



## Romanian forces end mission in Iraq



Photo by Sgt. Mark Miranda

*Lt. Col. Gabriel Toma, commander of the Romanian Army's 26th Infantry Battalion, conducts an inspection of troops with Romanian President Traian Basescu during the end of mission ceremony June 4 at Contingency Operating Base Adder. Romania has deployed over 5,200 troops as members of the Coalition forces in Iraq over the last six years.*

By Sgt. Mark Miranda  
4th BCT, 1st Armcd. Div.



COB ADDER – Military operations in Iraq formally ended for Romanian forces June 4 as one of America's Coalition allies prepared to ship out some of its remaining troops with an end of mission ceremony held by Romania's

26th Infantry "Red Scorpions" Battalion.

The Romanian flag was lowered over the 26th's compound, affectionately known as "Camp Dracula", at Contingency Operating Base Adder in a ceremony following a memorial for the Romanian military personnel

who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The end of mission was held just an hour before the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division conducted a Relief in Place, Transfer of Authority

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# MNF-I senior enlisted advisor visits 41st Fires Brigade troops

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st FiB



FOB DELTA – Command Sergeant Major Lawrence Wilson, Multi-National Force-Iraq's senior enlisted advisor, made his way around 41st Fires Brigade's area of operations during a battlefield circulation recently.

Wilson spent the morning at Combat Outpost Shocker and then headed to the Zurbatiah point-of-entry to see how U.S. Forces partner with the

Iraqi border security forces along the Iraq-Iran border. After lunch with the troops, Wilson headed to FOB Delta to meet some more troops.

"It was outstanding. The warriors and leaders are great," said Wilson. "They're meeting the commander's intent, General Odierno's guidance of the security agreement, partnering by, through and with the Iraqi Security Forces. I am very pleased and honored to be associated with this great unit."

Wilson wrote down almost every Soldier's name that he met in his all-weather spiral notepad as well as any information that he will pass on to the MNF-I commander, General Ray Odierno. While talking with Soldiers and leaders he talked about professional education, standards and discipline and the Army Knowledge Online website.

Wilson said the one message he wanted to get out to all the Soldiers and leaders is that they cannot become complacent.

"Our warriors and leaders need to keep that same intensity from day one to day 259. What I see is after about the third or fourth month, we start seeing complacency; we let our guards down, we think we got it, we're 10 foot tall, we're bullet-proof, we don't have to do the things that got us here, and the only thing I tell them is that if you do the basics of what leaders and Soldiers are supposed to do, you'll come out of this fine," said Wilson.

Wilson was already making plans with Command Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Hughes, 41st Fires Brigade's senior enlisted advisor, for a return trip to visit more of the Soldiers at FOB Delta as



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson looks at a trailer of motorcycles that have been exported from Iran into Iraq at the Zurbatiah point-of-entry at the Iraq-Iran border recently.

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## THE RED BULL REPORT

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41st Fires Brigade  
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ceremony with the outgoing 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division.

Among the honored guests were Romanian President Traian Basescu, Supreme Commander of Romanian Armed Forces during wartime.

Lt. Col. Gabriel Toma, commander of the 26th Infantry Battalion, received the US Army's Bronze Star Medal from guest speaker Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby, commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

"It's hard to say farewell to a trusted partner," said Jacoby. "Few have been as committed to freedom of the Iraqi people as the Romanians, and I extend my thanks as it's been an honor to serve with them here in Iraq."

Jacoby praised the Romanians as a dedicated and capable force, and expressed condolences for their lost Soldiers.

Since August 2003, Romania has deployed over 5,200 troops to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Assigned to two different Multi-National Divisions, Romanian forces have provided intelligence support to Multi-National Division – South by conducting reconnaissance and surveillance missions and operating unmanned aerial vehicle platforms.

Romanian forces also provided base security, supply route security and quick reaction forces in Basra, and conducted training and monitoring of Iraqi Army units, with



Photo by Sgt. Mark Miranda

Romanian President Traian Basescu receives a Romanian flag from Lt. Col. Gabriel Toma, commander of Romania's 26th Infantry Battalion "Red Scorpions" during their end of mission ceremony June 4. The flag was flown over the unit's garrison at Camp Dracula on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The Romanian Army has served in Iraq as part of Coalition Forces since 2003.

a recent graduation of Iraqi Commandos on Camp Ur near COB Adder May 23.

For more of Sgt. Miranda's stories visit:

[www.TheRedBulls.org/Miranda](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Miranda)

## HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Irish author Bram Stoker based his horror novel 'Dracula' on the fifteenth century Wallachian Prince, Vlad Dracul of Romania. The Bran Castle, associated with Vlad Dracul, still lies in Romania and forms its most popular tourist attraction.

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Hughes was bringing Wilson to the airfield.

"God Bless this unit and the troopers and their families, the sacrifices they've made," said Wilson.

"It's just phenomenal what we see and it amazes me what our warriors and their families do and the sacrifices they make so I'm just honored and privileged to be the sergeant major of Multi-National Forces-Iraq."

For all of Sgt. 1st Class Thompson's stories, go to: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Thompson](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Thompson).



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

(Clockwise from left) Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson addresses FOB Delta Soldiers at the Gunner East Dining Facility during the last part of visit to the FOB Delta recently.

A UH-60 Blackhawk mechanic from 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Regiment talks with Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson during his visit to FOB Delta..

Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson talks with Soldiers from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment during his visit to FOB Delta.

Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson hands out a coin to a 41st Fires Bde. Soldier who works at the processing center for visitors coming from Iran into Iraq at the Zurbatiyah point-of-entry at the Iraq-Iran border.

# SUDOKU

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				6	8			

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[www.mngyc.com](http://www.mngyc.com)

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For more information, contact:  
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## Around the world in 34 seconds

### World News:

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea's top court convicted two American journalists and sentenced them to 12 years in a prison June 8, intensifying the nation's confrontation with the United States. The sentencing came amid soaring tensions fueled by the North's latest nuclear and missile tests. Many believe Pyongyang is using the journalists as bargaining chips as the U.N. debates a new resolution to punish the unpredictable country for its latest military threats. In a cryptic two-sentence report, the North's state news agency said Laura Ling, 32, and Euna Lee, 36 were sentenced after the five-day trial ended June 8. They were guilty of a "grave crime" against the nation and of illegally crossing into North Korea, the Korean Central News Agency said. The court "sentenced each of them to 12 years of reform through labor," said the report.

### U.S. News:

WICHITA, Kansas - The man charged with murdering a high-profile abortion doctor claimed from his jail cell June 7 that similar violence was planned around the nation for as long as the procedure remained legal, a threat that comes days after the launch of a federal investigation into his possible accomplices. A Justice Department spokesman said the threat was being taken seriously and additional protection had been ordered for abortion clinics last week. Scott Roeder called The Associated Press from the Sedgwick County jail, where he's being held on charges of first-degree murder and aggravated assault in the shooting of Dr. George Tiller. "I know there are many other similar events planned around the country as long as abortion remains legal," Roeder said.

### Sports News:

LONG POND, Pa. - All Tony Stewart could do during the final laps at Pocono Raceway was use every trick available to stretch out his fuel and creep toward the finish line. Like the gamble he made to leave Joe Gibbs Racing and start his own team, the fuel-mileage call was the right one. Stewart achieved his first Cup points victory as a team owner June 7, coming from the rear of the field in his backup car at Pocono. He crossed the line on fumes, even as his own Stewart-Haas Racing operation seems to have plenty of fuel. Crew chief Darian Grubb's late-race strategy worked and Stewart became the first owner/driver to win a points race since Ricky Rudd at Martinsville in 1998. Carl Edwards was second, followed by David Reutimann and Jeff Gordon. Stewart's SHR teammate Ryan Newman was fifth.

### Odd News:

VASSALBORO, Maine - The owner of a Maine topless coffee shop destroyed by fire says he plans to have clothed waitresses collect donations in the parking lot to raise money to rebuild. Under town zoning rules, Donald Crabtree would need a new permit to start operating his business from a trailer or other structure on the property in Vassalboro, just north of Augusta. Crabtree tells the Kennebec Journal newspaper he's going to set up a tent instead and have employees hand out free doughnuts and coffee next to a collection jar.