

Command of Camp Cropper

49th takes leadership of Iraq detention facility

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP CROPPER, Iraq - The 49th Military Police Brigade Tactical Command Post officially replaced the 89th Military Police Brigade during a Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Camp Cropper, April 24, and assumed responsibility of the last detention center in Iraq operated by United States forces.

The 49th MP Bde. TAC CP, established April 2010, is part of the California Army National Guard's 49th MP Bde., which has been in Iraq since October, 2009.

The TAC CP's mission will focus on Camp Cropper's Theatre Internment Facility. The TAC CP's priority is to prepare to transfer the TIF to the Iraqi government by July.

Col. Grace Edinboro, commander of the 49th MP Bde. TAC CP, took over for Col. John Huey, commander of the 89th MP Bde., an active duty Army unit based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

During their deployment the 89th closed the Bucca TIF in September 2009 and transferred the Taji TIF to Iraq's Ministry of Justice in March.

These efforts led to Camp Cropper's current status as the "next milestone in U.S. and Iraq relations in building Iraq's correctional system," Huey said.

"To the 49th MP Brigade TAC, I want to thank you for stepping up and jumping into the breach, and getting on board this train travelling at 100 miles per hour," said Maj. Gen. Nelson Cannon, the U.S. Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general.

"Transitions are challenging. And in this business, it brings great risk. But you've all proven yourself up to the task.

"This is a strategic mission for the



US Army photos/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

TOP: Col. Grace Edinboro, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade Tactical Command Post, speaks to Soldiers at the Transfer of Authority at Camp Cropper, Iraq. Col. Edinboro commands a unit that will focus on transferring Camp Cropper, the last US-owned theatre internment facility, to the Iraqi government.

LEFT: Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, deputy commanding general for detainee operations for United States Forces-Iraq, relays messages to the 49th MP Brigade Tactical Command Post. The general welcomed the 49th by stating, "I want to thank you for stepping up and jumping into the breach, and getting on board this train travelling at 100 miles per hour."



United States of America. It's important for the Army, it's important for the Armed Forces. It's important for the nation," Edinboro said. "We need to make sure that people under our care and custody are treated with dignity and respect and have all of the rights that are given to them, but are also controlled in a way that gives a positive influence on Iraq and US forces."

The Cropper TIF is a multimillion dollar facility run by the U.S. Army and Iraqi forces. It currently houses more than 2,500 detainees.

The TAC CP will be assisted by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 705th MP Battalion.

The 705th operates the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the only maximum security prison in the Department of Defense.

The 49th MP Bde., which still presides over its original 4,800-troop, four-battalion command, took charge of an additional 3,000 Soldiers and three battalions through the transfer of authority ceremony between the 89th and the TAC CP.

Remain mission focused, finish strong

Soon, the 49th Military Police Brigade will transition from police training to the Responsible Drawdown of Forces as its main effort, meaning you will be reading this newsletter for the last time.

Several of our units have already left theater without a unit to backfill them. As most of us turn our attention toward home, it's easy to let down our guard, allowing complacency to set in.

I ask that you take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and muster the strength to finish strong. This requires that we maintain our self-discipline, unit morale, and our mission focus.

For the past nine months our Soldiers have consistently and faithfully protected the force, trained the Iraqi Police, safeguarded detainees and conducted law and order operations throughout the battlefield.

Battle losses have taken a

steady plunge, while non-battle losses have also continued to decline. With our assistance, our Iraqi partners have grown stronger, more self-reliant and capable each day.

Your work has been tedious and difficult, and your conduct professional. While you offered the Iraqis advice, you let them drive their own training priorities. You added value to our maneuver commanders' mission, and you demonstrated your competence on the battlefield, where it counts the most.

In short, your work has been consistent with the highest traditions of the Military Police Corps.

As we finish strong, we must set the conditions for the maneuver units that follow and for a successful way ahead for the Iraqi Police.

BRIG. GEN. DONALD CURRIER

Commander, 49th Military Police Brigade

We must also set the way for the future of our units and our individual Soldiers. Now is the time to catch up on your unit histories, strengthen relationships and plan ahead for future assignments.

It is NOT time to let petty differences divide us. It is NOT the time to become complacent.

Traditionally, this is the point in time where patience wears thin with the annoying habits of your roommate, your first line superiors or your senior leaders.

Remember that this is not about you, it's about what you started out to do and what you have already accomplished. Don't let pettiness drive your actions. Stay professional to the end. Remind your fellow Soldiers to do the same. Stay vigilant. Finish strong!



I thank you and your family for the sacrifices you make each day to serve your country.

I look forward to the time when you redeploy and reflect back on your time in Iraq, and the positive contribution you made to the safety and security of our country.

I am proud of you all.
Sentinels Strong!

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

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Spc. Eddie Siguenza

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Unit Public Affairs Representatives

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Take no shortcuts this late in the game



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROBERT LILES

Command Sergeant Major, 49th Military Police Brigade

force intact.

So if negligent discharges are affecting the force, what comes next?

Vehicle accidents are up there as well. This one really surprises me since we have spent countless hours in the licensing of our Soldiers and sending them to formalized training. Again, this is an NCO-driven responsibility. I implore the NCOs at every level to take this as a personal crusade. Let's turn the tide on vehicle accidents and set the example for others to emulate.

Inappropriate relationships A lot of time has been put forward from the special staff visits to educate everyone entering this theater, especially for units subordinate to the 49th. This was meant to turn the tide of previous Uniform Code of Military Justice actions from previous units.

We must ensure that dignity and respect are being enforced at all levels. As brothers and sisters in arms, we cannot afford to allow this to continue. Be part of the solution. Stop inappropriate behaviors when you see them. Don't allow them to become a career-ending consequence.

Sergeant Audie Murphy

As we approach our end of mission, I challenge all of you to remain vigilant and professional. We are not done with our mission. We cannot allow complacency within our ranks.

Negligent discharges are significantly on the rise. First line leaders need to be relentless in ensuring proper procedures are being enforced. Noncommissioned officer leadership is mandatory in every step of your mission planning, execution and reset.

No one should be taking shortcuts. Having said this, you can assume that if the Brigade Command Sergeant Major is saying it, then there have been mistakes made in our ranks.

Yes, it's true. So I ask that every enlisted Soldier slow down and hold each other accountable. Everyone is responsible for safety and keeping the

Club The 49th had three individuals who represented the Brigade and their units. I will hold off on the names for now. Hopefully we will have the three recipients of the SAMC announced in our next newsletter.

I will say that it is a very distinct honor to just be recommended for this prestigious award. It's an honor to compete in it. Participants were boarded by the 3rd Corps command sergeant major on May 14.

For those who ascribe to compete in this process, I hope you will. Plan this one out very carefully. This is not a board to be taken lightly.

I would recommend that you speak directly to a past recipient and his/her mentor. Those who compete usually spend an entire year just getting ready for the battalion board in hopes of making it to the brigade board.

Hero of the Week For those who have earned the Hero of the Week, I personally congratulate you! For those who were submitted and not selected, I would like to congratulate you for being nominated!

Take heart in knowing that you were recognized by your unit first sergeant and battalion command sergeant major. Continue to excel and lead by example. Your efforts are not unnoticed and you are one of the best.

For those who submitted Hero of the Week, you too need to know that you had a hand in the process. The success of this program is because of your time in recognizing the efforts of these Heroes. Great job and thank you again.

Nonlethal training Wow, what a great opportunity for all. The brigade has exported this training to about 600 Soldiers now.

I get the privilege of speaking with students who come to our compound. No one has left saying the training was boring and old hash. Everyone I spoke with was happy to participate. They stated that they learned a lot.

Even if it was the legal aspect or the shooting of the impact munitions, everyone got something of value out of this class. So good job nonlethal instructors.

If your unit needs a specific training requirement, you can contact our nonlethal instructors to set up events and training. Use your chain of command of course.

Finally, I would like to discuss social networks. Don't lose sight of operations security. Remain aware of what is being projected by your web camera. You should not be walking around with your laptop and web camera in your housing unit or living area.

Consider the background if you are on a FOB. Look who is around when you converse with loved ones. Your choice of words and conversations of pending operations are close hold and not for public distribution.

If you are not sure of a subject, it should not be discussed. You can always ask your supervisor first. Plan your time online. Make a list of topics before you get on the internet.

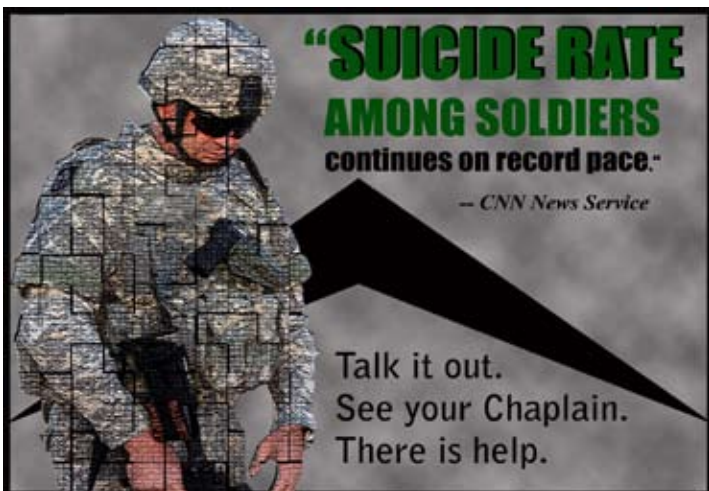
Bottom line: We are very proud of your contributions under the 49th Military Police Brigade. We're honored with your willingness to serve.

Keep the core values in mind and treat each other with dignity and respect. Keep the force safe and return home to the ones you love most.

For all Individual Ready Reservists who are leaving very soon, have a safe trip. Know that we will miss you.

We hope that you will consider staying in the military police family.

God bless and safe travels.



COB Speicher honors fallen enforcement officers

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq - The 317th Military Police Battalion held a Law Enforcement Memorial Candlelight Vigil at the North Morale, Welfare and Recreation center and a 6-Kilometer run and walk on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, May 10.

The events were held to honor law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom within United States Division - North, from 2003 to 2010. More than 100 service members participated in the 6K run in the early hours of May 9. More than 200 service members and civilians attended the vigil held the following night.

The candlelight vigil included all military branches and civilian law enforcement officers. The stage was set with a fallen Soldier display for each branch, along with their unit's guidons. Pictures of the fallen law enforcement officers were displayed for all to see.

Carrying on the time-honored tradition of honoring fallen police officers, retired U.S. Marshal, James Roberts, senior law enforcement advisor to command group for 3rd Infantry Division, spoke about the importance of military police serving in Iraq.

"With our departure, we leave a nation that is implementing a democratic constitution much like ours. Our presence has made a difference," said Mr. Roberts. "The names of the 69 law enforcement officers who died for the cause of freedom will always be associated with the freeing of the oppressed people of this nation."

As per tradition for military memorial ceremonies, a last roll call was given for the fallen law enforcement officers. A representative from each branch called

out the 38 Army, eight Air Force, eight Navy, five Marine, and 10 civilian names of the fallen officers. As the names were called, a distant voice from the audience echoed back, "absent," in a stark-quiet room.

"It is important for them to be remembered. They served for our country and they died protecting us. They didn't have to do what they did, but they did," said Spc. Kristina P. Woods, a paralegal specialist for the 317th.

At the completion of the roll call, two Soldiers from the 545th Military Police Company, stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, presented a wreath in honor of the fallen.

The 545th MP Co., Ft. Richardson, Alaska, sustained the most recent loss in the USD-N area: three military police Soldiers were killed while on a convoy to Bayji, Iraq, Sept. 8, 2009.

The ceremony concluded with a candlelight vigil. As the glow of the candles lit the somber faces of servicemembers and civilians, the fallen police officers were honored with a three-round volley,

By SGT JESSICA ROHR
and SPC JESSICA ZULIG
*135th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment*



followed by the playing of "Taps."

"This is a time of nation-wide remembrance of those law enforcement personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty," said Mr. Roberts.

"For us it is a time for reflection and re-commitment to our military and civilian values as servicemembers and peacekeepers We are here to remind ourselves why we carry out our duties as guardians for the security of our citizens, our communities, and our country."

Customs inspection

49th Soldiers assist units heading home

By SGT KENNETH BINCE

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Soldiers from the 49 Military Police Brigade conducted US Customs inspections for more than 90 personnel from the Fort Hood, Texas-bound 1st Medical Brigade, ‘Silver Knights’, April 20.

The five-Soldier MP customs inspection team consisted of Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald, Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Ratley, from the 49th MP Brigade, and Sgt. Ronnie Head, Spc. Steven Kilcrease and Spc. Kamisha Mitchell, from the 217th MP Company.

“In accordance with the Security Forces Agreement, US Forces will responsibly drawdown to a troop level of approximately 50,000 in theater by September 1,” said Maj. Earl Russell, 49th MP long range plans officer in charge. “Customs inspections are a part of that process, and are mandated for all departing service members as well as DoD civilians.”

Since arriving in theater, October 2009, the 49th has worked diligently at accomplishing the important customs mission. “(The 49th is) just a part of the overall process of redeploying back to the states; not only do we inspect the personal items that belong to Soldiers, but all of the mission essential equipment that units bring into theater,” said Russell.

“The customs inspections are also part of the MP full-spectrum operations, which is categorized under law and order,” said McDonald. “MPs are usually tasked with this type mission in theater as well in the US.”

To start the process, a mandatory prohibited and restricted items briefing is conducted, followed by a ten-minute amnesty period. “Once the amnesty period is up, my team begins searching anything and everything,” said McDonald.

“What we are searching for are prohibited and restricted items, or contraband such as ammunition, classified documents, pirated DVDs, pornography, switch blade knives, dirt and sand, to name a few,” she said.



Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald, 49th Military Police Brigade, long range plans noncommissioned officer in charge, secures a tie-down strap with a serial-numbered US Customs seal to prevent unauthorized tampering of property and equipment during the long trip home via cargo ships or air transport, Sather Air Base, Iraq, April 19.



Sgt. Ronnie Head (left), a member of the Alabama National Guard, 217th Military Police Company, physically inspects the personal property of Spc. Jarrod Smith, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 1st Medical Brigade Headquarter's Company, prior to sealing it into a 25-foot shipping container.



Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Ratley (right), a member of the California National Guard, 49th Military Police Brigade US Customs inspection team, checks the soles of a pair of boots during the inspection of the 1st Medical Brigade Headquarter's Company, Camp Victory, Iraq, April 19. All property and equipment returning to the US must be free of contaminants before it can be transported back home.

Dirt and sand can possibly contain indigenous species and bacteria that can wreak havoc on the agricultural economy of the US, said McDonald.

As the MPs systematically started inspecting, more than 90 Soldiers stood by their personal belongings that filled the 100-foot by 200-foot gravel parking lot. “The team has seen teddy bears to a surf board, anything you can think of, Soldiers own, and they want to take back home with them,” said McDonald.

At approximately an hour into the inspection, one 25-foot shipping container was completely filled to the ceiling with footlockers and duffel bags, and the second one soon followed. “The last few items are usually odd shaped, so a combination of plywood blocking and shipping straps secured the final items inside of the second container,” said McDonald.

Once the final items are secured for shipment, sealing of the containers takes place. “The procedure requires sealing the containers or packing straps and nets with US Customs tamperproof seals, which are all serial numbered and logged,” said McDonald. “Seals are used to make sure the container is not breached during transport.”

“Since the 49th MPs received the mission from the 8th MP Brigade, the customs inspection team has inspected 41 units, and it’s scheduled to complete an additional 40 more,” said McDonald.

The team’s success during an inspection is dependant upon the coordination between the team and the unit prior to the actual inspection date. “Inspection dates are usually set a month in advance,” said McDonald. “That’s when I distribute the prohibited and restricted items list.”

The 1st Medical Brigade, the unit being inspected, began preparing for this day for more than a month. “Once we received the specifics of what (the customs team) needed, I setup weekly meetings with all of the different sections to track the unit’s readiness,” said Staff Sgt. Lionel Martinez, 1st Medical Brigade, headquarters’ company supply sergeant.

“Not only did the company give weekly classes on the prohibited and restricted list, we also had all Soldiers fill out their packing lists (DA form 1750) more than a week ago,” said Martinez.

As US Forces draw down to the 50,000-troop level by September, the 49th’s customs team will continue to complete its mission of preventing the importation of prohibited or restricted items, and to protect the agriculture and economy of the United States.

Special weapons, tactics



151st helps IPS with special training

On April 6, in partnership with the 151st Military Police Battalion, Iraqi Police Advisors Mr. Stacey and Mr. Coulter assisted the Habbaniyah Regional Training Center (HRTC) with their Special Weapons and Tactics Course.

The training team was informed by the HRTC's Special Weapons and Tactics instructors that the training that day would include building searches. The training element and HRTC staff developed and executed a plan that included MTT-9 personnel training HRTC's SWAT instructors on building searches.

The class included 62 Iraqi SWAT students.

The HRTC greatly encourages Train-the-Trainer programs. With an influx of almost 500 students to the training center, the leadership of the HRTC constantly implements programs to more effectively train Iraqi Police. They recognized the productivity of incorporating skill sets from a vast array of experiences and are able to utilize them during the course of their curriculum.

The HRTC leadership continues to develop and expand their training center into a more effective and invaluable training institution. By supporting train the trainer programs, the HRTC exhibits behavior conducive to professionalizing the Iraqi Police Force.

The HRTC leadership has processed more than 500 students for their April courses. They are planning, preparing, and executing classes including SWAT and promotions courses.

The training element is assisting the HRTC staff with the planning and preparing phase of the HRTC's mission by training the instructors on skills they wish to be more efficient in executing.



Basic first aid



On April 8, 1st Battalion, 5th Border Brigade at 1st Battalion Headquarters near Port of Entry Trebil, conducted in-service training with the 151st Military Police Battalion Mobile Training Team 2 (MTT2), with Iraqi Police Advisor Joe Santos and BEA (Border Enforcement Advisor) Nate King. The basic first aid training consisted of preventative measures, self care, buddy aid, and additional life saving techniques.

Through excellent partnership between the leadership of 5th Border Brigade and United States Forces Department of Border Enforcement Stability Transition Team, MTT 2 was able to establish a training plan that utilized USF and ISF capabilities and expertise.

With the drawdown of US forces, the Iraqi border agents have not had significant attention as other entities in Iraqi Security Force partnership program. With the conception of the Train the Trainer program; Iraqi and US teams are able to provide needed training to a larger quantity of ISF.

1st Battalion proposed the idea of sending personnel who had the necessary skill sets to learn new practices and procedures, refine their concepts of teaching, and carry on the instruction without US assistance.

MTT2 has taken their qualified instructors, training aids and translated course material to the students at the borders. We've incorporated our knowledge base into the established and functional operational skills already in use enhancing the overall security and protection of the citizens of Iraq.

-- Heroes --



**512th MP
Company**
**Sgt. Joseph
McGoldrick**

In order to establish positive relations with our Iraqi counterparts, Sgt. McGoldrick has taken the time to learn Kurdish culture.

He cooked a traditional Kurdish meal for the Iraqi Police at the Emergency Services Unit.

Sgt. McGoldrick exemplifies the dedication to duty and selfless service.

203rd Military Police Battalion
Sgt. Brandon Teague

On numerous occasions Sgt. Teague has demonstrated himself as a valuable asset to the 203rd. Sgt. Teague has been a member of the Police Transition Team since the beginning of the battalion mission in Iraq.

Sgt. Teague has demonstrated his abilities as an outstanding instructor during the numerous training events hosted by the PTT team.

Additionally, Sgt. Teague is cur-



HEROES OF THE WEEK (See Pages 7-10) 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.

543rd Military Police Company **Staff Sgt. Danielle Talton**



Staff Sgt. Talton week after week establishes herself as a top level noncommissioned officer in the unit. She consistently is recognized for her amazing contributions to the mission.

She was selected by the 1-15th Infantry Battalion senior leadership for a 3rd Infantry Brigade squad competition "Best of the Best." Her squad won the competition.

Staff Sgt. Talton earned her second impact Army Commendation Medal of the deployment.

Again, recognized by the 1-15th, Staff Sgt. Talton earned her first impact ARCOM for instructing an abdominal fitness class at the Forward Operating



Base Echo. Every week Staff Sgt. Talton, along with her husband, dedicate their personal time to dish out abdominal training, helping Soldiers meet their individual fitness goals.

Additionally, Staff Sgt. Talton is also a boots on the ground squad leader for 2nd platoon. The platoon focuses on key leader engagements at their IP stations to conducting patrols, terrain denials and supporting the COS Endeavor mission.

Her dedication to the unit's mission is never in question. Staff Sgt. Talton's squad provides the 543rd tactical operations center with detailed reports and valuable information that the 1-15th utilizes.

354th Military Police Company
Sgt. 1st Class Renard

Sgt. 1st Class Renard hails from Leavenworth, Kansas, and is a lone-some fan of the Kansas City Royals. His dedication to the Royals makes him one of 37 fans who actually attend their games. The soft-spoken Sgt. 1st Class Renard is an avid reader of Harlequin Bedtime novels and is currently working on his Masters Degree.

Although this is his first deployment, Sgt. 1st Class Renard's experience and strong leadership make him a stand-out amongst his peers. He is the operation's noncommissioned officer in charge. He maintains the 354th's hectic



post operations and oversees unit readiness and missions tasking.

Sgt 1st Class Renard is responsible for mission analysis, planning and synchronization of combined operations within various operations. He is the training NCO for the unit.



-- Heroes --

546th Military Police Company

Spc. Sonia Himelfarb

Spc. Himelfarb has demonstrated outstanding dedication to self improvement by participating in and winning the 546th Military Police Company Soldier of the Month Board.

Spc. Himelfarb was then chosen to represent the unit at the Task Force 2-69 Army Reserve Battalion Soldier of the Month Board. Her determination to memorize the noncommissioned officers creed and participate in multiple mock boards despite a demanding work schedule proves Spc. Himelfarb's commitment to excellence.

At that time, Spc. Himelfarb was the only private first class to attend the board. She earned third out of 22 peers.



206th Military Police Company

Staff Sgt. Joseph C. Weidlich

Staff Sgt. Weidlich previously served in the Marine Corps and the Navy Reserves. This is Staff Sgt. Weidlich second tour in Iraq. He served as a Navy Seabee in Ramadi in 2004. Staff Sgt. Weidlich has a master's degree in Biology. Staff Sgt. Weidlich was selected as the company Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He went on to win the Northeast and New York State M-Day NCO of the Year. He competed in the National Soldier of the Year at Fort Benning, Georgia. He wanted to give more to the unit, entering the Active Guard and Reserve as a supply sergeant. After little more than one year in the position, the unit was scheduled to deploy, where he had to put the tools of his newly acquired trade to use. He had to ensure that all the equipment needed for pre-mobilization training made its way to Fort Dix, New Jersey, and the equipment not going to Iraq with the 206th found its way back to Latham, New York. Now, with redeployment around the corner, Staff Sgt. Weidlich has had to laterally transfer or turn in full the contents of an entire small outpost (Basra Operations Center Life Support Area) formerly occupied by the 206th.

49th MP Brigade

Staff Sgt. Victor Rae



ally coordinated for the access and visitation of the IP's immediate family members/ Staff Sgt. Rae rallied two brigade linguists and several brigade Personnel Security Detachment members to assist him while he personally picked up the family members, escorted them during their several day stay, and assisted them with the transportation of the deceased IP once he eventually succumbed to his injuries.

Staff Sgt. Rae also provide emotional comfort for the family during their time of need. He coordinated for a donation of several hundred dollars from Headquarters, 49th Military Police Brigade. Staff Sgt. Rae embodies the Army Values and demonstrated the unique bond that our Soldiers can form with our Iraqi Police partners.



543rd Military Police Company

Spc. Michael Brunner

Spc. Brunner has displayed outstanding performance in spearheading the communications section's responsibilities with Electronic Warfare Office specialists. Spc. Brunner's efforts in directing the unit's personnel and vehicles within the EWO shop have earned him laudatory comments by senior leadership. He was also honored by the 1-15th Infantry Battalion with an impact Army Commendation Medal. His willingness to step forward, growth in knowledge and contributions to the unit's day to day mission during deployment have given him this distinct honor.

When one of our Iraqi Police partners was critically wounded in Basra and transported to the Victory Base Combat Support Hospital for treatment, Staff Sgt. Rae displayed exceptional initiative and caring when he person-

-- Heroes --

206th MP Company *Sgt. Mark Kring*

Sgt. Mark Kring of Ghent, New York initially joined the Marine Corps in 1991, serving on the Fleet Anti-Terror Strike Team where he received Marine of the Month and Quarter.

After leaving the Marine Corps after four years, he began to compete in bodybuilding where he was awarded USA Natural, Mr. New York State, and as recently as 2002 was awarded Iron Man. He has also made appearances on the television show Conan O'Brian.

In 2008 he joined the New York National Guard and the Military Police Corp. Sgt. Kring was the honor graduate at Military Police school. He then attended Warrior Leadership Course where he was also awarded honor graduate.

As team leader for Quick Reaction Force at the Basra Operations Center, Sgt. Kring has used his vast knowledge of fitness to rebuild the BaOC gym using donated equipment. He changed the gym from a neglected state to being an updated and expanded facility.

He is also responsible for organizing the BaOC Weight Club Challenge which is a formal monthly lifting competition that all BaOC tenants are eligible to take part in while simultaneously creating and running the 206th Fitness challenge which promotes all around physical health.

Currently Sgt. Kring is actively involved in the creation and demonstration of COB Basrah's First Annual Body Building Competition.

Using his prior experience and knowledge of the art, he is arranging instructive classes on posing, proper form and diet with all interested occupants. The competition is open to all COB resi-



dents. This demonstration will be the first to be held in all of southern Iraq.

Sgt. Kring is donating his time to raise sponsors, prizes and train every contestant. He has also recently attended the Sensitive Site Exploitation course in Baghdad where he was awarded honor graduate by Command Sgt. Maj. Ward. This honor was the first of its type given in the 12 cycles that the courses have run.

Sgt. Krings' knowledge of physical fitness and leadership skills in the field has benefited the 206th greatly. He also uses his positive attitude to keep his team and his platoon motivated.

Sgt. Kring shows that if a Soldier applies himself, he will succeed. Though he barely speaks of his past accomplishments, Sgt. Kring carries himself with pride at all times using himself as an example of what can be achieved with hard work.

354th MP Company *Cpl. Christopher Gleason*



Cpl. Christopher Gleason took over as team leader recently for his squad and has done an outstanding job.

He is proficient at getting all vehicles and equipment issues taken care of so his squad leader and other leadership can focus on their tasks.

He is always assisting other Soldiers and teams with any issues they might have. Cpl. Gleason is a Soldier whose squad members look to him for help. On station visits he takes charge of outer perimeter security at the station. He was capable of taking over as team leader without any assistance.

Cpl. Gleason's tenacity, honor and integrity have made him stand out from his peers and be noticed by the senior leaders of the platoon as a quality team player and an asset to the 354th and to the United States Army.

543rd Military Police Company *Cpl. Jacklyn Dougherty*

Cpl. Dougherty is from Philadelphia. Cpl. Dougherty flawlessly provided mentorship to her Soldiers which enabled them to successfully pass their record Army Physical Fitness Tests. Cpl. Dougherty consistently pushes her Soldiers to their full potential on all tasks that are assigned to them. She initiated a solid training program to enhance Soldiers'



technical and tactical proficiency. Cpl. Dougherty assisted the platoon sergeant on company layouts, ensuring that all platoon equipment was accounted while it was being moved to various locations. Cpl. Dougherty was recognized on numerous occasions of instilling uniform standards and discipline to her Soldiers and peers. Cpl. Dougherty continuously strives to better herself by conducting training. Cpl. Dougherty strictly enforces safety and risk management to all Soldiers. She has recognized and corrected possible safety hazards, which prevented accidents and injuries.

-- Heroes --

203rd MP Battalion

Spc. Robert Clark

Spc. Robertson is a member of the 203rd's security squad.

He performs duties as the M-2 .50 cal gunner for Enforcer 1-4, which is the primary aid and litter vehicle for the element.

Since joining the security squad, Spc. Robertson has performed duties as a driver and gunner, and has done so in extraordinary fashion.

Spc. Robertson continuously demonstrates his flexibility and versatility, as a warrior, on a daily basis. Spc. Robertson is a model Soldier and a tremendous asset to any team.

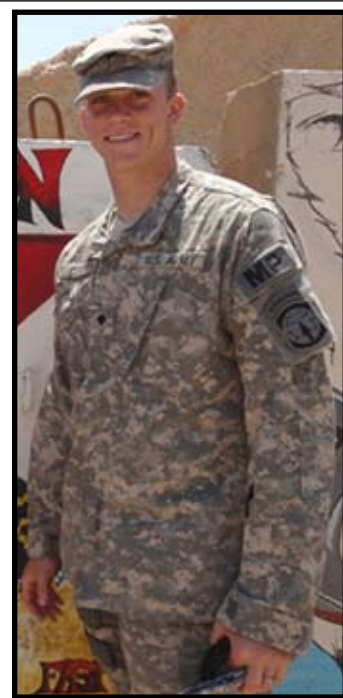


546th MP Company

Spc. Robert Clark

Spc. Clark has taken the initiative to create and lead a physical training program to help Soldiers within his platoon increase their PT scores. Spc. Clark, with a PT score of 285, has one of the top four PT scores within his platoon. Spc. Clark has also taken upon himself to motivate a Soldier in his squad who is not in accordance with AR 600-9.

Spc. Clark ensures the Soldier conducts PT with him on a daily basis. Spc. Clark has stepped up to the plate as a leader. His dedication to excellence and team work has significantly contributed to the Soldier losing weight weekly.



49th MP Brigade

Sgt. Michael Hays



Spc. Hays performs as one of the Brigade's G-1 administrative noncommissioned officers/automation specialist.

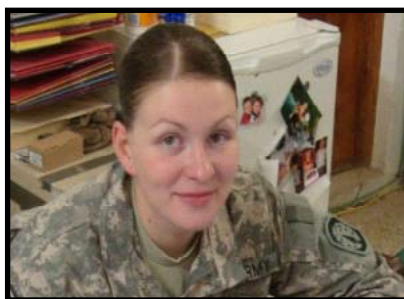
He is always eager to provide knowledge and customer support for all members of the Brigade.

Sgt. Hays has multiple duties which include: Point of contact for all combat action badges, awards clerk for End of Tour awards, per-stats NCO, and contact for battlefield promotions. He also provides customer support for all Soldiers and contractors' common access cards.

He constantly strives to improve his performance as a Soldier and NCO. This shows his dedication to the Brigade G-1 Shop, the 49th headquarters and his country.

543rd MP Company

Spc. Nichole Norton



Spc. Norton demonstrated outstanding potential to be a noncommissioned officer. She serves the unit as a human resource specialist in charge of her section. She oversees a wide variety of administrative actions which help Soldiers deeply. Her attention to detail has ensured 160 End of Tour awards, 30 GCM awards, 40 driver badges, 160 statement of services, freedom flight request, several letter of releases, emergency leaves and much more administrative actions. She has become her leader's right arm. Spc. Norton gained the trust needed to operate independently. In her spare time she has completed more than 600 correspondence course hours and 12 college credit hours.

354th MP Company

Sgt. Wade Dickneite



Sgt. Dickneite, from Bullwin, Missouri, is a team leader. He assumed the position of acting squad leader when the platoon needed one. In his stint, his squad had no incidents and made all start times. He did not need assistance to perform the duties of the higher rank.

Sgt. Dickneite ensures that his team members are current on all training required. He assists them during the pre-mission checks to ensure that they are prepared for anything that may occur during missions.

Sgt. Dickneite is the crew specialist for his squad. He ensures before each mission that the CREW systems are jamming the correct frequencies. If there are issues, he has been trained to troubleshoot and fix them.



49th Brigade's Soldier, NCO of the Quarter

Brig. Gen. Donald Currier (center), commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, acknowledges Cpl. Shakamikal Webber (left) for earning the brigade's Soldier of the Quarter honor recently.

Cpl. Webber is with the 571st Military Police Company based at Camp Prosperity, Baghdad. Gen. Currier also acknowledged Sgt. Anthony Barth (right), the brigade's Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter.

Sgt. Barth is from the 551st Military Police Company also stationed at Camp Prosperity.

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Goodwill ambassadors

AFAK, Iraq – Cpl. Dora Jean Jomadio from Houston, Texas is shown handing out soccer balls to local Iraqi children in a village near Afak. The 543rd Military Police Company's 2nd platoon has been conducting numerous village assessments in their portion of the Warhawk Operating Environment in order to compile detailed information for each of these villages, and build relations between US Forces, Iraqi Police and the local populace. Handing out soccer balls and teddy bears have been accepted very well in the area. Many children look forward to seeing US Forces as a result of this goodwill.



DRINK WATER!

Army terminology religion for 546th

By **STAFF SGT. DYTANYA M. JONES**
546th Military Police Company

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – "Drink Water" is a term you often hear while in the Army.

You begin to hear it in basic and Advanced Individual Training, where drill sergeants are making you drink a complete canteen of it.

You hear it on those long hot sunny days in the rear detachment while doing preventive maintenance checks in the motor pool. You hear it while you are participating in ceremonies, whether it's change of command or authority.

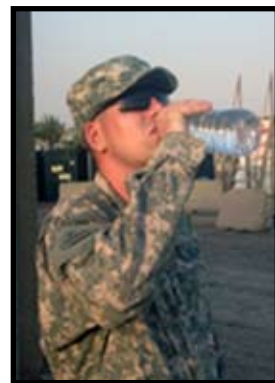
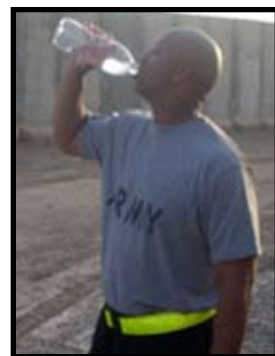
If you are in the 546th Military Police Company, you hear it every day.

Subject matter experts say that the body needs at least eight cups of water a day of eight ounces. You can double that if you are in full battle-rattle in the middle of Iraq. The command has done everything in its power to ensure that happens.

First it has been made a requirement that all vehicles rolling out on mission will have two cases of water and two bags of ice. There have also been multiple water fridge points set up in the company area at the tactical operations center, platoon offices, supply room, briefing room, and maintenance office.

Headquarters platoon has also adopted a policy that requires all Soldiers to only drink water during lunch and no energy drinks between 1000-1600.

Soldiers have also become a major enforcing tool to this policy by constantly reminding their battle buddy -- or as some would say warrior companion -- to "Drink Water."



BASRA, Iraq – Pfc. Joseph Westervelt of 3rd platoon, 354th Military Police Company, gives a bracelet to one of the Iraqi police officers at an Iraqi Police station. Pfc. Westervelt is outgoing when it comes to getting to know the Iraqi Police. He also converses with the IPs looking for a good trade.

US Army photo/STAFF SGT. AMANDA KOBERNICK

855th operates Continuing Education Center



AFAK, Iraq – Cpl. Dustin J. Nadler from St. Peters, Missouri is shown entering a local shop owner into the HIIDE system while filling out a CERP application for his mechanic business just outside of Afak, Iraq. All applicants for CERP micro grants are put into the HIIDE system in order to verify that they do not have ties with any small extremist groups. CERP micro grants are a way to stimulate the economy of local small businesses in order to aid in the rebuilding of Iraq. If the applicant gets approved, he is given parts and labor up to \$5,000 via Iraq contractors that allows him to beef up his business.

By KENNETH BINCE

49th Military Police Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SYKES, Iraq – ‘Desert Warrior’ Soldiers from the Arizona National Guard’s 855th Military Police Company facilitated the training for two-dozen Iraqi law enforcers through a basic crime scene investigator course conducted here at the Iraqi Security Forces – Continuing Education Center (ISF-CEC).

Members of the Iraqi Police (IP) and Emergency Response Battalion (ERB) attended the five-day course from in and around the province of Ninewa or north-western Iraq.

The FOB-based training center is located in its own separate area, away from the distractions and uncertainty of other external Iraqi training facilities.

Multiple law enforcement agencies have received joint training at the center. “The ISF-CEC has accommodated Iraqi Police, Iraqi border patrol, ERB and Iraqi SWAT units, and they all been trained here at the center,” said Capt. Noel Chun, 855th Military Police Company commander.

Training given at the center is customized to the students attending classes. “Depending on the makeup of the class for that week, the center will choose appropriate MOI (Ministry of the Interior) approved curriculum,” said Chun.

“Why would we give Iraqi SWAT personnel a block on instruction on taking finger prints?” asked Chun.

Throughout the complete five days of training, the Iraqi Security Forces train, socialize and sleep in the center supported 24 hours a day by 855th MP personnel.

“Depending on the shift that’s on duty to support the IPs, we drive them to the DFAC and eat along side of the students,” said Staff Sgt. Ibrahim Tommy.

“What’s extraordinary here is that the IPs, ERB and who ever else attends, really spend a lot of time together and establish cross-agency relationships that will continue long after the five day here on the FOB,” said Tommy.

“The overwhelming success of the training facility are due to multiple factors,” said Chun, “The most important for sure, is the fact that the company’s Police Transition Team (PTT) missions in Sinjar, Biaj and Bulayj are a great conduit for garnering students,” said Chun.

49th hosts Signal Symposium Conference

By CAPT. CHARON CAMARASA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq. – The 49th Military Police Brigade's signal section held its second and last quarterly signal symposium here.

The 49th's first signal symposium, held December 2009, helped establish brigade relationships and expectations while in theater with subordinate units. While this symposium was formed to prepare signal Soldiers for the communications involvement under the responsible drawdown of forces (RDoF) process, it also helped them learn how to maintain a professional network in theater and back home.

"The symposium was developed with the intent to provide Soldiers the training they need while deployed to a combat theater," said Master Sgt. William Spruill, 49th signal noncommissioned officer in charge.

Lt. Col. Barbara McPhail, 49th signal officer in charge, commenced the event and introduced Col. Stephen Birch, III Corps CJ6, deputy signal officer in charge.

Birch discussed the planning and perspectives of United States Forces – Iraq. "Communications keep Soldiers alive," Birch said. "Systems must be up and running, and that full accountability is important, because the equipment can be used back home or in Afghanistan." Birch continued and explained the importance of keeping communication equipment operational until military assets are shifted to Afghanistan, and Soldiers prepare to return home from Iraq. McPhail also covered RDoF and the need of redundant communications. "There are a lot of automation systems that are



49th Military Police Brigade "Signaleers" troubleshoot communication equipment inside a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV or Humvee) during the challenge portion of training called the Signal Olympics. The Signal Olympics served as a way for the Soldiers to showcase the skills learned during the Signal Symposium held at Camp Liberty, Iraq,

not being utilized," McPhail said.

She also gave insight to the first Signal Shadow Program in theater. "The program focuses on pairing signaleers (signal Soldiers) with the signal assets of battle space owners to assist with professional development, as they progress in their careers, including exposure to additional types of signal equipment," McPhail said.

The second day involved discussions on how to turn in and ship equipment home, and focused on critical military communication assets used in theater.

The final day included four separate training scenarios followed by an after action review, Signal Olympics event, awards ceremony and barbecue.

The scenarios were designed to encourage Soldiers to become forward thinkers and develop communications contingency plans. Soldiers were broken down into groups of fours and given real-life exercises. "We want them to think outside the box," said Sgt. Nicholas Emmerling, 49th tactical communications noncommissioned officer.

Once the Soldiers completed the exercise, Emmerling provided his evaluations and concluded by saying, "Soldiers technicians seldom see the communication networks in theater from the 'big picture' perspective, so these realistic scenarios dealt with problems that the average signal Soldier would never have to address at their level."



Weapons safety training

BASRA, Iraq – Spc. John Baumgartner of 1st platoon, 354th Military Police Company, gives instruction on weapons safety at an Iraqi police station.

US Army photo/STAFF SGT AMANDA KOBERNICK

203rd teaches crime scene investigation

BASRA - Students and members of the Iraqi Police Criminal Investigation Division returned to Contingency Operating Base Basra to complete an exercise. The initiative is part of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Course held at the Basra Provincial Police Headquarters.

The student body consisted of personnel who completed the initial CSI course. This was designed for students to showcase their ability to retain information.

The second phase, or Joint Investigative Training, began early May. 203rd members will accompany the Basra Crime Scene Unit to an actual scene to observe how they apply the procedures they have learned in the field.



151st instructs ISF in personnel security

The 151st Military Police Battalion in partnership with two Iraqi Personnel Security Detachment (PSD) members conducted PSD training to Iraqi Security Forces. The training consisted of a general overview to include terms and topic and threat identification. The students were well prepared for the class as they have been working in a PSD role for two years.

Because of the smaller class size and experience of students, training will focus on more in depth and advanced techniques. Training will be more practical exercise based to facilitate learning. The 151st has placed a high priority on the training of 200 PSD personnel and all Iraqi agencies have cooperated to facilitate the training.

ISF is providing the requested number of PSD students for training and has



stressed the importance to attendance.

The 151st is completing a revised class that will direct students more realistically. A reflexive fire range is needed



in order to teach the PSD team how to protect the principle as well as themselves while learning how to transition around protected personnel.

Iraqi police get quick reaction lessons

On April 14, more than 150 Iraqi police from the Quick Reaction Force Company, in partnership with 151st Military Police Battalion, arrived at the Ramadi Training Center for the fourth day of a five day course. The current training consisted of breaching techniques, entry techniques, personnel detainment, searches, communications procedures, and vehicle maintenance.

The IPs performed the task to standard. They showed a fair level of proficiency, indicating that they have received training in the past on the majority of these tasks. At the end of the training day, a practical exercise was conducted that required the IP to enter a room, gain control of multiple people, and detain and search them.

This group of Iraqi police has been punctual throughout the week. This allowed the 151st to conduct high quality training. Their motivation to succeed has allowed them to train hard and learn the



tasks that were presented to them. The IP, of QRF Company, have either received training on the tasks being instructed or have experienced much of this training. They display confidence while performing familiar tasks and are very detail oriented when performing new tasks.

The IPs are motivated to learn new skills and train hard. This shows that the IP leadership has enthusiasm for the training being conducted by the 151st.



They are eager to learn skills that will improve their abilities to conduct their duties.

Training throughout the course has gone exceptionally well. The instructors have developed a positive working relationship with them.

The training concluded with a comprehensive culminating exercise requiring the IPs to execute all of the tasks they have been taught throughout the course.

545th concludes 2nd OIF mission

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

JOINT BASE BALAD,

Iraq – The “Polar Bear’s Finest” are leaving the hot zone and heading back to normal climate.

The 545th Military Police Company cased its colors May 16 and signified the end of its yearlong Operation Iraqi Freedom mission. In a matter of days, more than 170 Soldiers will return to Fort Richardson, Alaska, with honor and praise for a job well done.

“Our legacy stands all over Iraq. This is the second rotation for this unit for Operation Iraqi Freedom doing Police Transition Team (PTT) missions. We’ve made our mark in PTT from the basic skills all the way up to advanced law enforcement,” said Capt. Michael T. Mixon, 545th commander. “As we leave Operation Iraqi Freedom, we leave behind a lot of memories and



Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, addresses the 545th Military Police Company during the May 16 End of Mission Ceremony at Joint Base Balad.

a lot of successes. A lot of memories we will hold with us from our fallen warriors as well.”

Tabbed as the “Arctic Defenders” in lieu of “Polar Bear’s

Finest,” the 545th patrolled more than 30,000 miles conducting about 1,330 PTT missions, Mixon explained. The unit dispersed Soldiers through various northern

Iraq regions to train Iraqi police. They taught different principles of police operations ranging from evidence collection to finger-printing suspects.

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49th holds symposium on future of Iraqi police training

By 1LT WILLIAM MARQUEZ

49th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 49th Military Police Brigade headquarters company, of Fairfield, Calif., hosted a symposium at Camp Victory on the responsible draw-down of the Police Transition Team mission here. Military Police leaders and State Department officials participated in the two-day event.

The 49th, commanded by Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, is directing the PTT mission in Iraq for a second time. In 2005 and 2006, in what the Coalition Forces termed, "The Year of the Police," the 49th, and active and reserve military police companies from all over the United States under the command of the 49th, trained more than one hundred thousand Iraqi police officers serving in every province of Iraq. Then Col. Currier was a Deputy Commander of the 49th in 2005 and 2006, in charge of PTT operations.

Currier opened the PTT conference by discussing the development of the Iraqi police. "The police of today are different than the police of 2006. The Iraqi police have significantly improved. The planners and operators who worked on PTT are the reason for this difference," said Currier.

In his opening statement, Currier established the main theme of the conference. "We're here to discuss how we can continue the success of Iraqi police training while we are withdrawing the last military police brigade from Iraq," said Currier.

Primarily responsible for training, advising, and assisting the Iraqi police at the local and provincial levels, the 49th and its dozens of subordinate military police companies will be the last brigade solely responsible for the PTT mission in Iraq. Once the 49th returns home later this summer, the continued development of the Iraqi police will become the responsibility of Advisory and Assistance Brigades, and officials from the State Department and the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission.

Building on Brig. Gen. Currier's opening statement, Lt. Col. David King, the operations officer for the 49th, emphasized the importance of carefully managing the drawdown of the PTT mission. "Because of the drawdown of forces, not all police partnerships can endure. We need to help our successors identify which partnerships they should keep," said King.

According to Maj. Mario Morales, 49th liaison officer to the 1st Armored division, United States Division-Center, maintaining relationships with key Iraqi



Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, and Brig. Gen. Michael Smith, Iraq Training and Advisory Mission, United States Forces-Iraq, explain mission responsibilities during the April 2 Police Transition Team Synchronized Symposium sponsored by the 49th at Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq.

Police departments and officials are very important to preserving awareness of the security environment in Iraq.

"The partnerships that grew out of the PTT mission will allow commanders of Advisory and Assistance Brigades to measure the pulse of Iraqi communities. If you cut police partnerships, you lose intelligence. You lose open communication," said Morales.

Col. Peggy Combs, Chief of Staff of ITAM, believes the partnerships with the Iraqi police that the 49th helped build during two Operation Iraqi Freedom tours, will not necessarily be severed. However, the visits to police stations will be less frequent and will most likely take place at the headquarters level.

"The relationships the military police established will not disappear. We will return to our Iraqi partners on a habitual basis. We will keep reaching out to targeted areas, but we will not have the resources to touch them every day," said Combs.

For Combs, the future of US relationships with Iraqi police will focus on specialized training. "The planned initiatives are all about specialization. We've given the Iraqi police a shovel to assist them, now we want to give them a sharpened axe," said Combs.

Lt. Col. McHugh, commander of the 151st Military Police Battalion, a subordinate battalion in the 49th, is giving the

Iraqi Police in his area of operations the "sharpened axe" Col. Combs is promoting. Through Task Force CLEAT (Combined Law Enforcement Against Terrorism),

McHugh's military police assist American civilian law enforcement professionals as they work with Iraqi Police investigators on the investigations of serious crimes.

"CLEAT mentors Iraqi law enforcement investigators. We've seen them grow as investigators and professionals. They are enthusiastic about investigating kidnappings, murders, and drug trafficking," said McHugh.

Brig. Gen. Currier believes Task Force CLEAT is an excellent example of how the 49th Military Police Brigade is setting conditions that will help the Iraqi Police continue to progress. For Currier, operations like CLEAT provide a promising future for Iraqi police training, because it builds upon the specialized training the Iraqi police receive at their police academies.

"We need to push for field training programs that implement what is learned at police training centers. Partnered training in an operational environment, focusing on advanced investigative work, will help the Iraqi Police reach the next level," said Currier.

Currier ended the conference by encouraging the attendees to stay committed to the challenging and important work of police training.

Crime scene investigation course

66th MPs teach, train and mentor Iraqi police officers since January

By 1ST LT. RACHEL MORGAN

66th Military Police Company

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq -- The coffee table is upside down in the middle of the room, the books that are normally stacked on top of it are strewn across the floor, and blood is splattered across the wall.

This is just one example of a scenario the Iraqi Police investigators who attend the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) course at the Wareagle Academy will encounter. They will be expected to safeguard the crime scene, process the evidence, and interview any witnesses to the crime before class ends for the day.

Since the 66th Military Police Company arrived at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in January, 2nd platoon has worked hard to teach, train, and mentor more than 200 students who have come through the academy. Of all the classes taught, the CSI course is the only class geared toward officers. It is specifically designed to improve the investigators knowledge, skills, and overall investigative techniques.

According to Sgt. 1st Class John Meuret, course director, "Instructing the Iraqi Security Forces gives us [USF] a chance to mentor them on logical and practical ways of conducting investigations based on their own codes and the resources they have available."

The CSI training lasts three weeks. It is composed of an advanced course and a basic course. The advanced course is only open to students who previously attended the CSI basic course or who demonstrate to their leadership the ability and desire to be course instructors.

Throughout the week the advanced students spend some time reviewing key concepts they learned in the basic course. However, the majority of the instruction is devoted to preparing them to eventually teach the course themselves. They learn effective research methods, teaching techniques, and get to practice speaking in front of a group.

Before they are considered a qualified instructor each student must research, plan, and present a block of instruction to the other advanced students. They must also facilitate a practical exercise that pertains to their topic.

Graduates of the advanced course attend the basic course for a second time, this time serving as assistant instructors and mentoring the new officers as they come through the class. The train-the-trainer module of the CSI course helps to ensure that the Iraqi Police have an enduring capability to teach this subject when USF-I leave Iraq.

While powerpoint is used, the majority of topics are taught using hands-on instruction. Sgt. 1st Class Meuret prefers teaching using scenario-based practical exercises because the students stay more actively engaged and usually retain more of the material.

The complexity of the scenarios increase as the course progresses, with the culminating event being a scenario-based test. A few special demonstrations/visits are dispersed throughout the two week class in order to expose students to assets within the judicial system.

One of these special visits is a guest lecture by an Iraqi Investigative Judge. He talks to the students about exactly what the court system looks for to build a plausible conviction against a sus-



Spc. Charles Ripley, 66th MP War Eagle Academy instructor, teaches the Iraqi Police officers to properly take finger prints.



An investigator conducts post blast analysis during a practical exercise.

pect. His presentation does a tremendous amount to solidify the concepts being instructed in the CSI class.

On another day the K-9 section brings a police dog out to the class. They demonstrate how the dog can help in substance detection, enhance searching capabilities, and assist in crowd control.

The US Army Explosive Ordnance Team also visits the class.

49th MP Brigade assist, support Iraqi Traffic Police Directorate HQ

By Sgt. Kenneth Bince
49th MP Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - A landmark for Iraq law enforcement took place April 29 at the Iraqi Traffic Police Directorate headquarters, Baghdad, as 15 traffic police officers graduated a three-week instructors course supported by the 49th Military Police Brigade.

The graduating class consisted of young, fresh out of the Baghdad Police College officers and a few veteran officers from Resafa and Karkh.

Proudly wearing their pressed white and black uniforms, the officers first saluted, then enthusiastically received their certificates and shook congratulatory handshakes with Iraqi and American general officers.

This notable day was the culmination of more than two and a half years of cooperation between US Forces and the Iraqi Traffic Police. The last 6 months of support consisted mainly of key leader engagements, between the 49th MP National Transition Team (NTT), International Police Advisors (IPA) and the Iraqi Traffic Police (ITP).

"Not since 1988 has the traffic police had its own separate headquarters and training site," said Maj. Gen. Imad Khaleel, commandant of the Iraqi Traffic Police headquarters. "That's when the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) consolidated the traffic police into the Iraqi Police," he said.

"Now the traffic police can focus on specific training for our officers, that will add to the academic and professional development of the traffic police force," he said.

In November 2009, the ITP started the new relationship with the 49th NTT. "This team, I have felt the most comfortable with, and they have responded quickly to help us with the training and support for this academy," he said.

"Through the visits to the (ITP), the need for instructors was brought up, and it was determined to be the most critical shortage to address," said Maj. Jeanette Stewart, 49th International Police Services (IPS), National Transition Team (NTT), officer in charge.

Once the Iraqi parliamentary elections were complete on March 7, (the 49th NTT team) focused on getting the 'train the trainer' course off the drawing board and into action, said



Maj. Jeanette Stewart, 49th Military Police Brigade, Iraqi Police Services, National Transition Team officer in charge, presents a certificate to Maj. Gen. Imad Khaleel, the Iraqi Traffic Police commandant, during the award ceremony for the Iraqi Traffic Police officers that completed the three-week instructors course, April 29, 2010. Stewart and the rest of her team supported and assisted with the planning and implementation of the training for their Iraqi partners since November 2009.

Sgt. Trevor Butters, 49th IPS NTT, non-commissioned officer in charge.

The 49th NTT conducted weekly visits to the ITP, which complimented the daily email traffic and phone calls. "The team worked furiously to get all of the planning implemented," said Butters.

"A personal security detail from the 217th Military Police Company was tasked with security, and housing at nearby FOB Shield was arranged," he said, "so that all personnel supporting the course would be a short distance from the training site."

Each and every block of instruction taught during the three-week course met the high standards of the Iraqi government. "All of the training given to the traffic police has to be certified by the MOI in order for the classes to count," he added.

The course was broken down into theory and practical exercises, and the final test was to present a 15-minute detailed block of instruction. "I have given classes before, but I never knew the step-by-step planning involved in presenting an interesting and well balanced class," said 2nd Lt. Ali Sallal, an Iraq Traffic Police officer.

"Here, we learned the correct way

to develop a training plan," said Ali, "and to interact, react and readjust the class to suit your audience."

Not only does the 49th NTT assist with training at the center, they also support other important projects at the ITP headquarters. "We have a great working relationship, and plan to expand the training offered to the (ITP)," said Stewart.

Maintaining a working relationship with the ITP is only one of the organizations that the team supports. "Other Iraq law enforcement agencies the 49th NTT works with are, CRB (criminal records bureau), CID (criminal investigation division), and CED (criminal evidence division)," she said.

"Once the 49th redeploy back to the states as part of the responsible draw down of US Forces, our mission here will be handed off to ITAM (Iraq Training and Advisory Mission) to continue building and closing out the License Plate and Driver's License Initiative," said Stewart.

Until then, the Soldiers of the 49th NTT will continue to provide assistance and logistical support for the ongoing projects and act as a conduit for various USF-I and Iraqi law enforcement agencies.

Joint Investigative Team Works with Iraqi Police to Investigate Easter Bombings

By 1LT WILLIAM MARQUEZ

49th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD — On April 4, Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade assisted Iraqi Police officials as they investigated multiple blast sites created from vehicle born, suicide bomb attacks against foreign embassies here. These joint investigations were initiated upon the endorsement of Iraqi Police officials.

Responding to two deadly suicide vehicle bombings, which caused severe property damage, multiple deaths and dozens of injuries, Joint Investigative Teams (JIT) from the 49th linked up with Baghdad Police officials at the blast sites to conduct investigations that may lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of these attacks.

At each scene, American investigators worked with Iraqi Police to secure the crime scene, collect and protect evidence, and interview potential witnesses who could possibly provide information.

"The JIT assists the Iraqi on-scene commander in cordoning off the area and collecting evidence for exploitation. We advise and assist the Iraqi Police on the scene to enable them to lead in the investigation," said Maj. Jeanette Stuart, an officer in charge of one of the joint investigative teams.

Although performing an investigation is the most important function of a JIT, an investigation is impossible without a secure crime scene. The crime scene must be protected from pedestrians, secondary explosive devices, and follow-up attacks. Working with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police, the security element transporting the JIT investigators to the crime scene ensure the investigators are protected from these possible threats.

"Our job is to help the investigators do their job. It is challenging because the situation is very fluid. Because we can't predict when we will get the call and where we will be sent, we always have to be ready to respond quickly and remain flexible," said 1st Lt. Bradley Churchill, the Platoon Leader of the security teams that secure JIT crime scenes and investigators.

Once the 49th was aware of the bombings on Easter Sunday, Churchill was called by the 49th staff and ordered to have his teams ready as soon as possible. While Churchill's team was alerted, Maj. Dillon Haynes, an officer in charge of a joint investigative team, called his Iraqi Police partners at Baghdad's Provincial Department of Police (PDOP) to offer assistance.

The PDOP commander, Maj. Gen. Ali, accepted the offer as soon as it was relayed to him by his Chief Investigative Officer, Lt. Col. Shakir. "When we heard there was a major



On April 4, Soldiers and civilian investigators with the 49th Military Police Brigade secure and investigate a post-blast site where a vehicle born, suicide bomb detonated near a foreign embassy in Iraq.

bombing in Baghdad, we immediately called PDOP to see if they would like us to assist with the investigation. When Maj. Gen. Ali said, yes, and the Baghdad Operations Center approved, we linked up with our security elements and we were ready to roll," said Sgt. 1st Class Arne Eastlund. Eastlund was the senior non-commissioned officer on Maj. Haynes' investigative team.

Since the 49th began their deployment in Iraq in October 2009, Maj. Haynes and Sgt. 1st Class Eastlund have worked closely with Baghdad's PDOP on a variety of issues.

According to Eastlund, this close relationship was instrumental in the PDOP quickly accepting the assistance of the 49th. "All those meetings paid off. We built a level of trust. They think we will have their best interests at heart. They trust that we will advise, not dictate," said Eastlund.

Some of the important advice and assistance shared with the Iraqi Police by a JIT is given by experienced investigators from the Combined Explosive Exploitation Center (CEXC).

Cpt. Jonathan Ralston, the commander of a CEXC team in Baghdad was a member of Maj. Haynes' JIT on Easter Sunday. According to Ralston, the responsibility of CEXC is primarily to "collect and process all IED (improvised explosive device) related evidence from a post-blast site." Ralston believes that the JIT's combination of CEXC investigators and the Military Police and their law enforcement professionals allows the JIT to optimally exploit a crime scene for evidence.

"JIT works well because it leverages the investigative expertise of experienced law enforcement professionals with our expertise in collecting and processing post-blast site evidence," said Ralston.

"We are not experts on identifying and interviewing witnesses, and they are not experts on improvised explosive devices," added Ralston. "There is more to these crimes than just a bomb."

With the help of CEXC investigators and law enforcement professionals, the 49th is using joint investigative teams to help Iraqi Police develop and strengthen advanced policing skills.

In 2005 and 2006, as in their current deployment, the 49th directed the training of the Iraqi Police throughout Iraq. However, during their previous deployment, the 49th focused on assisting the Iraqi Police with developing basic skills and obtaining basic resources necessary for any functioning police unit.

"In 2006, our focus was to make sure the Iraqi Police had sufficient uniforms, weapons and force protection materials; knew how to handcuff, and showed up to work and were paid on time," said Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th.

"Now, we are assisting them with advanced investigations. Our partnership with the Iraqi Police has come a long way," added Currier, who served as the deputy commander of the 49th in 2005 and 2006.

One important goal of further developing the Iraqi Police's capacity to conduct advanced investigations is to strengthen the credibility of the Iraqi Police in the eyes of the Iraqi judiciary. According to Lt. Col. Timothy Rieger, Staff Judge Advocate and Rule of Law coordinator for the 49th, JIT can help build a closer relationship between Iraq's police officers and judges.

"The Ministry of Justice has just implemented a forensic evidence protocol that is consistent with international principles," said Rieger.

"Since JIT investigators and the Iraqi Police who partner with them use these protocols as a guide, these types of investigations can help integrate the Iraqi Police and Iraq's Judiciary," added Rieger.

Although the 49th and their joint investigative teams are looking forward to assisting the Iraqi Police and Iraq's judiciary on the investigation of major crimes, it is not possible unless Iraqi authorities request their assistance.

Since the implementation of the Security Agreement between the United States and the sovereign nation of Iraq in the summer of 2009, Iraq's security forces lead and command all security efforts in Iraq. However, they will still accept assistance and advice from the American military.

In the case of the Chief Investigating Officer at PDOP, Lt. Col. Shakir, the assistance his police receive from the 49th is greatly appreciated. "There is a huge success when it comes to investigations between the 49th, PDOP, and the Baghdad Operations Center. We push for these missions where we work together. The 49th has always supported us. They always do their job. They are on it!"

Whether the Army Owns It or You Do. . .

THINK

WEAPONS SAFETY!

TREAT every weapon as if it is loaded.

HANDL E every weapon with care.

IDENTIFY the target before you fire.

NEVER point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.

KEEP the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG



Relationships between Soldiers of different rank are prohibited if they:

- Compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command
- Cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness
- Involve, or appear to involve, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain
- Are, or are perceived to be, exploitative or coercive in nature
- Create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale, or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

AR 600-20, Army Command Policy

INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS

**They destroy units.
They destroy families.
They destroy careers.**

DON'T DO IT.