

Commando Update

Volume 1 ~ Issue 4

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division

May 2010

Stories Inside



Soldiers and Iraqis
build Obstacle Course
~ Page 4



United By
Partnership
~ Page 6 & 7



2-15 FA Soldiers Say
Farewell
~ Page 11



Logistics Transition
and Advisory Team
~ Page 11

Publication issued by the
Commando Public Affairs Office

BSB INDUCTS ITS NEWEST NCO'S

By Capt. Lindsey Rowland
2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C

BAGHDAD – Seventeen Soldiers from 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, were inducted into the noncommissioned officer corps at the Contingency Operations Site Hammer chapel March 24.

Before this ceremony, the last one the BSB conducted was during the previous deployment and represents a major milestone for the Soldiers, said Master Sgt. Darren Nixon, the BSB operations noncommissioned officer in charge and organizer of the induction ceremony.

“It’s a step the Soldiers take into the noncommissioned ranks,” Nixon said. “It’s the break from where they are a follower to a leader.”

The inductees who participated in the ceremony were Sgt. Jason Atkins, Sgt. Brandon Babin, Sgt. Farrah Burley, Sgt. Jesse Craig, Sgt. Sylvia Dangervil, Sgt. Robert



Sgt. Sylvia Dangervil (left), from Company A, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Montour, 2nd BCT command sergeant major, as he congratulates her and welcomes her into the non-commissioned officer corps at Contingency Operation Site Hammer March 24. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Lindsey Rowland, 2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C)

Deisbeck, Sgt. Jonathan Diaz, Sgt. Damesha Graham-Hood, Sgt. Charity Hyde, Sgt. Steven Kuchta, Sgt. Glenn McClinton, Sgt. Waylon Miller, Sgt.

Stephen Pacheco, Sgt. Longuta Phelps, Sgt. Alexis Rosado, Sgt. Lakeith Thomas and Sgt. Bud Todd.

see NEWEST NCO'S on page 9

Cavalry Soldiers let Federal Police take over training at TF Nassir

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

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division conducted their final session as primary instructors for a training center, known as Task Force Nassir, at Contingency Operating Station Cashe South.

The Soldiers’ final

see NASSIR page 5



BAGHDAD - An Iraqi weapons instructor with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, gives a class at the Task Force Nassir Training Academy to Federal Police cadets on the machine gun March 27. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)



Dear Commando Soldiers, Family and friends,

Our last newsletter came out just after the Iraqi elections, and my comments focused on their resounding success and the significant role the Commandos played in them. I also mentioned that we'd now focus on preserving security after the elections and begin transferring our operating area and bases over to Iraqi Security Forces. I stated our success may even result in a somewhat shorter deployment. I commented that whatever our plans are, we'll have to stay flexible because the enemy and environment always get a vote.

Since then, we have in fact preserved security, transferred much of our area to the ISF, and we even began the process of redeploying some Soldiers home. However, just as we were about to put our first Soldiers on planes home, we got the word to push the pause button on redeployment. So I want to take this opportunity to explain why this happened, what we are doing, and what comes next.

First, why the pause button on redeploying? While the elections were a success and we are transferring security and basing to the ISF, our Brigade Combat Team is needed to give added flexibility to U.S. and Iraqi forces while the government gets settled. It is important to note that this pause is not an extension. Our 12 month deployment return date is not until October. We are nowhere close to that right now, and we do not anticipate staying beyond that. Also, I call it a "pause" because it is yet undetermined when we might begin redeploying. It will

be somewhat conditions based, and we will advise all as we are informed.

Second, what have we been doing?

First and foremost, we are WINNING THE WAR. The last newsletter had a cover story about the transfer of a base called Joint Security Station 799 from C Co, 2-14 IN to the ISF. Since then, we have transferred seven more bases to the ISF, three to a small U.S. advisory team, and closed one completely. We have transitioned security of all of East Baghdad to the ISF. This is a monumental success story!

Most of you recall from newsreels or grade school history lessons scenes of four-star generals signing peace agreements at the end of wars; Washington, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Schwarzkopf, etc. In this war (OIF), there will be no such four-star ceremony. Instead there will be hundreds of ceremonies like the one depicted below. In these ceremonies, company commanders sign over security stations to the Iraqis they and all our Soldiers partnered with and trained. As the ISF accept these bases, they also accept security responsibility. That has been our mission in Iraq; help the ISF attain autonomous (on their own) security capability. In our area, 11 of 15 bases have been transferred or closed, and the rest are on schedule. We are WIN-

NING THE WAR! Every Soldier in the BCT plays a role in this win. CSM Montour and I could not be more proud of each and every one of you.

Third, what's next? As we continue the transition of bases and security to the ISF, a number of other things are happening and will happen. 2-14 IN will assume duties as the Division Reserve for USD-C. 2-15 FA will begin training on Artillery skills. 1-89 CAV and 4-31 IN will maintain partnership with ISF for the immediate future. Simultaneously, all units will turn in all non-mission essential equipment and prepare for redeployment (so we are fully prepared to act when the "pause button" is taken off). All units have training plans to ensure we maintain our war fighting edge as we move into the summer.

Most important, we must be ready and able to do two things. One, execute any assigned task. Two, be able to resume redeployment operations at short notice.

I hope this information paints a picture of where we are, what we are doing, and why. We are winning this war, and you are the reason. As the days and weeks go by, do not lose sight of what I described in this note.

CSM Montour and I are proud of the Commando Soldiers for your adaptability and flexibility. We are humbled and appreciative of Commando Families' patience and understanding as we do our duty. Together, Soldiers and Families allow us to live up to our motto,

Courage and Honor!



BAGHDAD – Sameer Al-Haddad, receivership secretariat for the Government of Iraq and Capt. Robert Parsons, commander of Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, sign documents completing the transfer of Joint Security Station Cahill from U.S. forces to Iraqi Security Forces at JSS Cahill April 30. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)



Dear Commando family and friends,

Greetings from Southeast Baghdad. As we near the eighth month of our deployment, your loved ones have done far more than expected. We continue to train with the Iraqi Security Forces and our goal of turning over the responsibilities for securing the Iraqi government and its citizens to them has become a reality. This is made possible because of the superb teaching, coaching, and mentoring the Soldiers in this brigade are executing every day.

The ISF are now in the lead of everything being done. They continue to grow in their professionalism and as a professional military.

As all of you already know, our early re-deployment has been placed in a wait and hold status. USF-I, USD-C and this Brigade remain committed to the mission. The next several months will be critical in the seating of the new government. 2nd BCT staying in place continues to give the USF-I Commander the flexibility he feels he needs during this transition point in the Iraqi history.

Understand we have not been extended past our October "Boots On Ground" date, and we DO NOT anticipate being deployed for more than the original 12 months required. COL Miller and I thank all the Families back home who have helped to keep our Families and continue to maintain focus on the positive.

Additionally, we continue to trans-

fer our bases over to Iraqi control. This is yet another positive sign that things are changing, and the Iraqi government is taking more and more control on a daily basis.

This is success, and although you will never read about each and everyone that takes place in the years to come, it can be compared in significance to Ulysses S. Grant accepting the surrender of the Confederate armies at the Appomattox or Douglas MacArthur signing the peace treaty on the USS Missouri. For the Soldiers and local leaders of Iraq, it is truly that significant of event.

As we close locations and relocate our Soldiers, they are positioned in order to accomplish three key tasks. First and foremost, be able to execute any task the USF-I Commander deems necessary to assist the force in continuing to shape the environment and turn over autonomous operations to the government of Iraq.

Second, be prepared to resume redeployment operations on short notice.

Third, continue to train on our warrior tasks and drills.

Our Soldiers do amazing things every day, and we could not be prouder of the accomplishments made during this deployment. Our Soldiers are awesome and there is no other way to put.

There was much talk over our Facebook page about OPSEC and violations of OPSEC based on the last letter posted. It was posted prior to most of you being notified of the change, and that is something that will be corrected. It went through rigorous screening to ensure that in NO WAY, SHAPE, or FORM would it pass any sensitive information on troop movements, troop locations, or dates and times for any transitions, some of the critical elements we look for when considering OPSEC.

We will continue to use the Environmental Morale Leave program. Soldiers are still pushing out on leave on a continuous basis. We are determined to ensure all our Commandos remain well holistically – mentally, spiritually, and physically.

Both COL Miller and I thank you for your sacrifices and your efforts in taking care of each other, as well as the Soldiers within this Brigade Combat Team. It is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to your continued support.

CSM Joe Montour
Courage and Honor



Baghdad - Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Montour the brigade sergeant major for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division talks with Soldiers from Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT after the ceremony for the transfer of Joint Security Station Cahill to the Iraqi Security Forces May 15. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)

U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Federal Police build obstacle course

By Capt. Marc Allerdt

2-14 Inf. Reg., 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C

BAGHDAD – Combat engineers from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division built a 10-station obstacle course together April 2 with policemen from 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division at Joint Security Station Beladiyat.

The 2-14 Soldiers and 4-1 FP worked side by side, digging through the compacted Iraqi soil. The project was repeatedly put on hold due to contract delays and availability of materials.

“Originally, the site was going to be used for a DNA research institute,” said Lt. Col. Herbert Charity, the 4-1 Federal Police Transition Team chief and project manager. “The first day we went out there with our plans we noticed six other



BAGHDAD – Maj. Eric Hanes, the 4th Brigade, 1st Federal Police Transition Team assistant chief attached to 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, demonstrates to policemen of the 4-1 FP how to maneuver through the “weaver” obstacle after construction of a new obstacle course April 2 at Joint Security Station Beladiyat. (Army photo by Capt. Marc Allerdt, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, USD-C)

Iraqi engineers measuring for the DNA research institute.”

After two months on hold, the

funding for the research institute fell through, and construction on the obstacle course began.

Initially, the project called for an inverted wall with a 20-foot rope climb, however, because of high maintenance and an unforgiving climate, the engineers decided to reduce the number of obstacles in the course.

“I wanted to build it with low maintenance,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Plumb, a combat engineer with 2-14. “This way they will be able to use it whenever they want to and not have to worry about rebuilding and purchasing materials.”

Once the course was complete, four policemen showed up for instructions on how to properly execute each station and test the course.

They all completed the course breathing heavily, with smiles on their faces.



BAGHDAD – Policemen with 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division jump hurdles after the completion of a newly constructed obstacle course, built jointly April 2 with members from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, at Joint Security Station Beladiyat. (Army photo by Capt. Marc Allerdt, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, USD-C)

NASSIR from page 1

class began March 20 and concluded April 1. Following the session, all primary instructors for the training center will come from the Federal Police.

Task Force Nassir is a training center for the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division designed to train new recruits in operations ranging from weapons skills to basic police work.

"When we got here, it was pretty much 90-percent American led and 10-percent Federal Police cadre led," said Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Bakehouse, mortar platoon sergeant for 1-89 and the TF Nassir noncommissioned officer in charge. "In this last class, we have gone to where they teach every class. We are just here to help with any problems they have or just give tips on how to do it better."

Police recruits must



BAGHDAD - Iraqi Federal Policemen with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, practice drill and ceremony at the Task Force Nassir Training Academy as they march to class during a training session at Contingency Operating Station Cashe South March 27. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)

maintain physical fitness by conducting platoon physical training and regular physical fitness tests consisting of pushups and sit-ups for one minute each, and a timed one-mile run.

"We plan the train-

ing time to build the skills of our Soldiers so they will be good in the field," said Lt. Abid Al Majeed Ahmad, training commander for 3-3-1 Iraqi FP. "This is our goal for our Soldiers – to make them the best of the

best."

The entire training cycle spans 13 days and includes drill and ceremony to maintain discipline and pride, and leadership skills.

"We teach them to teach their Soldiers because we don't want to teach them and have it stop there," said Spc. Juan Sandoval Jr., a mortarman for 1-89 Cav.

The recruits also receive classroom work, hands-on training at marksmanship ranges, room-clearing drills in buildings and foot patrols before culminating with a field exercise. Bakehouse said, while the training is extensive, every step is critical for the Iraqis.

"I believe by the time we leave here," said Bakehouse, "they will be able to continue on with this course themselves and continue at the same standard that we have set."



BAGHDAD - Iraqi Federal Policemen with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, attending the Task Force Nassir Training Academy start the run portion of their physical fitness test at Contingency Operating Station Cashe South March 27. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)

UNITED BY



BAGHDAD – A non-commissioned officer with 1st Armored Division stands with an Iraqi Policeman with 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division as they over watch the transfer of Joint Security Station SUVJ from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division to 8-1 FP at JSS SUVJ April 15. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division., USD-C)



BAGHDAD – Maj. Eric Hanes, the 4th Brigade, 1st Federal Police Transition Team assistant chief attached to 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, oversees the digging at the “weaver” obstacle with policemen from the 4-1 FP during construction of a new obstacle course April 2 at Joint Security Station Beladiyat. (Army photo by Capt. Marc Allerd, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, USD-C)



BAGHDAD – 1st Lt. Scott Caffisch, 1st platoon leader, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division thanks Col. Nahead, the deputy commander for 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division at a farewell dinner a Joint Security Station Shield April 4. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division., USD-C)



BAGHDAD - Maj Michael Wisner, executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division shakes hands with an Iraqi Federal Police Officer during a farewell dinner at Joint security Station Beladiyat April 14. (Army photo by Pfc. William Stevens, 2nd Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, USD-C)

PARTNERSHIP



BAGHDAD - Capt. Brian Barnett, commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, gives a speech for the transfer of Joint Security Station S'UJ to the 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division at JSS S'UJ April 15. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division., USD-C)



BAGHDAD – Sgt. Ivan Diaz from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and a Policeman with 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division 8-1 FP hands out school supplies to children at a local school at Joint Security Station S'UJ March 20. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jesse Gross, 55th Combat Camera, USD-C)



BAGHDAD - Soldiers with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division assist Iraqi Federal Police instructors at Task Force Nassir training academy with a physical fitness test for new recruits at Contingency Operation Site Cashe South March 27 (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)



Staff Sgt. Koedy Francis, a squad leader with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and an Iraqi Federal Policeman with 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division dig to find evidence at suspected crime scene east of Baghdad Mar. 16 (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin)

Sergeant Milton Humphreys' Concept of Indirect Fire

By Ben Crookshanks
www.historynet.com

Today, indirect firing—shooting at an unseen target—is an integral part of warfare. During the Gulf War, Tomahawk missiles were launched from ships at targets hundreds of miles away. Out in the desert, banks of artillery pointing skyward fired at an unseen enemy, using the combined aid of satellites and computers. But during the Civil War, manning artillery was a good deal more art than science. With a solid cannonball it was fairly simple—just aim and fire. But when using an exploding shell, the gunner had to estimate the distance and time of trajectory and cut the fuse accordingly. There was a chart on the inside of the limber chest that he could use as a guide, but still, with no way to precisely measure the distance, all he could do was make an educated guess.

A Civil War gunner avoided firing explosive shells over his own troops if at all possible, because he never knew exactly when a shell would explode. Quality control in those days was not the best. Generally speaking, fuses produced in the North were more reliable than those made in the South.

For the most part, Civil War cannons were muzzleloaders, and being part of a gun crew was extremely dangerous. Out in the open, men and horses were sitting ducks for sharpshooters. A full crew consisted of a gunner, who directed fire, and seven artillerymen. The cannon and limber were drawn by four to six horses. Deployed for battle, the limber and horses were placed 6 yards behind the cannon; 11 yards farther back was the caisson, drawn by another four to six horses. All in all, that was a lot of targets bunched up in a small area.

Whenever possible, experienced gunners sought to use the terrain to lessen the danger. Since ground is never absolutely flat, they looked for a rise or swell. The gun was placed so that the cannonball would just clear the ridge of the swell. All that was visible to the enemy was the cannon barrel and the tops of the wheels. A cannon that was not tied down would recoil several feet upon firing. If the slope was great enough, the piece would then be out of the enemy's sight, enabling the crew to reload with a greater degree of safety than would otherwise be possible. Although the cannon had existed for hundreds of years, this was as close to indirect firing as anyone had ever come. On May 19, 1863, however, an 18-year-old Confederate sergeant would change all that.

Milton Wylie Humphreys was born at Anthony's Creek in

Greenbrier County, Va. (now West Virginia), on September 14, 1844. Humphreys was something of a prodigy. As the boy approached school age, his father started teaching him the alphabet. Andrew Humphreys quickly discovered that his son not only knew the alphabet but also could read. His explanation was that he wanted to know what was written in the newspapers. Teachers soon discovered that Humphreys' long suit was mathematics, or 'figgers,' as he called them. While still in grade school, using the face of a rock formation near his home as a chalk board, he solved complex math equations. At the age of 13, Humphreys entered Mercer Academy in Charleston, where he pursued college-level studies.

In 1860, he entered Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Va., and was at the head of his class when the Civil War broke out in April 1861. Humphreys wanted to join immediately, but his age held him back until March 27, 1862, when he enlisted in Bryan's Battery of the 13th Virginia Light Artillery. It was immediately apparent that Humphreys possessed three innate qualities that made him an outstanding gunner: exceptional eyesight, with an extraordinary degree of depth perception; an engineering inventiveness; and unshakable courage under fire.

Federal troops had gained a foothold in western Virginia early in the war. This area, which would become the new state of West Virginia on June 20, 1863, was important to both sides. The North needed the railroads that ran across the northern counties as a link between Washington, D.C., and the West. Homes and factories in the North needed coal from the rich reserves of the area. For the South, the region was a crucial source of salt and food.

In 1862, a plan was drawn up by the South to invade the western counties, destroy the railroads and recapture the salt-rich Kanawha Valley. By early 1863, that plan had been partially abandoned. Instead, during May, Brig. Gens. William E. Jones and John D. Imboden conducted a series of raids attempting to destroy the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and round up as many horses and supplies as possible. Coincident with the raids, a small infantry force mounted a diversionary attack to draw Union troops away from Jones and Imboden.

On May 3, Bryan's Battery moved north to Princeton. The march over rough ground took three days. While crossing Clinch Mountain, the men caught a rattlesnake, defanged it and kept it as a pet. They remained

at Princeton until May 16, when they were ordered to move toward Fayetteville, the county seat of Fayette County, and attack the Federal fortification there as a diversion.

The small force under Colonel John McCausland consisted of the 36th Virginia Infantry, six companies of the 60th Virginia Infantry, a company of cavalry and four pieces of Bryan's Battery—two 3-inch rifled cannons and two 12-pounder howitzers. They averaged 15 miles per day, engaging in minor skirmishing as they neared the fort. On the morning of May 19, two miles from Fayetteville, they encountered a small force of Union cavalry. Bryan's guns opened fire and drove them into the woods. One casualty was Humphreys' favorite gun, 'Maggie,' which jumped out of its brass trunnion bands and broke a front sight.

The Confederates arrived at a cleared plateau approximately a mile and a half in front of the fort. Humphreys gave the following account of the battle in his book, *Military Operations in Fayette County, West Virginia*. 'The infantry went down into the woods toward the works,' he wrote. 'The road to Raleigh (now Beckley, West Va.) after running in a straight line nearly three-fourths of a mile from Fayetteville, turns square to the left, and ascends to a small cleared plateau with a hill on the right. On this ridge were posted Bryan's third and fourth. The second piece (mine) was posted on the plateau at the end of a straight opening which had been cut in the woods and ran directly toward the Federal Fort.

"My piece opened first and was immediately answered, and my third or fourth round cutting away the Yankee colors, they shelled us so vigorously and accurately with several guns that we were compelled to move to a place nearby where we could not be seen for the timber in front of us and the smoke behind us rising from the woods beyond the road which were on fire.'

This was a perfect opportunity for Humphreys to try his theory of indirect fire. He knew that the fort was approximately a mile away. From experience, he knew the range of his cannon. By using trigonometry, he calculated how far he would have to elevate the muzzle of his piece to shoot over the stand of black pines in front of him and drop a shell into the vicinity of the fort. The distance from the gun to the fort formed the base of a triangle; the trajectory of the shell was the hypotenuse. Once the shell expended its momentum, it would drop to earth.

Humphreys placed a man on a nearby hill to direct his fire, which

he kept up the rest of the day and well into the following day. Under orders to fire slowly, due to a shortage of ammunition, he fired only 65 shots. The Union commander, Colonel Carr B. White, sent an armed patrol out on the 20th to locate the cannon, whereupon the Rebels prudently withdrew.

Union losses were light—two killed, seven wounded and nine missing. There is no record of Confederate casualties. Much of the damage sustained was to the landscape around the fort and, no doubt, to the Union soldiers' nerves. They had no idea where the shells were coming from.

In a modest explanation of what he had done, Humphreys wrote: 'The term 'indirect fire' is firing upon a point or place (A) from a point (B) which is not visible to people at (A). It is necessary, of course, that the trajectory or path of the projectile should pass above the top of the 'mask' or intervening object. At Fayetteville, May 19 and 20, 1863, the writer used a grove as a mask, but at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864, he successfully used a low hill. I claim no credit for the 'invention'; the thing is so obvious. In fact, if I invented it, I did not do it at Fayetteville, but in my day-dreams when I was about 8 years old.'

After the war, Humphreys returned to Washington College to finish his education. In 1869, he graduated with a master's degree

in ancient languages. From 1872 to 1874 he studied in Europe, earning a doctorate from the University of Leipzig.

Upon returning to the United States, he taught at Vanderbilt University and the University of Texas. In 1887, he accepted a professorship at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where he remained until his retirement in 1912. Although he lived a life that had brought many honors, titles and degrees, Humphreys once wrote, 'I became known as the 'First Gunner of Bryan's Battery,' a title in which I take more pride in than any other ever bestowed upon me.'

Humphreys died in 1928 and was buried in the chapel at the University of Virginia. His brilliant innovation — indirect firing — lives on.



A portrait of Sergeant Milton Humphreys in the 1900's as a professor at University of Virginia

2-15 FA Soldiers say farewell to Iraqi counterparts

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

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, said their final farewells to 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, at a farewell dinner at Joint Security Station Shield April 4.

The Soldiers of Battery A packed up their gear to move out of JSS Shield after working with federal policemen for more than six months. They conducted everything from patrols to raids together.

Recently the mission has changed for 2-15 after they have handed over all responsibility of the Karada and Zafaraniya district to 1-1 FP Brigade.

“I feel they are very prepared – more prepared than

when we started working with them. I have the utmost confidence they will be fine once we leave,” said 1st Lt. Scott Caflisch, 1st Platoon leader, Battery A.

Battery A also worked with the Iraqi Presidential Brigade and the National Iraqi Intelligence Agency in the Karada peninsula by sharing intelligence information, which resulted in the capture of numerous insurgents and criminals.

“Today is the ending of our partnership with [Iraqi Security Forces] in the Karada,” said Capt. William Fisher of Tulsa, Okla., commander of Battery A. “[The dinner] represents our thanks and gratitude to them for their help and allows us to finalize our relationship with them in the peninsula.”



BAGHDAD – Capt. William Fisher, of Tulsa, Okla., commander of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, gives certificates of appreciation to Col. Nahead, the deputy commander for 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, and his executive officer, Lt. Col. Munther, for their dedication and hard work at Joint Security Station Shield April 4. (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., USD-C)

NEWEST NCOS from page 1

“It’s a rite of passage. This ceremony will make me feel more like a professional NCO and feel a part of the NCO Corps,” said Pacheco, from Company B, who spent two years as a corporal before making his promotion to sergeant. “I think being a corporal first was good training and will help me now.”

When asked if anything was going to change in his daily life after this ceremony Pacheco said, “Nothing will change. I will continue to work hard and accomplish whatever is in my path.”

Guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Montour, the 2d BCT command sergeant major, encouraged the new members to give Soldiers under their care the very best leadership.

“Our Soldiers are looking to you for leadership and they deserve nothing but the best we have to offer. Being an NCO is a change in mindset; it’s you, the NCO that makes things

happen,” said Montour. “It is your job to train and lead Soldiers as well as accomplish the mission. The true mark of leadership is not what they do when you are around, but what they do when you are not around.”

First sergeants from within the battalion sat in the front row during the ceremony to provide the rite of passage to members as they crossed the threshold from Soldier to NCO. As each NCO’s name was announced, the NCO crossed a wooden pillar and was met by Montour and BSB Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Connally on the opposite side to welcome them into the NCO Corps.

Each inductee was also handed a framed copy of the NCO Creed, signed by Lt. Col. Thomas Murphy, the BSB commander, and Connally.

“The NCOs affirmed their commitment to the professionalism of our corps today,” said Connally, “and will carry on the tradition of being the backbone of the Army.”



BAGHDAD - Sgt. Brandon Babin, Radiology non-commissioned officer in charge, Company C, 210 Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division with his framed NCO Creed after the 210 BSB NCO Induction held at the Contingency Operation Site Hammer Chapel March 24. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Lindsey Rowland, 2nd BCT PAO, 10TH Mtn. Div., USD-C)



*CPT Victor and Lauren Demouth,
2-15 FA, are proud to announce the
arrival of Charlotte, who was
born Mar. 24th*

*SFC Eugene and Michelle,
2-14 IN are proud to announce the
arrival of Cooper Alexander Scott who was
born Feb. 28 Cooper weighed
7 lbs. 6 oz. at birth.*

*SGT Travis and Lyndsey Hodgkinson,
2-15 FA, are proud to announce the
arrival of Jackson, who was
born Mar. 24th*

*SGT Tyler and Rebecca Johnson,
4-31 IN, are proud to announce the
arrival of Morgan Ann, who was
born Feb. 22nd Morgan weighed
8 lbs. 3 oz. at birth.*

*SPC Aaron and Janine Sherbahn,
4-31 IN, are proud to announce the
arrival of Payton Sue, who was
born Feb. 24th Payton weighed
5 lbs. 8 oz at birth*

*SPC Donald and Elizabeth May,
4-31 IN, are proud to announce the
arrival of Brayden, who was
born Feb. 9th Brayden weighed
7 lbs. 8 oz. at birth*

*SPC Drew and Ireana James,
4-31 IN, are proud to announce the
arrival of Bradyn Alan Bedwell, who
was born Mar. 16th Bradyn weighed
4 lbs. 15 oz. at birth*

*PFC Terry and Dina Stanfill,
4-31 IN, are proud to announce the
arrival of Sofia, who was
born Mar. 4th Sofia weighed
5 lbs. 11 oz. at birth*

*SPC Herbert and Amanda Howard,
4-31 IN, are proud to announce the arrivals
of Dominic Allen and Damien Michael
who was born Feb. 6th, Dominic weighed
5 lbs. and Damien weighed 4 lbs. 15 oz. at birth*

LOGISTICS TRANSITION AND ADVISORY TEAM TRAINS IRAQI ARMY MEDICS

*By 1st Lt. Michael Shurmatz
210 BSB, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.,*

BAGHDAD – The Logistics Transition and Advisory Team, 210 Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, executes one of the battalion's and brigade's most important missions, assisting in preparing the Iraqi Army and Federal Police to take over military operations in Iraq, at contingency Operation Site Hammer March 22.

The LTAT has been and will continue to work with Iraqi Army and Federal Police units to make them self sustaining fighting forces, advising them on logistic operations, including vehicle maintenance, supply support activities and medical support.

The team has been active over the past thirty days moving throughout the 2BCT Operational Environment conducting two extended training events with Iraqi Army and Federal Police units.

From Feb. 14 to 18, the LTAT partnered with the 45th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division at Combat Outpost Carver and held a Clinical and Field Emergency Medical training event.

Having already worked with IA Soldiers on basic combat lifesaver techniques, the team went into more detail teaching classes on Hemorrhages, Airway, Bleeding, Circulation training, evacuation platforms, burns and treatment, and airway management in tactical situations.

Eight Iraqi medics were trained and received certificates of achievement as the five day event culminated with the IA medics running through Combat



BAGHDAD - Iraqi Soldiers with the 45th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division practice treating an injury during a five day medical training event with the 210 Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division DIV Logistics Transition and Advisory Team at Combat Outpost Carver March 22. (Army Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Shurmatz, 210 BSB, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. USD-C)

Trauma Lanes, displaying their medical skills in a simulated combat environment.

With only a few days to rest and reset, the team traveled to Combat Outpost Cashe South to partner with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division for intermediate level drivers training from Feb. 21 to 25.

Classes were given on vehicle preventive maintenance checks and services procedures, hand and arm ground guiding signals, and proper operation of the M1114 Humvee, the most commonly used tactical vehicle by Iraqi FP. A total of fifteen Iraqi FP attended this master driver train the trainer course and walked away with invaluable skills in vehicle operation and maintenance.

The overall goal of both training events was to train the Iraqi Soldiers; providing them with the adequate skills and ability to train their lower level Soldiers.

"The Iraqis were a lot better trained in the medical field than we expected them to be," said Capt. Patrick

Engeman, LTAT officer in charge.

"As we were training them we found they already knew a lot of the basic medical skills." The LTAT does not enter a partnership with the Iraqis looking to change the way they handle logistics; they advise and assist them, they offer their perspective and point of view as subject matter experts, in an attempt to improve their operating procedures.

"We are trying to get the Iraqi Security Force units to use their supply system instead of depending on U.S. assets," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Mesa, LTAT non-commissioned officer in charge. "The first thing is to help them have a better understanding of their own supply system. What we have found is that most ISF are unaware of how it works. Once they understand the process the ISF can then become more self-sustaining."

Progressive steps are being made toward the Iraqi Army and Federal Police becoming fully functioning self sustaining units, capable of protecting and defending the people of Iraq.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Thorns and Roses

As you've probably found out already, this road of life isn't always smooth or absent of an occasional bump or two. The issue really becomes, then, how we interpret those difficult times in life. Many choose to react negatively to all such challenges, while others in a more positive perspective as an opportunity for learning, etc. Someone once fittingly said in this regard, "Some complain because God put thorns on Roses, while others praise God for putting roses among the thorns." Perspective really is everything here. Take the time today to learn from those difficult challenges that life brings and stop to smell the sweet fragrance of the roses along the way. **COMMANDOS!**

*Commando Update,
the official
publication of the
Second Brigade
Combat Team, 10th
Mountain Division.*

*Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Timothy Hyde*

*PAO NCOIC
SSG Ryan Sabin*

*PAO Staff
SpC. Rebecca Schwab*

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

We're always striving to improve this publication. Remember, this is your publication.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, clarity and space.

Commando Update is in compliance with AR 360-1.

JSS is transferred to Iraqi Security Forces

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

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division transferred Joint Security Station SUJ over to the 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division at JSS SUJ April 15.

As the U.S. draws down forces in Iraq in accordance with the security agreement bases are being transferred over to Iraqi Security Forces. JSS SUJ is the second JSS to be transferred over to the ISF in 2nd BCT's Operational Environment.

2-14 has worked with 8-2 FP over the past six months by conducting partnership training, patrols and humanitarian assistance missions.

"It is clear that 2-14 had a great partnership with the Federal Police brigade that is here in this area. They have gotten to the point where they don't need U.S. presence anymore," said Col. Mark Calvert, chief of staff, U.S. Division Central.

The ceremony took place at JSS SUJ where nu-



BAGHDAD – A lieutenant with 3rd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division raises the Iraqi flag after a ceremony for the signing of Joint Security Station SUJ transferring responsibility from U.S. Forces to the Iraqi Security Forces at JSS SUJ April 15. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division., USD-C)

merous local sheiks, Iraqi FP officers and U.S. soldiers took part.

"The U.S. gave us all the support all the time. We will always remember and appreciate every drop of blood they spilt. These casualties made Iraq what it is now," said Col. Samir Shati Aziz, commander 3rd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd FP Division. "We are now more confident; we can stand on our feet and can do everything on our own."



BAGHDAD – Capt. Brian Barnett commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Kareem commander of 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division after the signing of Joint Security Station SUJ, transferring responsibility from the U.S. to the Iraqi Security Forces at JSS SUJ April 15. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sabin, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division., USD-C)