

Commando Update

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2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division

March 2010

Stories Inside



Soldiers Honor Fallen Commando
~ Page 4



210 Soldiers From 2/10 Re-enlist
~ Page 6 & 7



Ammo point supports responsible drawdown
~ Page 9



MONSTER GARAGE
~ Page 11

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Soldiers sign over Joint Security Station to Iraqi Federal Police

By 1st Lt. Joshua Perry
2nd Bn. 14th Infantry, 2nd BDE, 10th Mtn. Div.,
USD-C

BAGHDAD – The Government of Iraq took ownership of Joint Security Station 799 from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, during a Feb. 14 ceremony.

After many successes in a partnership between U.S. Forces and 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Federal Police Division, in the Al Amin area, Company 4, 1-4-1 FP Battalion, deemed the Al Amin region secure. As a result, 1-4-1 FP Battalion was deemed tactically competent and fully capable of conducting successful counterinsurgency operations from an additional base out of their area of operations.

“We will continue to fight terrorism and achieve security for all people,” said Col. Adel Kassim Salman Omar Al Bayatti, the 1-4-1 FP commander.

Capt. Tad Granai, of Providence, R.I., and the Company C commander, signed the security station over to Al Hadad, a representative from the prime minister’s office.

“The goal is to go home at some point,” said Granai. “This shows



BAGHDAD – Capt. Tad Granai, from Providence, RI, and Al Hadad, a representative of the Iraqi prime minister, sign the documents necessary Feb. 15 to hand over Joint Security Station 799 to the Iraqi Government. (Army photo by Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

that the Federal Police is able to be in charge of this area and have full security.”

The transfer, which drew a large crowd, was celebrated with speeches from Brig. Gen. Ali Ibrahim Daboon al Maksusi and U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Petkosek.

“Today is a new beginning of implementing the Security Agreement,” said Daboon, commander of 1st FP Division. “We can aid and help the local citizens around this geographic location.”

Petkosek, 2-14 commander, said

the transfer represented a new beginning for the Iraqi people.

“This is a great step for Iraqi Federal Police in securing Al Amin, as well as the entire Nine Nissan region,” he said. “It exemplifies the desire of the Iraqi people to be a secure, sovereign nation.”

As 1-4-1 secures Mashtal and Al Amin for the upcoming Iraqi elections, Company C, 2-14 Inf. Regt., will continue to assist them from nearby Joint Security Station Loyalty.

Dedicated NCO Boosts Morale Through Food

By SPC Rebecca Schwab
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C

BAGHDAD – When it comes to preparing food for Soldiers, Sgt. John Barnes takes Napoleon’s advice.

“Napoleon said, ‘An army marches on its stomach,’ and he’s right,” said Barnes, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the dining facility at Al Rasheed, Iraq, place of duty for Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. “[Food] is one of the biggest moral boosters for a



BAGHDAD – Sgt. John Barnes, noncommissioned officer in charge of the dining facility at Al Rasheed for the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, stirs rice in preparation for the evening meal. Barnes, a native of Los Angeles, Ca., is the Commando of the month. (Army photo by, Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

Jump to page 5



Dear Commando Soldiers, Family members and friends,

During the time period of this month's newsletter, the most significant news event to happen within the Commando OE is far and away the Iraqi parliamentary elections held March 7. What you might not know is how incredibly successful those elections were and the significant role the Commando's played in allowing them to occur. I'd like to take this time to talk about that and relate it back to January's newsletter note on the importance of our mission and every Soldier's role in carrying it out.

On March 7, 2010, the Iraqi people took to the polls for only the second time in their fledgling democracy's history. They started out slow, but they continued to grow. By the end of the day, roughly 65% of the voters turned out - a much greater percentage than in the United States! Probably more important, all groups in society participated - Sunni, Shia, Kurd; urban and rural; all points north, south, east, west. The large voter turnout and wide representation of the population make the elections a shining example for the middle east, the world and bode well for Iraq's future.

There was no guarantee the elections would occur as planned. There were a number of threat groups that did their best to derail them. These groups included Al Qaida, Katab Hezbollah, groups supported by neighboring countries and many others. All were bent on preventing the chance for self governance to take root in the area and threaten their own ability to force their ways on others. In January, I explained that our mission of protecting the population, defeating violent extremists and facilitating governance and economics (all through our Iraqi partners) was crucial

to the Iraqi's ability to hold these elections. Well, **YOU ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION!**

In the months leading up to the elections, in partnership with the 1st Federal Police and the 9th Iraqi Army Division, you conducted countless missions ranging from no notice raids to capture high value targets to more mundane cache searches and terrain denial tasks. You conducted intelligence and reconnaissance operations and cleared routes of IEDs and EFPs. You trained the Iraqi's and helped them plan and implement their election security operations.

On election day, you kept a low profile, but you were poised and ready to respond if the Iraqi's needed us with Quick Response Forces, medical back up, EOD, surveillance, etc. As I mentioned in January, no matter what your job is in the Brigade, your role is direct and critical to mission success - in this case the elections.

The fact that the Iraqi's needed little help from us on election day is testimony to the success of all your work leading up to the elections. You helped neutralize the enemy so they could not act with any significant impact that day. More important you helped the Iraqi Security Forces reach a level of competence that they can largely handle the mission on their own. This last point is more important than the elections security itself. In the end, our overall purpose is to help the Iraqi Security Forces we are partnered with reach the ability to operate autonomously. I could not be more proud of you and you should take a moment to pause and realize the significance of your contribution on this historic occasion.

During the pre-deployment briefs we

held at Ft. Drum, I stated that our deployment would be marked by constant change and transition. Your great efforts resulting in highly successful elections and competent Iraqi Security Forces allows us to turn a page and take another major step in transitioning the fight to autonomous Iraqi Forces and completing the combat mission in Iraq. In the coming months we will first insure the security surrounding the elections holds, and then begin to transfer our Operating Environment to Iraqi Forces and a small U.S. Advisory team.

Because of your success, this may very well occur earlier than expected and result in a somewhat shorter deployment. The Brigade staff is working closely with U.S. Division Center on the details of how this will happen.

As we finalize plans, we will keep all Commandos and Family members informed.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the enemy always gets a vote in how our plans unfold. We will always keep our plans flexible to react to unexpected events even if that means speeding or delaying our operations.

As we begin the transition to Iraqi Forces and US advisors (made possible by your great efforts), I want to take this time to thank every Commando for your contribution to our success thus far.

I want to remind all that we are not done yet and we must stay focused on the mission and the Commando 6 so we successfully complete the mission. I also want to thank every Family member for their support and contribution to your Soldier and the Commando Team!





The Brigade has been deployed now for five months since our ADVON first departed in October, and we still have another seven months to complete prior to redeploying.

There are still decisions that have to be made whether or not the Brigade deployment will be curtailed or go full length. As stated when we left Ft. Drum, plan for the Brigade to be gone for a full year.

Once the announcement is made, either confirming the full tour or confirming a curtailment for the Brigade, COL Miller will send a note to the Rear Detachment to inform all. You will hear talk about the "potential" early re-deployment.

This is only planning that will al-

low the division staff and Ft. Drum to help bring the BCT home as smoothly as possible. Again, the commander will be the first one to send out the message to LTC Zimmerman or MAJ Dalbey, depending on the time of the announcement.

These past five months have gone by quickly as all the Commandos of this brigade have been fully engaged in training IA and FP and assisting in protecting both the Mada'in and New Baghdad areas. They have done this with great success. As in all endeavors that we strive for, it does not come without trials on our faith and will.

Despite all, the Commandos continue to drive on as we are expected to do. The Brigade has made great progress in

developing the essential services needed to support the people within the Commando OE.

This month, the people of Iraq participated in historic national elections and helped to write a new page in the history of Iraq. While the elections took place at the beginning of March, the Soldiers across our footprint have been working extremely hard for the past couple of months with the Iraqi Federal Police and Iraqi Army. They assisted them by emplacing security measures that helped ensure a safe election.

While we are busy with all our non-lethal operations, we are equally busy improving our Iraqi Security Force brothers. We are still assisting in detaining individu-



als who target Iraqi and Coalition forces.

This month we've been fortunate to pick up several persons who were on the Iraqi's most wanted list and had warrants issued for their arrest.

With the arrival of spring, the summer months are almost here upon us. Our Soldiers are continuing to go on EML. We ask that you continue to spend this time wisely so your loved ones come back rejuvenated with renewed energy.

Each and every one fills a critical role in our team and we need every Commando for this fight. We also are continuing to utilize the Qatar pass program as an opportunity to refresh our Soldiers in theater.

I want to personally thank all the families and supporters of this great brigade who have been sending care packages to the Soldiers. They really appreciate all your generosity. We look forward to your continued support and prayers.

CSM Joe Montour
Courage and Honor

SOLDIERS HONOR FALLEN COMMANDO

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C

BAGHDAD – Friends and comrades said goodbye to a Soldier from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, during a memorial ceremony at Joint Security Station Zafaraniyah March 23.

Spc. Robert Rieckhoff, a 26-year-old Artilleryman from Kenosha, Wis., died March 18 from combat related injuries. Rieckhoff was assigned to Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.

"Spc. Rieckhoff has two children. I never had the opportunity to meet them, but if I do, I will tell them that I knew their father and he was a member of my platoon," said 1st Lt. Jack Mooney, a platoon leader for Battery B. "I will tell them that their father died protecting us and defending this country, and I will also tell them they should always be very proud of their father. He was a good soldier, and he will be missed by all of us."

Spc. Rieckhoff's team leader reflected on the type of person and soldier he was.

"From the way he talked about his family I knew he was a devoted



Soldiers with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division pay their respects at a memorial for Spc. Robert Rieckhoff, a comrade who was killed in action Mar. 18. The memorial was held at Joint Security Station Zafraniya March 23. (Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

father, and from the way he worked I can tell he was a devoted Soldier," said Sgt. Nathan Glass, a team leader for Battery B. "Spc. Rieckhoff was the type of soldier every team leader wants."

Rieckhoff enlisted in the Army in June 2001. He completed his basic training and Advance Individual Training at Fort Sill, Okla.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with one campaign star, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Combat Action Badge.

He is survived by his two children, Tyler and Katrina, and his grandmother Judith Nelson.

COMMANDOS SUPPORT ELECTIONS FROM THE BACKGROUND

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division provided backup support to the Iraqi Security Forces during elections here on Mar. 7.

This support included Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance assets, early warning, combined command and control nodes, and Quick Reaction Forces that were positioned to respond if requested by ISF.

"The purpose of our security operations was to ensure that the voters have freedom of maneuver to go to polls. We ensured that there were no illegal check points, no possible VBIED or gatherings that would hinder voter turnout or enable intimidation and persuasion," said Maj. Dennis Ifurung, executive officer of 1st Battalion, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team,

10th Mountain Division

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2d BCT maintained a vigilant stance to provide a quick reaction force and an emergency barrier emplacement ready to go if requested by the Federal Police.

"While the battalion was not conducting patrols today, the batteries maintained regular contact with their Federal Police counterparts," said Capt. Joseph Ortiz, a fire support officer with 2-15.

4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2d BCT provided the 45th Brigade 11th, Iraqi Army Division multiple Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance video feeds for the elections at a joint command and control center. 4-31 also provided six QRF elements placed strategically by the IA

throughout the area.

"The IA in our combined C2 cell have provided good cross talk between their units on the ground and the USF [United States Forces] units supporting the elections," said Spc. Jonathan Hanson of with Company D, 4-31 "The IA are very good at translating information in real time to USF so we are all on the same page."

Due to the successful ISF security operations, there was a higher than anticipated voter turnout as the local population became more confident in secure elections.

"Overall, supporting the national elections has solidified for us the IA's ability to conduct security operations and track units on the ground," said 1st Lt. Drew Kitchen of, Headquarters Company, 4-31, an IA Operations Coordinator.

Continued from page 1

Soldier. Without food, there's nothing."

Barnes, of Los Angeles, was selected to be the featured Commando of the month, thanks to the hard work he puts into producing three meals a day for all 45 Soldiers based at Al Rasheed, as well as the 45 local nationals living there. It involves ordering needed supplies, planning meals, and supervising his Soldiers as they complete their daily tasks. It's a demanding job that begins early (breakfast must be ready by 7:00 a.m.) and ends late, with only a few hours of down time between meals.

Barnes' first few weeks at Al Rasheed were spent making his small DFAC clean and fully functional. When 2-15 Soldiers first got there, conditions in the DFAC were abysmal.

"It was unorganized, there was food everywhere – food that was bad," Barnes said. "There were rats. It wasn't a popular place until we got it cleaned up and organized."

Organizing the mess was the first thing Barnes and his Soldiers did when they arrived.

"As soon as Sgt. Barnes got here, he did what an NCO should do," Lt. Col. Joseph Wyszynski, of Philadelphia, Pa., and the executive officer for the 9th Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Team, said. "He took stock of the inventory, got rid of the old, [and] got new chow in here. His is a story about how one man can make a difference in the quality of life for the whole base."

Barnes' next challenge was keeping up a good variety for Soldiers, even with limited supplies. He said he tries to make meals Soldiers will look forward to, like yakasoba, a



BAGHDAD - Sgt. John Barnes, of Los Angeles, Ca., and the dining facility noncommissioned officer, gets ready for the evening meal at Al Rasheed, operational environment for Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. (Army photo by Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

big favorite at Al Rasheed. Yakasoba is a dish made of noodles, beef, green peppers, and onions, mixed up with soy sauce.

"It's a lot more than boiling food in a bag," he said. "You gotta make it taste good. If you put out a bad meal, Soldiers are going to tell you about it. It's about the input you get from the Soldiers, what you can do to improve the food itself. I'll let them know if I can accommodate that or not."

It helps that for Barnes, cooking isn't just a job – it also helps him deal with deployed life.

"It's something I have a passion for," he said. "When I cook, it's a stress relief."

Barnes began his military career in the U.S. Marines, where he served in the infantry for five years before becoming a cook. After he left the Marines, he joined the Army following September 11, 2001, to be a military cook once again.

Barnes said he tries to pass on the lessons he has learned to the Soldiers working under him.

SPC Danny Flores, of Dallas, Tx., works with Barnes in the DFAC, helping to make sure good meals get out to Soldiers and that they order enough food to support all the Soldiers at Al Rasheed.

"[Sgt. Barnes] taught me a lot since I came to Fort Drum, more than any of my Advanced Individual Training instructors did," Flores said. "[We] come up with new ideas for food, what we can give the soldiers, so they don't eat the same things every day."

Pvt. Christian Gonzales also works in the DFAC. A late deployer, Gonzales came to Iraq almost straight out of AIT. On top of being new at his job, Gonzales is from Puerto Rico and said he's still trying to learn English.

"It wasn't easy for me to adjust to this deployment," he said. "With Sgt. Barnes, it has been easier. I think he's a great NCO. He made it is easy for me. And I like to cook. I'm learning."

Wyszynski spoke highly of the contributions Barnes has made – not just to the DFAC, but also to the overall efforts of the Soldiers stationed at Al Rasheed.

"He's a team player," Wyszynski said. "If there's work around here that needs to get done, he's the first to pitch in. He's an invaluable asset to everyone here and enables everyone to do their job."



BAGHDAD - Sgt. John Barnes, of Los Angeles, Ca., watches as Pvt. Christian Gonzales prepares vegetables for the evening meal. Barnes oversees the operations of the Al Rasheed dining facility and is responsible for providing food for 45 Soldiers and 45 local nationals. (Army photo by Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

210 From 2-10

By the numbers: Commandos conduct

BAGHDAD – It couldn't have been better timing for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division; a day with such numerical significance; a day for 210 of 2/10 on 2/10/2010 to show their commitment.

On that special day, 210 Soldiers from brigade reenlisted while deployed to Iraq.

“While it's an individual endeavor, each one of your reenlistments, combined together, adds up to the 210 great Commandos that are reenlisting today,” 2nd Brigade commander Col. David Miller said to the 39 Soldiers reenlisting at Joint Security Station Carver, Iraq.

Miller and 2nd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Montour traveled to five different locations within the brigade operational environment to administer the oath of enlistment, and to remind Soldiers of how important their reenlistment is to the unit, and to the U.S. Army as a whole.

“Your individual choice to reenlist, which we deeply and greatly appreciate, has a direct impact on the Commandos, the entire United States Army mission, [and] the call of



Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division re-enlist at Joint Security Station Carver February 10. The ceremony was overseen by Command Sgt. Major Joe Montour, the 2nd BCT command sergeant major, and was conducted by Col. David Miller, the 2nd BCT commander. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)



Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division re-enlisted at Joint Security Station Cache South February 10. This was part of a mass re-enlistment that occurred at different bases throughout the Commando operational environment to honor the Soldiers as they took the oath of enlistment to continue serving their country. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)



Soldiers stand in formation and recite the oath of enlistment during the Commando mass re-enlistment held throughout the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division operational environment February 10. These Soldiers took the oath to continue serving their country while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

on 2/10/2010

historic reenlistments while in Iraq

freedom all over the world,” Miller said.

Without that effort, he said, the mission could not be accomplished.

Staff Sgt. George Jones, a native of Granada, Miss., and a squad leader with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, who has been in the Army six years, said having Soldiers re-enlist on the same day demonstrated the unity of 2/10.

“It shows camaraderie,” Jones said. “It brings us together as a unit. It’s one team, one fight, so when we reenlist together, it shows a team.”

Staff Sgt. Harlan Terry, of Partyville, Wis., and the operations noncommissioned officer in charge for 2nd Bn., 14th Infantry Regiment, has been with the unit for 12 years. He said he re-enlisted because he would like nothing better than to stay with the unit. He and 324 others have reenlisted since the brigade deployed in October 2009.

“It’s kind of a pride thing,” he said. “It’s been a long and wonderful 12 years, so I figure [reenlisting] is the best I can do for myself and for the battalion.”



Soldiers from 2d Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and the 2d Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division re-enlisted at Joint Security Station Loyalty February 10 during 2d BCT's mass re-enlistment ceremony conducted by the BCT commander, Col. David Miller, and the BCT command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Montour. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)



Col. David Miller, commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, congratulates Soldiers who re-enlisted during the Commando mass re-enlistment ceremony held at different bases throughout the BCT's operational environment February 10. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)



Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division hold the American flag and unit colors during a re-enlistment as part of the 2nd BCT mass re-enlistment ceremony throughout the Commando Operational Environment February 20. (Army photo by SSG Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division participated in the Commando mass re-enlistment ceremony at Joint Security Station Zafrania February 10. Conducting the ceremony was Col. David Miller, the 2nd BCT commander. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

2-14 IN with 1-8-2 FP Provide Water Filtration Systems to the Populace

By Capt. Frank Remillard
2nd Bn 14th IN Regt. 2nd BCT, 10TH Mtn. Div.,
USD-C

BAGHDAD – Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in partnership with 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, conducted a patrol to Muhalluh 738 of the 9 Nissan District to improve the quality of life of its citizens March 14.

Recon Platoon, led by 1st Lt. Michael DiPietro, received a supply of water filtration systems at Joint Security Station Beladiyat, and in coordination with 8-2-1 FP passed them out at a number of locations within Muhalluh 738.

"Usually we conduct missions at night to disrupt and deny the enemy freedom of maneuver; it makes it nice to be able to conduct a daytime mission and to see the Iraqi people's appreciation for us and the FP," said Capt. Robert Peterson, commander of HHC, 2-14. "It is good for the Soldiers to see that the conditions of Iraq are always improving. As we moved through the villages many people were cheering and clapping for us, and that made me feel very proud of being partnered with the FP during such a

historic time in Iraqi history."

HHC, 2-14 passed out approximately 50 filters and miscellaneous food and candy to the children as they passed through the villages.

The mission itself was partnered and planned by 8-2-1 FP. The FP decided which villages needed the supplies the most and secured each site as the items were distributed.

"It is great to see that our partners not only understand security needs, but also the quality of life issues the citizens face on a daily basis," said DiPietro. "There is much work left to do, but I am confident our partners are taking the steps necessary to continue the efforts in their area of operations."

The continuing support to the smaller villages in the 9 Nissan district allows its citizens to have better quality of life in the area.

The Federal Police are learning and executing new ideas every day, and as that happens they continue to build a rapport with the populace. In an effort to maintain legitimacy in the 9 Nissan District, 2-14 IN and 8-2-1 FP continue to work together and promote not only the ISF, but the well being of the Iraqi people.



Capt. Robert Peterson of Port Charlotte, FL, Commander of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division playfully demonstrates his combat skills to a group of mimicking onlookers in Muhalluh 738, during a humanitarian assistance mission to supply local citizens with water filtration systems. (Army photo by Sgt. Joseph Davidick)



Staff Sgt. Zachary Smith of Columbus, OH a non-commissioned officer in Recon Platoon, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division supports security operations as part of a dismounted patrol through Muhalluh 738. Soldiers assisted in the distribution of water filtration systems as a part of 2-14 humanitarian assistance mission. (Army photo by Sgt. Joseph Davidick)



1st Lt. Michael DiPietro of Seaford, NY, platoon leader of Recon Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division interacts with children as the 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division and Headquarters Company, 2-14 took part in the distribution of water filtration systems to Muhalluh 738 Mar. 14. (Army photo by Sgt. Joseph Davidick)



An Iraqi boy receives a water filtration system in Muhalluh 738 from 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division and 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division 14 Mar. (Army photo by Sgt. Joseph Davidick)

Ammo point supports responsible drawdown

By SPC Rebecca Schwab
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USMC

BAGHDAD – While Soldiers on the ground must deal with the brunt of the fight, it could be argued that they cannot succeed without strong logistical support backing them up.

Soldiers of 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, do just that: they work behind the scenes to ensure every Soldier has ammunition in good working condition, and that damaged ammunition gets disposed of correctly.

Chief Warrant Officer Eric Scott, of Cleveland, N.Y., and the ammunition technician for Company A, 210th BSB, said it all takes place at the Ammo Transfer Holding Point.

The holding point supplies the brigade with ammunition for everything from M4 rifles to M1 Abrams tanks. It also serves as the collection point for any expended or unused ammunition.

Buckets of expended ammunition, often called brass, must be carefully sorted by a team of ammunition specialists to remove any live rounds that might be in the mix. Unused ammo is then evaluated to see if it must be destroyed or if it can be cleaned up and redistributed.



BAGHDAD – Spc. Michael Tessenaar, of Tampa, Fla., an ammunition specialist with 210th Brigade Support Battalion, sorts through empty shell casings at the Ammo Transfer Holding Point at Contingency Operating Site Hammer. Buckets of expended ammunition must be carefully sorted to remove any live rounds that might be in the mix. (Army photo by Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

“All the different combat posts and locations that are out there have little collections of ammo that have accumulated throughout the years,” Scott said. “Whether it’s serviceable or unserviceable determines where it will go.”

The holding point is supporting the U.S. military responsible drawdown and eventual departure

from Iraq by sending out logistical assistance teams to joint security stations in the brigade’s operational environment. While there, they evaluate the many rockets, missiles, hand grenades, and other weapons that have collected over the years, he said.

“Part of the [military] pulling out of Iraq [involves] cleaning up

nine years’ worth of ammunition,” Scott said. “The logistical assistance teams inspect it, recommend storage and transportation back to the ATHP to help bring that stuff to record, and put it back into the system.”

Useable ammo will then be sent wherever the Army needs it. Most of it, Scott said, will be shipped to either Kuwait or Afghanistan. Ammo deemed unserviceable will be destroyed – blown up by an explosive ordinance team.

Spc. Mark Campfield, of Philadelphia, an ammunition specialist also with Co. A, said their work might be tedious, but it keeps Soldiers safe on the battlefield.

“If we send out bad [ammo], someone might use it against the enemy, and it [might] not work properly,” Campfield said. “We have to pay attention to detail, to every little thing, even if it might not seem that big.”

He said the work they do also helps the brigade leaders keep track of all their weapons and ammunition.

“Without us, munitions would be everywhere,” Campfield said. “I wouldn’t want anything to get in the wrong hands, so it’s good that it leaves the surrounding area and comes here.”



BAGHDAD – Spc. Don Buchanan, of Worden, Ill., Spc. Michael Tessenaar, of Tampa, Fla., and Spc. Atorina Webber, of Modesto, Calif., sort through expended ammo, commonly called brass, at the Ammo Transfer Holding Point on Contingency Operating Site Hammer. All three are ammunition specialists with 210th Brigade Support Battalion. (Army photo by Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)



*PFC Troy and Christy Watson,
1-89 CAV, are proud to announce the
arrival of Abigail Elizabeth, who was
born Feb. 27th. Abigail weighed
8 lbs. 3 oz. at birth.*

*PVT Wade and Mayra Dorris,
2-15 FA, are proud to announce the
arrival of Wade Allen Jr., who was
born Feb. 8th, Wade weighed
7 lbs. 15 oz. at birth.*

*SGT Patrick and Brandy Falls,
210 BSB, are proud to announce the
arrival of Peyton Emanuel, who was
born Feb. 26th. Peyton weighed
7 lbs. 1 oz. at birth.*

'Monster Garage'

U.S. Soldiers weld armor to ISF trucks

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USMC

BAGHDAD—Soldiers with Company B, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, are building armored trucks for Iraqi Security Forces at Contingency Operation Site Hammer.

The 210th BSB has a team of mechanics and welders whose job it is to build armored trucks for the Iraqi Security Forces, known collectively as the Monster Garage.

These welders and mechanics build armored trucks out of new Ford F350 and Chevrolet 3500 trucks by mounting steel boxes into the truck beds and adding armor to the doors and windows.

The crew handcrafts each truck, customizing each according to what is needed.

"We put three turrets in [this] truck, [and] locking mechanisms on all the turrets," said Pfc. Joshua Simmons, a welder and machinist for Company B.

The Soldiers of 210th BSB have built four trucks so far, and there are plans to build up to 19 more. It takes approximately 800 hours to complete one truck, but Soldiers say the benefits are worth it.

"It's important for their security," said Pfc. Albert Cornelius, a light wheel mechanic. "It helps give them a little more protection on the road."



BAGHDAD — A Soldier from Company B, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division's Monster Garage uses a plasma cutter to fabricate armor to be welded on to an Iraqi Federal Police Ford F350 from a sheet of metal at Contingency Operating Site Hammer March 1. Once completed, the truck will be delivered to the 1st Federal Police Division to better protect their personnel during patrols through their area of operations. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

The new trucks also help encourage Iraqis to take more of an initiative when carrying out missions.

"[The Iraqi Security Forces] are a little more willing to get out and do their mission because they know they can do it with a little more safety," said Chief Warrant Officer Troy Hope, allied trades tech with Company B. "They used to have American Soldiers with them ev-

erywhere they went to provide security, [but] now they feel more confident as far as getting out there themselves and taking over the mission."

Once they finish work on a truck, 210th BSB transports it to an ISF unit; ready to go.

There is also a plan for the Monster Garage crew to begin training Iraqi Security Forces to up-armor their own trucks soon.



BAGHDAD — Soldiers with Company B, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division load a newly built armored truck to be delivered to an Iraqi Security Forces camp March 1. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

2/10 COMMANDOS TRANSFERS BUILDINGS TO ISF

By Spc. Rebecca Schwab
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C

BAGHDAD – Not long ago, Forward Operating Base Loyalty became Joint Security Station Loyalty following a partnership between the 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and the 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division.

On March 11, a new phase began in the process of turning more operations of JSS Loyalty over to the government of Iraq with the official opening of a new dining facility and operations center.

The 1st FP, along with Soldiers from the 2d BCT, did a final inspection of the buildings to make sure the facilities were fully functional.

"[The dining facility] was damaged from the



Second Brigade Combat Team Deputy Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Michael Davey, of Peru, N.Y., and officers from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division along with 1st Federal Police Division Operation Commander Col. Muhammad Sadiq, toured and inspected two new facilities at Joint Security Station Loyalty, Iraq, March 11. Shortly after the inspection, the buildings were officially approved and transferred to the Federal Police. (Army photo by Spc. Rebecca Schwab, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

last attacks," said Ahamed Yehya, the project manager and a civil engineer with the

Middle East Engineering Company. "There was a lot of damage, [and it took] five months to renovate the entire building."

Yehya said those renovations included new refrigerators and cooling systems, adequate plumbing, improvements to exterior and interior walls, new floors, windows and doors, and improved electricity throughout.

After inspection and approval, the buildings were signed over to the Iraqi Federal Police.

They will become part of the headquarters for the 1st FP Division, which is now responsible for the security of Baghdad east of the Tigris River.

U.S. authorities said the improvements being made to JSS Loyalty will help the federal police oper-

ate in a self-sufficient and effective manner both now and once the U.S. withdraws from Iraq.

"It allows them to stand up on their own, to be more independent, [and] to operate independently of us," Lt. Col. Michael Davey, of Peru, N.Y., and the deputy commanding officer for the 2d BCT, said. "It gives them better capabilities, to allow them to command and control, and so therefore it allows us to do less, start to downsize our forces, use less soldiers to assist and advise them, and withdraw or draw down responsibly from Iraq."

The 1st Advisory and Assistance Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division will be assuming the assisting and advising role for the Iraqi police forces once the 2d BCT redeploys to Fort Drum.

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If you'd like to see something in this publication, or if you'd like to make contributions, please contact the 2nd BCT Public Affairs Office. 2bct10mtn@gmail.com

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