspector General.

It is only through transparent feedback that adjustments can be made to improve Soldier job satisfaction, and most importantly, improved unit performance.

Command changes

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Brig. Gen. Colleen McGuire was recently selected as provost marshal, United States Army. Gen. McGuire previously held the position of director, Army Suicide Prevention Task Force.

As the provost marshal, Gen. McGuire is in charge of the Army military police.

Gen. McGuire is the only female promoted to the general grade from the Military Police Corps.

Also, Maj. Gen. David Quantock, former deputy commanding general of Multinational Forces-Iraq Detainee Operations and commanding general of Task Force 134, was promoted to his present rank. Gen. Quantock is reassigned as commanding general, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He previously held the position of commandant, US Army Military Police School and Regiment, at Fort Leonard Wood.



BRIG. GEN.
COLLEEN MCGUIRE

In the Oct. 19 edition of the Army Times, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced in mid-October that President Obama made Gen. Quantock's nomination to his present title.

Under Gen. Quantock, the US military closed Camp Bucca, one of the largest prisons in Iraq, last September.

MAJ. GEN.
DAVID QUANTOCK



DIWANIYAH, Iraq -- Sgt. Michael Flores, a platoon medic, gives Iraqi Police (IP) a first aid class during a Coalition Forces (CF) visit to the Diwaniyah Iraqi Highway Patrol station. Sgt. Flores prepared a training event in which IP practiced different first aid techniques on each other under the supervision of CF. These events give Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and CF the opportunity to cross train and develop relationships. Another function of these visits is to allow the leadership of ISF and CF to discuss key issues relating to the security of Iraq.

543rd Military Police Company



Members of 3rd Platoon are pictured during a CIDF mission within the Ad Diwaniyah area of operation. The Soldiers were responding to intelligence information on a possible rocket site, aimed at FOB Echo. On such missions Coalition Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces will cooperate in searching the vast area thoroughly, gathering as much evidence as possible and interviewing local nationals. Sgt. Andrew Burgett, was the mission leader in this CIDF operation. He successfully faced the challenges of safely moving his Soldiers to the target area, establishing tight security and cooperating with numerous Iraqi counterparts while simultaneously conducting a safe dismounted search IOT locate the possible threat. Sgt. Burgett is the 3rd squad leader for 3rd platoon. The Soldiers pictured are Sgt Burgett, Staff Sgt. Matthew Olson and 1st Lt. Danny Janssen. The Soldiers are depicted searching a rural residence for any evidence of ordnance within the targeted area.



GHAMMAS, Iraq -- Sgt. Mashburn, 42, from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is assigned as Alpha Team Leader, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon. Sgt. Mashburn is discussing checkpoint security, upcoming elections and Iraqi/US working relations with Ghammas IP while conducting weapons trafficking interdiction. The focus was on community policing, improving relations with the local police and ways to improve the overall security of the area.



DIWANIYAH, Iraq -- Sgt. Donaldson, a squad leader assigned to 1st Platoon, speaks with a tribal leader during a recent joint patrol conducted with Iraqi Police (IP) in south-eastern Qadisiyah Province. These patrols help give Iraqi civilians the opportunity to see Coalition Forces (CF) and IP working together to provide security. They also help to give Iraqi civilians confidence in the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). First platoon has conducted numerous joint patrols with IP through the tribal areas of the province.

OPSEC

I heard him.

I listened to everything.

I heard him laugh.

I heard him joke.

I heard where he's going.

I waited.

I killed him.

I'm laughing now.

And now I'm listening to you.

OPERATIONAL SECURITY. It's serious business.

REAL - TO - REEL

Around the 49th Military Police Brigade ...

Photo Contributions by:
SPC FRANCES RIVERA
 810th Military Police Company

SPC JUSTIN A. WALKER
 543rd Military Police Company

SPC JUSTIN GRAY
 563rd Military Police Company

SFC CHRIS SCHUR
 203rd Military Police Battalion

STAFF SGT JEFF PARKER
 57th Military Police Company

SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
 49th Military Police Brigade

SPC ZACHARY ROBISON
 203rd Military Police Battalion

SPC DAVID CLOER
 543rd Military Police Company

SPC JASON FOX
 563rd Military Police Company

SPC ROBERT FRANZEN
 543rd Military Police Company

BUCCA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Aaron Olson, from Cape Coral, Florida, has been an example for other Soldiers when it comes to rapport building in Iraq. Building a relationship with Iraqi Security Forces has been an essential part of the success of 810th Military Police Company in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Olson is shown after training with two Iraqi Police Officers from a local Police Station.

FOB ECHO, Iraq– Sgt. Dustin M. Ford, a native of Rockford, OH, is conducting a Key Leader Engagement (KLE) with COL Assam, the Dean at the Diwaniyah Police Academy. Sgt. Ford has conducted numerous KLE, check point and terrain denial missions in the community surrounding FOB ECHO. Sgt. Ford is a Team Leader assigned to 2nd Platoon, 543rd Military Police Company.

Demonstrating proper evidence collection to Iraq law enforcers is Spc. Christina Jones of the 591st Military Police Company, during a four-day training session sponsored by the 591st at Camp Taqqadum, Iraq.

BABIL, Iraq– Soldiers of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, 563rd Military Police Company stop at a local market place during an Area Security Patrol to foster relations with the local Iraqi residents. Soldiers are Spc. Stephanie Laney from Prescott, Arizona, Sgt. Katheryne Hoover from Blacksburg, Virginia, and Sgt. Justin Tibbett from Hutchinson, Kansas.

BASRA, Iraq – Lt. Col. Sami, Deputy Assistant to the Director of Intelligence for Basra; Capt. Han, 203rd Military Police Battalion S-2 and Sam, 203rd interpreter, discuss individuals identified on the high value target list. Last month the 203rd's Police Transition Team and S-2 members conducted a key leader engagement with Brig. Gen. Ahmer, Director of Intelligence, Lt. Col. Sami and Lt. Col. Khalid to establish a partnership to exchange intelligence information regarding targets in the Basra Province. The high value target list was one of the topics of discussion during the groups visit.

COS GARY OWEN, Iraq –Members of 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 57th Military Police Company, and U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Division personnel, instruct Iraqi EOD from the Maysan Provincial EOD Headquarters on Improvised Explosive Device awareness. Pictured are Staff Sgt. Lee, USAF EOD; John, USAF EOD Interpreter; Tech. Sgt. Daley, USAF EOD; and Staff Sgt. Farrow, 2nd Squad Leader, 57th.

BASRA, Iraq – Members of the 203rd Military Police Battalion maintenance shop receive a briefing from the mechanics in the motor pool of the District Police Headquarters in Basra. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Victor Slaten (battalion motor officer), Sgt. 1st Class Robby Mays (battalion maintenance NCO) and Sgt. Roger Miller (HHD Motor Sergeant) were members of the official party. The purpose of the mission was for coalition maintenance personnel to observe the vehicle maintenance procedures in order to determine if any assistance could be provided.

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Sgt. Baumgratz, from Allentown, Pa., a team leader assigned to 1st Platoon, 543rd Military Police Company, hands out a tip card to a local national in the town of Sudayr. These flyers are developed by the PSYOPS team on FOB Echo and contain messages in Arabic that promote peace, stability, and cooperation with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). They also have a hotline number that will connect the caller anonymously with the Provincial Joint Communication Center (PJCC). The PJCC will then consolidate and interpret this information and sent it to the Iraqi Police Provincial Headquarters. Since the Task Force began handing out these tip cards to the local civilians three months ago, calls to the tip line have quadrupled. These tip cards have helped Iraqi civilians take responsibility for their own security and help to create peace.

AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Members of 543rd Military Police Company are in the process of training and developing Iraqi Military Police Soldiers of the 8th Iraqi Army Division, stationed in Diwaniyah. The platoon has been providing classes in MP mission essential tasks and skills, ranging from personnel and vehicle searches to riot control, non-lethal weapon systems and room clearing procedures. The Soldier pictured here is Spc. Derek Gregory who was a main instructor for room clearing classes.

ISKAN, Iraq– Members of the 563rd Military Police Company conduct joint check point inspections on MSR Tampa with the Al Samud Highway Patrol. Shown are Staff Sgt. Daniel Stack, from Lansing, Michigan, 2nd Lt. Melissa Hutchinson, from Gainesville, Florida, and Sgt. William Smith, from Killeen, Texas.

BAGHDAD -- Spc. Gurley of the 229th Military Police Company checks traffic while on a Baghdad mission.

BAGHDAD -- Pfc. Thomas of the 229th Military Police Company peers out of the turret of his Mine Resistant Armor Protected (MRAP) vehicle while on an escort mission in downtown Baghdad.

UPARS!

Unit Public Affairs Representatives!
 Contact 1st. Lt. William Marquez,
 49th MP Brigade Public Affairs Officer,
 to get your photos on our next issue!
 NPIR 847-2814
 william.marquez@mnd-b.army.mil

Going home

93rd Military Police Battalion completes year-long mission



US Army photo/SGT KENNETH BINCE

Members of the 93rd Military Police Battalion stand next to Truvy, the unit's therapy dog, after she was honored an Army Achievement Medal during the End of Tour Awards Ceremony at Camp Liberty. Shown are Command Sgt. Maj. Dawn Rippelmeyer, the 93rd command sergeant major, Lt. Col. Thomas H. Byrd, 93rd commander, Sgt. Tian Smith, 93rd chaplain assistant and Truvy's handler, Staff Sgt. Truvy, 93rd Therapy Dog, Capt. Daniel Gonzales, 93rd headquarters-headquarters detachment commander, Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Fonseca, 93rd first sergeant.

By SGT KENNETH BINCE

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – More than 100 Soldiers from the Headquarters Detachment, 93rd Military Police Battalion participated in an end of tour awards ceremony for the soon departing MP unit at the 1st Cavalry Division Chapel Dec. 23.

The Fort Bliss, Texas, unit deployed early February in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the original mission of Police Transition Team training.

Sgt. 1st Class Josephine Thomas, 93rd supply non-commissioned officer, narrated the hour-long ceremony. Thomas introduced Capt. Michael Ferguson, 93rd chaplain, who gave the event's invocation.

The next Soldier to speak was HHD commander Capt. Daniel Gonzales, who, after a short speech, passed the podium to the 93rd commander, Lt. Col. Thomas H. Byrd.

Byrd highlighted the accomplishments and successes of the unit and its subordinate commands.

But before the commander elaborated, he said "It's imperative to pause for a moment and realize the legacy of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, those who couldn't be with us today. In honor of their legacy I'd like a moment of silence."



Lt. Col. Thomas H. Byrd addresses Soldiers from the Fort Bliss based unit during their End of Tour awards ceremony.

93rd Military Police Battalion commander Lt. Col. Thomas H. Byrd highlights the accomplishments of his battalion during the End of Tour awards ceremony at the 1st Armored Cavalry Division Chapel, Camp Liberty. The Fort Bliss, Texas based unit was responsible for more than 90 percent of 1st Cavalry Division's area of operation during its Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

93RD MP BN., Texas

After the moment of silence Byrd continued with, "Over 1700 Soldiers and Airmen thrived under the blanket of support that we provided, enabling their execution of more than 8540 mission in the past 11 months."

"The 93rd maintained a Police Transition Team while assuming the mission to provide command and control over the International Zone," said Byrd.

While located in the International Zone, the unit operated two tactical operations centers. It was responsible for the security of the International Zone.

Ninety-seven awards were given during the ceremony: 33 Bronze Star Medals (BSMs), 64 Army Commendation Medals (ARCOMs) and one Army Achievement Medal (AAM).

Truvy, the 93D Therapy Dog, was awarded with an honorary AAM.

The 93rd's deployments include Korea, Vietnam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 93rd transferred its authority to the 336th MP Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Pittsburgh, Pa., during a Nov. 25 ceremony in the International Zone.

US, Iraqi Police create criminal justice center

By 1LT WILLIAM MARQUEZ

49th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD – Tucked away in a palm grove, surrounded by a canal lined with long reeds, a training facility, consisting of multiple buildings at the edge of a military base, offers a place where Iraqi police can take a break from the demanding Baghdad streets to learn skills that they intend to use to make their city more secure.

The Criminal Justice Center (CJC) on Camp Liberty in Baghdad is a training center for Iraqi Police where they are taught police skills that build upon what they learned during their basic training and what they learned as experienced police officers working on the streets of Baghdad. At the CJC, Iraqi Police take a three week course that consists of classes on democratic policing, crime scene preservation and evidence collection, human rights, non-abusive compliance techniques, election security tactics, counter improvised explosive device training, fundamentals of Iraqi Law, and many other classes that go beyond the skills learned during their basic training at an Iraqi Police Academy.

The curriculum at the CJC is approved by Iraq's Ministry of Interior and Baghdad's Provincial Department of Police. The Iraqi Highway Patrol department operating in Baghdad also approves the curriculum before they send any of their officers to the three-week course. "All the training conducted at our facility is approved by the law enforcement departments that send their officers to train with us. We do not do anything without the approval of Iraq's Ministry of Interior," said Capt. David Worthy, company commander of the 217th Military Police Company, the National Guard unit from Prattville, Ala., that operates the CJC.

Since the Security Agreement between the United States and Iraq was implemented in early 2009, the relationship between the U.S. Military Police and the Iraqi Police is one of partnership. The Army's military police can no longer dictate the training of Iraqi Police. "If the Iraqi Police commanders do not approve of the training, we change it to suit the needs of their police force," said Capt. Worthy.

Iraqi Police commanders and their superiors at the Ministry of Interior seem to approve of the training that the 217th is providing, because they are consistently sending dozens of their police officers to the CJC.

Furthermore, the Iraqi Police participating in the training believe they are learning a lot. "This course is excellent. We learn things that we never thought of. In this course, I'm developing myself; and when I'm done, I will help my fellow Iraqi Police at my station," said Hatam Al albd, a Baghdad police officer.

There are not only Iraqi Police students at the CJC, there are also Iraqi Police instructors. Under the tutelage of military policemen and International Police Advisors, Saad Jibar Farhan, an Iraqi highway patrolman, teaches a variety of classes at the CJC to his fellow Iraqi law enforcement officers. He believes the CJC training achieves the goal of teaching Iraqi Police officers advanced policing methods and allows him the opportunity to develop his abilities as an instructor. "Our police of-



US Army photo/1LT WILLIAM MARQUEZ

Iraqi Police officers earn valuable experiences at the Criminal Justice Center at Camp Liberty, where Soldiers from the 217th Military Police Company handle the operation and training.

217th MP CO., Alabama

ficers learn advanced techniques here, and they allow me to teach courses that are not usually taught at the stations." For Farhan, the instruction at the CJC adds to what the Iraqi Police learn from performing their daily duties and responsibilities on the Baghdad streets. "They have a lot of experience, but they need instruction on how to do things right. We learn a lot here, and we take the time to learn it right," said Farhan.

Cpt. Worthy would like to see more Iraqi Police instructors training Iraqi Police at the CJC, and the police trained at the CJC return to their stations to train additional Iraqi Police.

"We are successful, as long as we provide a place where Iraqi Police can develop as police officers, and they take what they learn here back to their stations to share with their fellow officers," said Worthy.

Cpt. Worthy said that the CJC has the potential of becoming an Iraqi Police Academy with its own commandant, administrators and instructors. "It's possible that when we (217th) leave, the CJC will be a training facility operated by the Iraqi Police, except for a few American liaison officers advising and assisting," said Worthy.

Farhan is looking forward to continuing his position as an Iraqi Police instructor. "I would like to work here for a long time. I like teaching Iraqi Police. We understand each other, because we do the same job and we speak the same language," said Farhan.

NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE

When a Soldier experiences negligent discharge, it's a breakdown in weapons handling discipline. Failure to properly clear a weapon puts everyone at risk of personal injury or death.

Preventing a negligent discharge is everyone's business.

THINK SAFE AROUND ALL WEAPONS



An act of faith



Chaplain Paul Dordal explains what will happen during the baptism.



Sgt. Maj. Milton Hardy makes his profession of faith in the Lord..



Sgt. 1st Class John Tamuschy is baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Pittsburgh-based Soldiers baptized at FOB Prosperity, Baghdad

Chaplain Paul Dordal of the 336th Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, had the honor of baptizing two members of the battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Pittsburgh.

Sgt. Maj. Milton Hardy and Sgt. 1st Class John Tamuschy made professions of faith

before their witnesses outside of Palace Chapel on Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad.

In photos above, the bombed out building in the background serves as the headquarters for the 336th.

49th Brigade heroes among us

SPC ARDIA P. BAKER

252nd Military Police Company

While en route to a Police Transition Team mission in Al Ziziyah, Iraq Spc. Ardia P. Baker's convoy came across a head-on collision involving a passenger bus and a taxicab which ended up with three casualties sustaining various injuries. Once security was established, Spc. Baker immediately took action by triaging injuries and treating those that were severely injured.

Upon arrival of Iraqi EMS SPC Baker began explaining what injuries were sustained and the treatment she rendered up to that point. One casualty sustained a punctured lung and had difficulty breathing. SPC Baker immediately assessed



his situation and performed life-saving interventions including a needle chest decompression, intubation of the casualty with a combi-tube to secure and maintain his airway, and instructed those standing by to begin breathing for the casualty with a Bag-Valve Mask, (BVM). She also controlled the bleeding of a nearly severed ear. SPC Baker's heroic actions continued while en-route to the hospital in Al Kut.

She took charge and instructed personnel to continue using the BVM and explained to the Iraqi doctors the interventions she performed. Because of her quick response and prompt medical attention SPC Baker was credited for saving the casualty's life. Several days later the 252nd commander was told by hospital staff that the casualty was doing much better, largely due to the actions of Spc. Baker.



PFC CAM KACKMAN

57th Military Police Company

Late last month, Pfc. Cameron Kackman was assigned guard duty for COS Hunter. While on duty he spotted two personnel carrying a bag and picking up unexploded ordinance out of a UXO burn pit. PFC Kackman performed his duties in a military manner. The personnel were stopped and the UXOs were recovered. PFC Kackman has "maxed" out his ACCP since he has been in country. PFC Kackman is only two college courses away from obtaining an Associate's Degree in criminal justice. PFC Kackman emphasizes physical training, and is known around the COS for his athletic ability in sports. Since deployed, he has been a driver for three months and a gunner for two months. PFC Kackman is preparing to attend a Soldier of the month board.



CPL SLINKER

57th Military Police Company

Cpl. Slinker serves as a team leader in 2nd squad, 3rd platoon. Cpl. Slinker is a man that wears many hats, in addition to his team leader responsibilities, he also serves as the tent fire marshal, Squad commo guru, Platoon EWO representative, and ammo handler for all platoon ranges. As the EWO representative for the platoon, Cpl. Slinker has made great strides to improve the platoons knowledge and awareness of operation of all the platoon's electronic warfare systems. Furthermore, he has worked in close coordination with Sgt. Suarez (CO EWO) to produce a class regarding EWO, and to make an informative checklist for each vehicle in the company. Within his duties as a team leader, CPL. Slinker has mentored his Soldiers to become the most proficient team in the squad, and his team holds the title for highest team APFT average in the squad.



SPC JENNA WILT

354th Military Police Company

Spc. Jenna Wilt, from Pomeroy, Ohio, nicknamed Combat Admin by her peers, was cross-leveled at the last minute to fill the critical position of the unit's only administrative specialist. From the beginning Spc. Wilt has hit the ground running ensuring that Soldiers were taken care of in personnel actions, mail, finance and legal issues. Spc. Wilt was a part of the advanced party into Kuwait and also Contingency Operating Base Basrah. She ensured that contacts were made with other units to assist Soldiers in any administrative issues that they might have. She made out the flight manifest, ordered combat patches and helped figure out housing placement and issues for Soldiers upon their arrival. Her hard work, self-less service, and dedication to mission, are an example for other 354th soldiers to follow.



PFC DARON WILLIAMS

57th Military Police Company

Pfc. Daron M. Williams is the unit's hero for exceptional performance from a Soldier. He has placed special emphasis on physical fitness within his squad. He has encouraged and assisted other Soldiers in the squad to enhance their combat readiness through physical fitness. He is a star performer within his platoon. He is always seen assisting other gunners and drivers in preparing for mission. On a most recent QRF mission, Pfc. Williams identified the first confirmed blast sites of a daisy chained IED before EOD personnel who are SME, which resulted in a successful post blast investigation with the Iraqi Army and EOD personnel. He has completed 70 credit hours of ACCP this month and is proactive in attaining his educational goals. He shoots expert with his assigned weapons. His dedication to mission accomplishment and professionalism within the squad has helped the squad in mission accomplishment. He sets an outstanding example for other Soldiers to follow.



PFC JENSEN

57th Military Police Company

Pfc. Jensen is the closest you can get to what every Leader wants their Soldiers to be. He is amazingly disciplined, and goes above and beyond in everything he does. Pfc. Jensen does not hesitate in any situation and is always the first to volunteer out of the squad for any detail no matter what it is. He maintains all of his equipment and living area to the utmost degree of cleanliness. He is always mission-ready and fully capable of any task. He has the hunger for knowledge and experience that is rare to find in Soldiers today. He is the perfect example of a dedicated, motivated, determined, steely-eyed, barrel-chested Soldier, defined as a Centurion! Most recently he excelled while performing security for his squad as a M-2 gunner during a recon of an expended daisy chain improvised explosive device site as part of QRF response to a CLP that was struck by the IED.

Teaching crowd control techniques



US Army photo/STAFF SGT TONY BEHEL

BASRA, Iraq – Police Transition Team members of the 203rd Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, provide riot control training to Iraqi Army Military Police officers assigned to Camp Wessam in Basra.

Staff Sgt. Tony Behel, Sgt. Brandon Teague, Spc. Akeo Belyeu and Iraqi

203RD MP BN., Alabama

Police Advisor Tim Pickar trained 29 students from the Iraqi Army Military Police Company on various aspects of riot control including use of the riot control baton and shield as well as crowd control for-

mations.

Students attending the class consisted of various ranks including officers and enlisted personnel. This course extended four days and was conducted jointly with the US Marine Corps MITT who is partnered with the Iraqi Army personnel assigned to Camp Wessam.

252nd extends Iraqi partnership



US Army photo/SSG PACE

AL KUT, Iraq- Spc. Heminger of Cleveland, TN, gives Iraqi Police Chief Hatim a box of candy for the children in his area of operations. The 252nd Military Police Company strives to help improve the relations of the Iraqi Police and their people. This helps strengthen force protection as well as morale within the community. Spc. Heminger is a driver with the 252nd's 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon.



US Army photo/SSG DILLIVAN

AL KUT, Iraq- 2nd Lt. Barrett of Nashville, Ten., oversees the Iraqi Police vehicle search training. The 252nd Military Police Company continues to help improve the training of Iraq Police so that they will become proficient and mission capable. This helps greatly in the area of operations of the Iraqi police and coalition forces. Barrett is the Platoon Leader of the 252nd's 2nd Platoon.

On range with 563rd



US Army photo/SPC JUSTIN C. GRAY

CSC SCANIA, Iraq – Members of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, 563rd Military Police Company conduct an area security patrol stop to render assistance to Iraqi Police following a vehicle accident on MSR Tampa. 1st Platoon members pictured are Sgt. Katheryne E. Hoover, from Blacksburg, Virginia, and Spc. Joseph E. Noganosh, from Fort Myers, Florida.



US Army photo/SPC MARK PALMER

ISKAN, Iraq – Soldiers of 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, 563rd Military Police Company, conduct a Key Leader Engagement (KLE) with the Iraqi Police Highway Patrol leadership to discuss the training plan that will help lead the them primacy and Legitimacy. 2nd Platoon Soldiers pictured here are 2nd Lt. Melissa Hutchinson from Gainesville, Florida and Staff Sgt. Timothy Swanson from Providence, Rhode Island.

Preserving crime scenes in Baghdad

Alabama Guardsmen sponsor evidence collection classes for Iraqi Police

By 1ST LT. WILLIAM MARQUEZ
49th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Baghdad Police and Highway Patrol Officers participated in a crime scene preservation and evidence collection course last month at Camp Liberty's Criminal Justice Center.

The course, taught by Alabama's 217th Military Police Company, is intended to teach Iraqi law enforcement officers to respond to crime scenes in a manner that will not disturb evidence that can be used to prosecute criminals and terrorists.

The course focuses on a particular type of crime scene, i.e. the post-blast site created by an improvised or planned explosive device. These devices are often used by criminals. They're also used to kill American Soldiers.

The class is taught by the Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) from the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion. The 203rd is an Army Reserve unit from Aberdeen, Maryland.

A weapons intelligence team works side by side with an explosive ordinance disposal team (EOD).

"Once EOD ensures that a blast site is secure, a WIT will exploit the scene, carefully gathering evidence, and taking photos and questioning individuals to determine the planting, targeting and initiation of the bomb," said Maj. Emerson Long, WIT commander in Baghdad.

The Iraqi students have also responded to the aftermath of deadly bomb blasts. Iraqi Police and Highway Patrolmen are usually the first responders to explosive attacks.

The most deadly of these explosive devices are the vehicle borne explosive devices (VBIED).

"While on-duty, a VBIED seriously injured three civilians who were rushed to the hospital. The VBIED was still on fire and kept exploding more and more. The Americans arrived and we cordoned off the area," said



US Army photo/1LT WILLIAM MARQUEZ

Iraqi law enforcers use caution tape to secure a site so they can collect evidence during a course sponsored by the 217th Military Police Company from Alabama.

217th MP CO., Alabama

Ali Alfartasy, an Iraqi Highway patrolman.

Alfartasy had a similar experience. "Off-duty, a neighbor was kidnapped, but later released. Unaware, his kidnappers put an IED (Improvised explosive device) in his car. They blew him up. The National Police cordoned off the area until Baghdad Hawk (Baghdad Iraqi EOD Team) arrived."

According to Alfartasy the Iraqi Police and Highway patrol respond to post-blast crime scenes in five steps.

"First, we ensure our safety; Second, the injured are evacuated; third, we interview locals and ask them to point out strangers; fourth, we cordon off the area; and fifth, the investigator arrives."

Each of these steps might eventually be taken at the sight of a deadly explosion, but Alfartasy and his classmates make it clear that the scene of an explosion is

anything but orderly.

"We try to keep people away, but it is very difficult because people are so frustrated. A lot of the people at the scene will know the relatives of the people killed and will use their cell phones to call the families of the deceased, making sure they get there as soon as possible," said Mosab Almachaka, a Baghdad police officer.

Although the Iraqi Police officers and highway patrolmen have a lot of experience, they are still convinced that what the American Soldiers taught them in this crime scene course would benefit them as they work hard to provide security for Baghdad.

"We now know different ways to cordon off an area after an explosion, and we now know to stay away from explosive fragments that can be used as evidence," said Almachaka.

810th MP Company

Working hard to secure Southern Iraq



BASRA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Chandler helps local Iraqi Police continue to improve relations with the local community. He understands that the best way to do that is to get out there and talk to the locals. The better the relationship is between the citizens and the police, the more crime that gets reported; a goal that both U.S. and Iraqi security forces continue to work toward.



BASRA, Iraq – Iraqi Police Officers participate in hands-on training after receiving a class on weapons handling. Although the police in the area have all attended the basic academy, many of them are not afforded the opportunity for further training.

Collaborative efforts to establish a centralized joint training program have begun to become a reality. Recently the 810th Military Police Company kicked off its first 3-week cycle of joint training. The training takes place

at three separate locations; all central to area Police Stations. Training included in this cycle is basic first aid, check points, weapons handling, and building clearing as well as several sub-categories. This centralized joint-



BASRA, Iraq – In this picture, members of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon out of Tampa, Florida, instruct a group of more than 30 Iraqi Police Officers in weapons handling during the first week of centralized joint training. This group includes Spc. Michael Kelly on the end.

Spc. Clayton Smith, from Birmingham Alabama, scans the side of the roads during a recent mission. Spc. Smith is an assigned gunner in 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon.



Spc. Sean Penton prepares for a mission to a local Iraqi Police Station. Spc. Penton is an assigned gunner in 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon. The 2nd platoon detachment is from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



Spc. David King takes his job as a gunner very seriously. Spc. King is an assigned gunner for 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, from Tampa, Florida.



The gunner position is traditionally given to the lowest ranking soldier in the vehicle but this should not be mistaken for the position that requires the least amount of effort. Gunners have a huge responsibility. Although everyone in the truck should be scanning their surroundings for risk factors and unusual activity, the convoy heavily relies on the gunner to be the eyes and ears. They are most often the first one to identify danger. For safety reasons, gunners wear more gear than the rest of the patrol. They wear extra protection against shrapnel on their arms, they wear a gunner's harness which keeps them secured in the truck in case of a roll-over, and most wear masks over their face. This extra gear is not only an inconvenience but also keeps their body core temperature higher. They must ensure they drink plenty of water, especially in the heat of Iraq. Gunners also have the added responsibility of maintaining the trucks assigned crew-serve weapon and corresponding ammunition. Gunners today do not get the recognition they deserve.

Photo contributions by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Jordan, Staff Sgt. Mark Barnett, Spc. Julio Estremera and Staff Sgt. Alina Kennedy

Leaders meetings key to US-Iraq partnership

DIWNIYAH, Iraq– SGT Eric Donaldson, squad leader assigned to 543rd Military Police Company, is shown conducting a Key Leader Engagement (KLE) with Lt Col. Kareem, Qadasiyah Iraqi Highway Police deputy commander and Capt. Ali, Qadasiyah IHP training officer.

On the left is International Police advisor Alan Anuszewski, who works on Forward Operating Base Echo.

This KLE was conducted to help ensure that the Highway Patrol Station and its IPs are receiving the supplies, training and supervision needed to successfully carry out their security missions as highway police.

The Qadasiyah Highway Police secure miles of hard ball

and dirt road for more than 400,000 people and conduct random vehicle searches as part of their mission. Key leader engagements are a vital part of the Military Police mission here in Iraq to help secure a better life for the people.

Other topics such as power, water, and the local economy are discussed during these leader engagements. The station commander often meets with local Sheiks to get feedback from them on what their community needs and how their respective security issues are being resolved. This information is then passed onto other Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces who then coordinate and use local resources and Provincial Reconstruction Teams to help the citizens of Iraq meet their local needs.

543RD MP CO., New York



U.S. Army Photo/SPC ROBERT FRANZEN

Applications for commissary scholarship now available

Scholarship applications for the 2010 Scholarships for Military Children Program are available in commissaries worldwide and online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.military-scholar.org>.

Since the program began in 2000, it has awarded \$7.3 million in \$1,500 scholarships to almost 5,000 children of service members. Only dependent,

unmarried children, younger than age 21 (age 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military members, survivors of service members who died while on active duty, or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship.

Eligibility is determined using DEERS, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Report-

ing System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2010, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants should prepare to submit

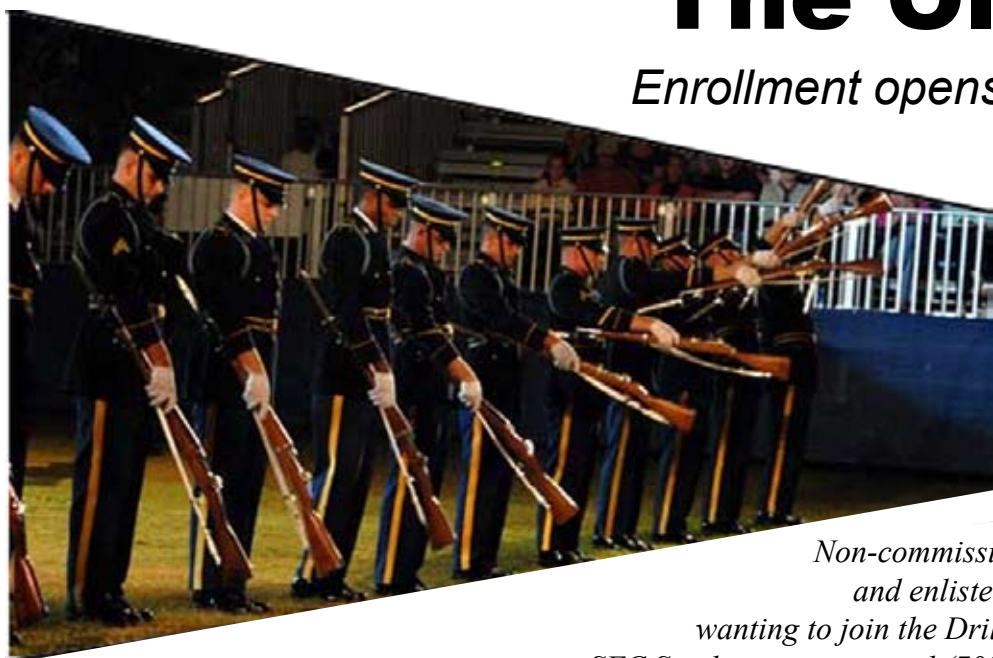
an essay on the following topic: "You can travel back in time; however, you cannot change events. What point in history would you visit and why?"

Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 17.

At least one scholarship will be awarded at every store location with qualified applicants.

The Old Guard

Enrollment opens for Army drill team



*Non-commissioned officers
and enlisted Soldiers*

*wanting to join the Drill Team should contact
SFC Sauder at commercial (703) 696-3149 or DSN 426-3149.*

The Old Guard is looking to fill open enlisted billets in the United States Army Drill Team, one of the 3rd U.S. Infantry's renowned specialty platoons. These billets are MOS immaterial and are open to female Soldiers.

The U.S. Army Drill Team has earned international acclaim through its breathtaking routines with bayonet-tipped 1903 Springfield rifles.

Organized to support The Old Guard's ceremonial commitments, the Drill Team has thrilled millions of youngsters and proud Americans for more than 50 years with their daring and complex performances.

When not performing for the President or visiting dignitaries and heads of state, the Drill Team travels extensively supporting Army recruitment, acting as "good-will am-

bassadors" for the Army, and participating in major military and civic functions.

The Soldiers are selected for this elite unit after six months of rigorous and competitive drill practice. Trim military bearing, strength and dexterity are mandatory for qualification to the Drill Team. For those selected for the team, the rigors of training never stop. To execute their complicated routines as close to perfection as possible, the team practices constantly.

The U.S. Army Drill Team performs a variety of intricate maneuvers that have extremely high risk factors. One such maneuver is dubbed the "daring front-to-rear overhead rifle toss" and is deserving of such a glorified title. During this dangerous routine, four members of the Drill Team alternately toss their spinning, 10-pound rifles from the front rank

to the back, often as high as 15 feet into the air and 15 feet to the rear. Then four Soldiers in the back rank catch the revolving weapons one-handed in a true demonstration of courage and concentration.

In most cases, revolution of the rifle ends as the bayonet arcs just past the Soldier's right ear, and the weapon is caught directly over the Soldier's head with his/her arm fully extended.

Marching cadence of the U.S. Army Drill team is 60 steps per minute, considerably slower than regulations march tempo. Timing must be letter perfect, as all routines are performed without vocal cadence or musical cues. Only the team's superb discipline enables its members to continuously challenge fate, and win.

Tricare dental program available for activated National Guardsmen

As a National Guard member, how you receive dental care will change depending on whether you are on active duty or not. Here's a summary of how your dental care works.

Not Activated: TRICARE Dental Program

When you are not on active duty, you and your family members are eligible for the premium-based TRICARE Dental Program. The TRICARE Dental Program requires a 12-month minimum enrollment period, so you must have 12 months remaining on your service commitment to enroll. You can enroll at anytime and you will pay monthly premiums based on your military status.

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) premiums are determined by the plan (single or family) and the duty status (active or reserve) of the sponsor. If and when the sponsor's duty status changes, his or her premiums also change to reflect the new duty status.

Activated: Dental Care for Active Duty Service Members

When you are called to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, your dental care will fall under that of an active duty service member. You will receive your dental care through your service at either a military dental treatment facility, through the TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program or through the TGRO Call Center, depending on where you live and work. You pay no premiums for dental care as an active duty service member and there is no minimum enrollment. When you are deactivated, your dental care as an active duty service member ends.

If you are enrolled in the

TRICARE Dental Program when you are activated, your enrollment is automatically suspended. Your monthly premium charges also stop for the duration of your active duty service.

Your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program will continue when you are activated. However, they will enjoy reduced monthly premiums because they are considered "active duty family members" during that time.

Deactivated: TRICARE Dental Program

If you were enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program before

you were activated, your TRICARE Dental Program coverage will automatically resume when you are deactivated. You will begin paying monthly premiums again. If you weren't enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program, you can do so at anytime.

Your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program will continue uninterrupted, however, their premiums will return to the pre-activation rates.

Premiums for 2010

The TRICARE Dental Program's 1.9 million enrollees will see a slight increase in their monthly premiums, beginning Feb. 1, 2010. The new annual rates are effective for one year through Jan. 31, 2011. The monthly premium for an active duty family member single plan will increase from \$12.12 to \$12.69 and the monthly family plan premium will increase from \$30.29 to \$31.72.

The National Guard and Reserve monthly sponsor pre-

mium will increase from \$12.12 to \$12.69. For National Guard and Reserve family members, the monthly single family member plan goes from \$30.29 to \$31.72 and the family plan premium will increase from \$75.73 to \$79.29.

The monthly single premium rate for an Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) sponsor plan and the separate IRR single family member plan will increase from \$30.29 to \$31.72. The monthly IRR family member premium will increase from \$75.73 to \$79.29. If your family members wish to enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program, they can at anytime, they will also pay monthly premiums, but their enrollment will be separate from yours. This way, if and when you are called to active duty, your family members' enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program continues without interruption. Your enrollment, however, will change.

To learn more about TRICARE dental options and premium rates visit <http://www.TRICAREdental-program.com>

TRICARE Dental:
www.tricaredentalprogram.com

**When not on active duty, you and
family members are eligible.**

The BIG Show

Get ready for Super Bowl XLIV in Miami

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – It took four months, but now the NFL is down to its final 12. That only means one thing: It's playoff football.

And playoff football leads up to one of sports biggest spectacles – the Super Bowl, the grand-daddy of professional finales. It'll be played Feb. 7 at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Expect tough playoff competition this year. The American Football Conference (AFC) contenders include the Indianapolis Colts, New England Patriots, Cincinnati Bengals and San Diego Chargers as division winners. Making the AFC playoffs as wild cards are the Baltimore Ravens and New York Jets.

The National Football Conference (NFC) contenders include the Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints, Minnesota Vikings and Arizona Cardinals who advanced as division winners. As wild cards, the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers join them.

The Colts and Saints were early choices to make the big game. They were undefeated after 13 weeks. But then the Colts lost their final two games and the Saints lost their last three. However, Indianapolis still features its all-star quarterback, Peyton Manning, the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player three short years ago.

The Chargers roll into the playoffs as the NFL's hottest squad. They won their final 11 games.

It would be a story-tale end if veteran quarterback Bret Favre can lead the Vikings to the prom-



(U.S. Army Photo/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA)

Former professional football players played a flag football game against military personnel Jan. 1 at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Shown are Tony Casilas (92), a two-time Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys; Ty Detmer (4), the 1990 Heisman Trophy winner who played with six NFL teams. In background at left (maroon jacket) is Barry Switzer, former Cowboys coach who led them to the 1996 Super Bowl title.

ise land. After his on-off retirement stint in the off-season got him back into the league wearing purple (the Vikings' colors), his all-star play led Minnesota to a 12-4 finish. Minnesota hasn't played in the Super Bowl since a 32-14 loss to the Oakland Raiders in 1977.

Don't count out Arizona! The Cardinals were just seconds away from winning last year's crown. The Pittsburgh Steelers won 27-23 on a last-second touchdown. And the Cardinals still have a proven, veteran quarterback in Kurt Warner, the 2000 Super Bowl MVP with the St. Louis Rams.

But despite all that has happened, the Cowboys are fan-favorites to make it to the Big Show. They're the NFL's iconic organization, having participated in Super Bowls more than any other team

(eight, winning five). Dallas hasn't played in the Super Bowl since a 27-17 triumph over the Steelers in 1996. Many eyes are on the Cowboys to make it back this year.

An ironic twist to the end of the NFL season is the Pro Bowl – pitting all-stars from the AFC and NFC against each other. The Pro Bowl is on Jan. 31 – a week before the Super Bowl. Normally played after the Big Show, and regularly held in Hawaii, this year's Pro Bowl was moved "as an alternative to strengthening the Pro Bowl," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said.

Aloha Stadium in Oahu, Hawaii, has hosted the Pro Bowl for 30 years. Goodell told The Associated Press that having the Pro Bowl precede the Super Bowl would avoid a "somewhat anticlimactic" ending to the season.

Fight Night

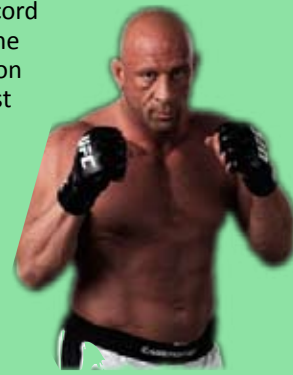
UFC legends set to brawl

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- 2010 opens up to be a big year for the 49th Military Brigade – and the US Army's – mixed martial arts fans.

On Jan. 11, the unbeaten Gray "The Bully" Maynard takes his unbeaten record into the octagon against an always-tough Nate Diaz in the Ultimate Fighting Championship's UFC 108 main event.



MARK COLEMAN

Maynard, at 9-0, tackles Diaz (11-4) in a battle of lightweights. Maynard is one of two UFC 155-pounders currently undefeated. He earned this opportunity, beating the popular and former champion, Roger Huerta, last September.

Diaz is the winner of Spike TV's Ultimate Fighter show last year. In the September finale, he choked out Melvin Guillard to set up the Jan. 11 meeting with Maynard.

This battle's winner likely will meet the UFC lightweight champion BJ Penn later this year.

The new year's fight card actually opened Jan. 2 during UFC 108. Rashard Evans unanimously decisioned Thiago Silva in the main event.

Majority of fight fans await next month's main event. Titled

UFC 109 Relentless, a pair of veterans enters the octagon Feb. 6. Former light-heavyweight titlist Randy "The Natural" Couture takes on UFC Hall of Famer Mark "The Hammer" Coleman.

Coleman returned to fighting in January 2009 after a decade away from competition. He lost to Mauricio Rua, but redeemed that loss in July 2009 by beating Stephan Bonnar.



RANDY COUTURE

Couture – once dubbed The People's Champion – spent some time in the Army. But he's more known among amateur wrestlers, being a four-time national champion in Greco-Roman and three-time All-American at Oklahoma State University. He enhanced his reputation in mixed martial arts, compiling a 17-10 record and winning the UFC heavyweight title three times.

The 46-year-old Couture last fought in November, beating Brandon Vera by unanimous decision.

Heavyweights Antonio Nogueira and Cain Velasquez highlight UFC 110 on Feb. 20.

The gladiators square off and conclude an exciting fight card that'll feature notables Wanderlei Silva, Michael Bisping, Joe Stevenson, Keith Jardine and Mirko Cro Cop.

For more information, log onto <http://www.ufc.com>.

SOLDIER'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM

I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND LIVE THE ARMY VALUES

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST

I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT

I WILL NEVER QUIT

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE

I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TOUGH, TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN MY WARRIOR TASKS AND DRILLS

I WILL ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIPMENT AND MYSELF.

I AM AN EXPERT AND I AM A PROFESSIONAL

I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE AND DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT

I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

employ PFP
physical fitness program

PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM

SOLDIERS IN THE 49TH MP BRIGADE ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE FITNESS PROGRAM.

EXERCISE. EAT RIGHT. STAY PHYSICALLY FIT.

DON'T BE AFRAID

TO SAY YOU'VE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS. AND THERE IS HELP. Contact your Unit Victim Advocate or call the Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator hotline at 0770-444-2519. You will get an immediate response.