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January 5, 2010

# Stakeholders meet to discuss going forward

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
17th Fires Brigade



COB BASRA – The top commanders of the 17th Fires Brigade and Basra Operations Center held a meeting with the influential shaykhs of Basra Province Dec. 13 to discuss recent issues. Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi spoke with the leaders about the close relationship that has developed between the Iraqi Army and the 17th FB.

"I have tried to advise U.S. forces on what projects would have a high success rate and would provide the greatest impact on the community," said Muhammad. "One problem that we are working diligently to solve is the corruption issue with a few of the contractors that are not providing the full scope of work for the money they are being paid."

Muhammad said that the Americans have been working tirelessly to help improve Basrah, and the acts of a few corrupt contractors discredit all of their work.

"What I want to do is provide tangible products to the people of Basrah," Muhammad said. "I would like for the shaykhs to provide their influence in their areas to ensure that the projects are fulfilling the needs of the people."

The shaykhs agreed that the corruption was detrimental to the development of Basrah and pledged their support to weed out contractors with selfish intentions.

As the meeting progressed, Col. Steven L. Bullimore, 17th FB commander, asked all in attendance for a report on the projects that are needed in their respective areas.

"I would love to be able to fix all of your problems, but now more than ever I am serving as the eyes and ears



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi, BaOC commander (middle) discusses current issues and projects with the tribal leaders of Basrah Province at a shaykh meeting in the BaOC, Dec. 13.

"Now what we would like is to have the Iraqi Government and the shaykhs working together to meet the needs of their people without the assistance of a U.S. mediator."

– Col. Steven L. Bullimore  
17th FB Commander

of the Government of Iraq," said Bullimore. "The U.S. comes to these areas to determine what we can do to help and that's where the input that you provide comes in to play."

"Ultimately it's the Iraqi government that gives approval of what projects we can do, the location of these projects and how much we spend on those projects," he added.

His answer prompted an increased interest from the shaykhs for direct dialogue with their government.

"Since you are unable to spend any money without the approval of the GoI, then why do they not send a representative from the government to these

meetings?" said Shaykh Muhammed Atiya Abu Raad, the tribal leader of the Hyyanayah district.


"You're absolutely right shaykh," Bullimore replied. "They are an important factor in the decision-making process and should have a healthy involvement in these meetings as well," he said. "We either have to get them to these meetings here, or go where they are, but you're absolutely right; they have to become more involved with these meetings."

The colonel closed out the meeting by reassuring the shayks that he would send teams out to conduct assessments of the ongoing projects throughout Basrah Province making sure that the needs of the people were being met.

"This was a very positive meeting. We value the input of the shaykhs because it essentially comes from their people," Bullimore said. "Now what we would like is to have the Iraqi Government and the shaykhs working together to meet the needs of their people without the assistance of a U.S. mediator."

For more of Spc. Galloway's stories, visit:  
[www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway)

# Iraqi, U.S. MPs spark new relationship in Amarah

By 2nd Lt. Len Rothermich  
57th Military Police Company 

**AL AMARAH** – For the past four months, Staff Sgt. Ryan Farrow and his squad of 14 Soldiers have been building a partnership with their Iraqi counterparts.

When first assigned to advise and assist Amarah's Explosive Ordnance Detachment (EOD) Provincial Headquarters in Aug. 2009, the 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 57th Military Police Company attached to 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, took the reins on a station that had previously had little interaction with U.S. Forces.

When Farrow, from Rosemont, Minn., and his Soldiers first began visiting the provincial headquarters, they had their work cut out for them.

"When we first got here, the people would throw rocks at our trucks whenever we drove by," said Cpl. Kyle Slinker, a team leader from Indianapolis, Ind. "Now they literally clap and cheer."

In a matter of months, 2nd Squad made great strides not only with the community, but also in building a solid relationship with the Iraqi bomb squad.

Once inside the station, members typically share in friendly banter with their Iraqi EOD counterparts as the key personnel discuss upcoming training or insurgent activity.

"By building a friendship with the [Iraqi] EOD, we are showing them that we truly care about them and their mission as we guide them to be a stronger



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Parker

Members of 57th MP Co. pause after sharing Thanksgiving Dinner at COS Garryowen. From left, Second Lt. Len Rothermich, platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, 57th MP Co. from St. Louis, Mo., Col. Messen Sabeeh Bdaay, Commander, EOD Provincial Headquarters, Staff Sgt. Ryan Farrow, 2nd Squad leader from Rosemont, Minn., Capt. Ali A. L. Mohamad of the EOD Provincial Headquarters, Staff Sgt. Chrystal Daley, 1st Squad leader from Minneapolis, Minn., and Ahmed, Col. Messen's brother and personal bodyguard.

law enforcement unit," said Cpl. Adam Faatz a team leader from St. Hawthorne, N.J.

The U. S. Air Force EOD unit stationed at Contingency Operations Site Garryowen with the 57th MPs assists Farrow by conducting weekly training events. Staff Sgt. Josh Daley and Staff Sgt. Song Lee instruct and coach the Iraqi EOD personnel on disarming and clearing improvised explosive devices.

Shurta (police officers) assigned to EOD units are a small but integral part of Iraqi Security Forces. The MPs strive to develop skills and leave an enduring professional impression on the Iraqi Police, said Farrow.

For more of 4/1stories, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/highlander](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/highlander)



During a visit to the EOD Provincial Headquarters in Amarah, they discuss remnants of an IED that was found on the outskirts of the city.

## THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General  
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash








Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

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-  17th Fires Brigade
-  4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
-  12th Combat Aviation Brigade
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# Passion for job, heart for Soldiers define advisor

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
17th Fires Brigade



COB BASRA – A mother with a very sick child sits in a Seattle hospital by his bedside hoping and praying for her child to get better. In her mind she's thinking about hospital bills, medicine prices and extra child care cost.

This mother is up for a bonus at her job, but it will expire at the day's end if not accepted. She makes a call to her career counselor late that evening telling him of her situation and why she was unable to come in to sign her contract extension.

Without hesitation, the Army career counselor gets in his own vehicle and drives an hour to the hospital to take the contract to her, providing her a little piece of mind during a difficult time.

It's this type of selfless service time-and-time again that has earned Staff Sgt. Brian K. Pascual, 308th Brigade Support Battalion, 17th Fires Brigade career counselor, the nomination to compete in the Secretary of the Army Career Counselor of the Year Competition in Washington

D.C., Jan. 18.

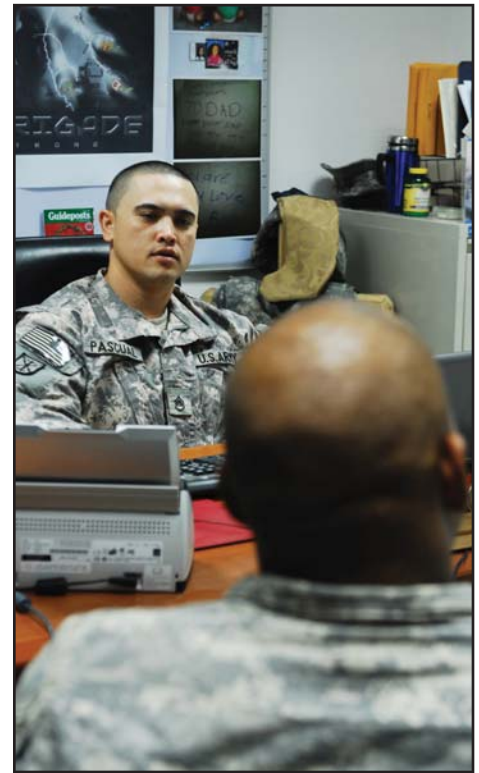
"The hardest thing for me is being the center of attention, because I know that nothing is accomplished alone," said Pascual, a native of Waipahu, Hawaii. "I feel that if I'm being recognized, then my whole team should be as well. So I'm not only representing myself, I've been selected to represent our entire brigade."

Representing his brigade may be a bit of an understatement, as Pascual is the sole representative of all 70 career counselors deployed throughout United States Forces-Iraq.

Re-enlistment is a commander's program and it's the responsibility of the chain of command to prepare Soldiers for employment opportunities both within the Army and in corporate America.

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph E. Santos, 17th Fires Brigade's senior noncommissioned officer, nominated Pascual for the competition upon learning that he had met his goals for the 2009 fiscal year.

"He has a real passion for his job and truly exemplifies the Army values," Santos said. "We couldn't be more proud



Photos by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
Staff Sgt. Brian K. Pascual, 308th BSB, 17th FB career counselor and native of Waipahu, Hawaii discusses career options with Spc. Devin D. Lowder, "A" Co., 308th BSB, ammunition specialist and native of Tucson, Ariz.

of him and all of the effort that he has shown since he's been with us."

The Fort Lewis-based brigade has led all units on post in retaining Soldiers for the past three years, and shows no sign of slowing while deployed to Contingency Operating Base Basra.

"Sergeant Pascual has done a great job for us," said Master Sgt. Jason A. Koutsalas, 17th FB, senior career counselor.

"It's very rare that you find someone that has a genuine compassion for Soldiers and their families compiled with a tremendous work ethic like him," Koutsalas said. "He never ceases to amaze me."

A lot of pressure comes with trying to meet the demands of the Army retention program. Each brigade is authorized one career counselor per battalion. The 17th FB is comprised of four battalions as well as several smaller elements, but the brigade's three-man retention team continues to demonstrate the capability to handle that pressure.

Even with all the extra work Pascual



Staff Sgt. Brian K. Pascual, 308th BSB, 17th FB career counselor, discusses career plans with Spc. Francisco J. Carrillo, 308th BSB, 17th FB, ammunition specialist and Los Angeles native.

## HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Waipahu is a name of an artesian spring. In Hawaiian, Waipahu is derived from wai, meaning water, and pahū, meaning "burst or gush forth". The early Native Hawaiians took pleasure in the cool and clear water gushing from the ground and named this spring Waipahu.

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**From Page 3****PASCUAL**

has had with his team being short-handed, he hasn't let the pressure trickle down to any of the Soldiers that seek his counsel.

"Sergeant Pascual has a relaxed approach that doesn't make you feel like you're being pressured to rush in to something you don't want," said Spc. Francisco J. Carrillo, "A" Company, 308th BSB, ammunition specialist and native of Los Angeles.

"In my opinion, his approach is what all counselors should use," Carrillo said. "Getting to know Soldiers is the best way you can help place them in the right positions."

Career counselors like Pascual receive directives from the Department of the Army Headquarters informing them of specifications and monetary incentives for Soldiers eligible to re-enlist in this all-volunteer Army.

Based off of the stipulations of those incentives, counselors have to market the Army to the eligible candidates throughout their unit, trying to meet the needs of the Soldier as well as the retention requirements of the Army.

After meeting with Soldiers and gaining an assessment of what it would take to gain their continued service; Pascual then correlates the Soldiers' requests with the incentives offered for the fiscal re-enlistment year and drafts a custom contract.

"At first I was undecided on whether I wanted to re-enlist. My decision weighed on if I could get the duty station of my choice that would be the most comfortable for my family," said Devin D. Lowder, "A" Co., 308th BSB, ammunition specialist and native of Tucson, Ariz.

"The initial offer that was presented wasn't exactly what I wanted, but sergeant Pascual told me to be patient and later he was able to get me stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.," Lowder added.

Patience and understanding may drive the way this

counselor to performs his duties, but it's the completion of his mission that is the fuel that propels the Army.

"Soldiers are the driving force of this Army, it's their service that astonishes me, because they don't have to stay but yet time-after-time I listen to people and they tell me that there is nothing else they'd rather do," Pascual said.

Although his retention goal has been reached, Pascual's mission continues after the competition. He will be heading back to Fort Lewis to provide support for the brigade's 1st Battalion, 94th Infantry Regiment.

For more of Spc. Galloway's stories, visit:

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



## CHALDEAN RITE MASS CAMP BASRA

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**This is an opportunity to sell your items privately, from service member to service member or to donate items to charity! Provide your own display, and set your own prices. Pick up bags to store donations\* prior to Jan. 17 at the Red Bull MWR tent.**

**\*SUGGESTED ITEMS** - clean towels and bed linens, useable running shoes, civilian clothes, etc.

**\*PROHIBITED ITEMS** - uniform clothing items, undergarments, any military equipment, any item with an NSN, and weapons.



## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

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## Around the world in 34 seconds



**PARIS** - High-ranking clerics are undermining Iran's government from within, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Monday. A huge majority of "very high-ranking Shi'ites" disagreed with the government and contested its religious values, he said. Iranian authorities have been unable to stop a protest movement, set off by the disputed June re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, despite intensifying their crackdown after eight people were killed during protests on December 27. "We can all see that the regime is under threat from people who are very determined, Iranians, some of them very religious, from the Shi'ite hierarchy," Kouchner said on RTL radio. "Yes, the regime is under threat from internal opposition and I don't know what it could lead to," he said. Iranian opposition leader Mirhossein Mousavi said on Friday his country was in serious crisis and called for reforms, saying he was ready to die for the protest movement. Asked whether he hoped the Iranian government would be overthrown, Kouchner said, "It's not for me to wish for that or not. For our part, we continue to talk to the Iranians." France is one of several Western countries at loggerheads with Ahmadinejad's government over Iran's nuclear program.



**ATLANTA** - A dismal job market, a crippled real estate sector and hobbled banks will keep a lid on U.S. economic growth over the coming decade, some of the nation's leading economists said on Sunday. Speaking at American Economic Association's mammoth yearly gathering, experts from a range of political leanings were in surprising agreement when it came to the chances for a robust and sustained expansion. They are slim. Many predicted U.S. gross domestic product would expand less than 2 percent per year over the next 10 years. That stands in sharp contrast to the immediate aftermath of other steep economic downturns, which have usually elicited a growth surge in their wake. "It will be difficult to have a robust recovery while housing and commercial real estate are depressed," said Martin Feldstein, a Harvard University professor and former head of the National Bureau of Economic Research.



**SYDNEY** - Belgium's Justine Henin made a triumphant return to professional tennis on Monday with a 7-5 7-5 win over Russia's Nadia Petrova in the first round of the Brisbane International. Playing her first official match since retiring in May 2008, Henin showed she had lost none of her fighting qualities as she ground out a hard-fought victory over the tournament's second seed. Another former world number one, Serbia's Ana Ivanovic, registered her first win in almost five months by beating Australia's Jelena Dokic 7-5 1-6 6-3 in an earlier match. Ivanovic, who has slipped to 21st in the world rankings after failing to win a tournament in 2009, overcame a lapse of concentration in the second set to see off Dokic, who contributed to her own downfall with 11 double-faults.



**WASHINGTON** - Be sure to cover your eyes when hanging around with your pet tarantula. Ophthalmologists at St. James's University Hospital in Leeds, England, used high magnification lenses to find out what made the man's eye red, watery and light-sensitive, according to a study reported in the British medical journal The Lancet on Thursday. They discovered hair-like projections stuck in the man's cornea. It was a light bulb moment for the patient, who remembered that three weeks earlier he had been cleaning a stubborn stain on the glass tank of his pet, a Chilean Rose tarantula. "He sensed movement in the terrarium. He turned his head and found that the tarantula, which was in close proximity, had released 'a mist of hairs' which hit his eyes and face," the doctors wrote. They said the man's condition was rare. The authors noted that the Chilean Rose tarantula releases the barbed hair on the back of its body to defend against predators. "We suggest that tarantula keepers be advised to routinely wear eye protection when handling these animals," the doctors said.





