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January 6, 2010

## Keeping the Iraqi borders safe

By Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick  
3rd HBCT, 3rd ID



FOB ECHO – The commands, “parade rest, attention,” and “double time” could be heard clearly through the early morning chill Dec. 29 at FOB Echo, but not in a way most American Soldiers could understand.

Ninety-nine Iraqi border patrolmen stood in formation, motivated to start the day. Physical training was first, led by a student who quickly earned the respect of his peers and instructors, according to Staff Sgt. Jammie Tucker, senior non-commissioned officer of the Diwaniyah stability transition team (STT). The team is part of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The men running to an Arabic cadence were only days away from graduating from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy. It is the largest advanced noncommissioned officer class the academy has seen.

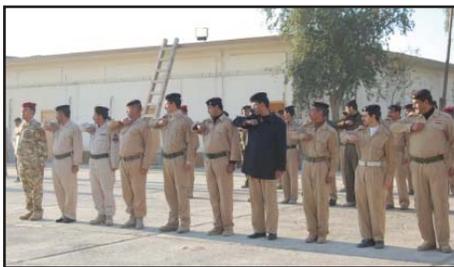
The 5th DBE consists of border patrol, border police, customs, and two quick reaction force battalions. The units cover four provinces including Diwaniyah, Najaf, Karbala, and Muthana. The class that was close to graduation consisted solely of border patrolmen.

After physical training, the students ate breakfast, practiced drill and ceremony in preparation for graduation, and then moved into a classroom for instruction. Day 42 of the 45-day-long course was already in full swing; it was only nine o’clock.

According to Maj. Ryan Yedlinsky, an STT deputy team chief, the students had already been through a vigorous course agenda including port of entry operations, personnel searches, check-point operations, reaction to terrorists and sui-

“Initiative is the biggest thing we try to instill in the students. We hope they walk away with that.”

**Maj. Ryan Yedlinsky**  
STT Deputy Team Chief



Students from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy’s advance noncommissioned officer course prepare for an in-ranks inspection.



A student from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy’s advance noncommissioned officer course maneuvers through an obstacle course.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick

Trainees from the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy’s advance noncommissioned officer course practice marching.



Carlos Carrillo, a retired U.S. border patrolman, plays the Iraq National Anthem, Dec. 29 at the 5th Department of Border Enforcement Academy, as 99 advanced noncommissioned officer course students practice singing in preparation for their graduation ceremony at Forward Operating Base Echo, Iraq.

# BATS speed data-gathering process

By 1st Lt. Chad Cooper  
1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment 

COB ADDER – Like technology from the latest spy movie, a system using finger prints and retina scans helps Soldiers tell the difference between the good guys and the bad guys. The Biometrics Automated Toolset System, otherwise known as BATS, is a database which assists in finding insurgents and other wanted individuals.

The system takes finger prints and retina scans and stores them with information like names, pictures and background information to form an individual profile. The profile provides information about an individual's past records, if the person has been previously detained, where they've worked or whether or not they are wanted for illegal activity.

BATS also has benefits for friendly forces.

The BATS system is used for a variety of missions, for example prior to conducting a rescue operation; the rescue team will download digital biometric files and associated biographical information on a captive from the authoritative source to confirm the individual's identity. In worst case scenarios an isolated person may be found in a group; here the BATS is employed to clearly identify the proper person to rescue. Using a hand-held biometric device, the team immediately matches one sample to the fingerprint of the person they were sent to recover.

"The team is able to extract the individual to a safe area, secure in the knowledge that they have rescued the right person," said Staff Sgt. Orrin Thompson, 1st Battal-



Photo by 1st Lt. Chad Cooper

Staff Sgt. Orrin Thompson, assigned as the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment's intelligence section Senior Intelligence Analyst gives a block of instruction on the Army's Biometrics Automated Toolset System.

ion, 77th Armor Regiment's senior intelligence analyst from Clark Fork, Idaho.

Using biometrics, hostage rescue teams can more quickly and accurately be sure that they have the right person. Prior to BATS it took days or weeks to record vital information about personnel that could be transferred to other units. Now, the process takes a relatively scant 12 to 90 minutes to obtain data. The system is user-driven, however. The amount of information found in the database is dependent on how much data previous operators or administrators have entered into

the system.

"The system is very user friendly. This equipment allows Soldiers to gather data on personnel in a short period of time that we would not have otherwise known without coordinating with other units making our job a little easier," said Thompson.

The improvements with technology being placed in the Soldiers' hands on the battlefield ensure that we are ready to adapt and overcome the continuous changes in modern combat.

For more from the 4/1, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Highlander](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Highlander)

## HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Clark Fork was named in honor of William Clark who along with Meriwether Lewis headed the expedition to the west in 1804. It is believed the Lewis and Clark party encountered the present day Clark Fork River near Missoula, in October of 1805.

# THE RED BULL REPORT

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-  17th Fires Brigade
-  4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
-  12th Combat Aviation Brigade
-  3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
-  367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Nash, Multi-National Division- South commander (right) and Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Noor Swady al Dalmy, 14th Iraqi Army Division enjoy themselves at the holiday dinner hosted by the 17th Fires Brigade at a dining facility in COB Basra, Iraq, Dec. 20.



Commander of the Basra Operations Center, Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi presents the 17th Fires Brigade Commander Col. Steven L. Bullimore, right, with a gift during the holiday dinner

# Peace, pleasantries show progress as forces dine together

SFC Samantha M. Stryker  
17TH Fires Brigade



COB BASRA – Holiday music played softly from the back of the room. A Christmas tree with all the trimmings stood proudly yet a bit out of place next to a large-as-life faux fire-place presenting a picture of a roaring fire burning in the red-brick mantle topped with holiday decorations. Centered on the mantle was a simple gold-glittered word - Peace.

The setting was a holiday dinner that 17th Fires Brigade hosted Dec. 20, on Contingency Operating Base Basra, for Iraqi Security Force leaders and government officials in the Basrah Province.

In a country punctuated by hundreds of years of violence this word is anything but simple. Yet that single word sums up the goal of the mission that has taken place during eight years of hard-work, dedication and personal sacrifice by thousands of Iraqi Security Forces, coalition forces, government officials and civilians.

Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, United States Division – South commander, and Col. Steven L. Bullimore, the 17th Fires Brigade commander dined with ISF leaders Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi, Basra Operations Center commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Noor Swady al Dalmy, 14th Iraqi Army Division commander and Maj. Gen. Adel Daham Fahad Al Amery, Iraqi Police commander.

The group of military and civilian leaders celebrated with a traditional American holiday dinner complete with pecan pie and Borden's eggnog shipped in from Texas.

With the help of a translator, Bullimore welcomed guests and toasted their friendship with sparkling cider and a

warm smile.

"Thank you for coming and sharing dinner with us tonight. Every family throughout America has different family traditions (because of our diversity). But one tradition that is always true with Christmas; it is a time for fellowship with family and friends," he said.

The ease and familiarity of the group that allowed conversations between the American hosts and their guests is a far cry from the often strained relationship of the recent past.

Just a few years ago U.S. leaders grew frustrated as they struggled through conversations with Iraqi officials made almost impossible by the language barrier. Many officials, local leaders and interpreters were afraid of the retaliation of working with Americans. Sometimes cooperation came to a standstill due to an affront caused by coalition forces due to lack of knowledge and understanding of local customs.

The ISF continue to demonstrate that they can provide security in the southern region as American troops withdraw from cities and hand over camps. The parliamentary elections of 2010 will showcase their efforts and hard work.

This dinner represented more than a diplomatic gesture. It was an opportunity for local officials to build stronger relationships with their counterparts as all parties continue to work toward that one simple goal - peace.

For more of SFC Stryker's stories visit:  
[www.TheRedBulls.org/Stryker](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Stryker)

The First and Only . . .

# Red Bull Flea Market & Charity Collection



## Sunday, January 17, 2010

at the Red Bull LSA Volleyball courts from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**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.*

**From Page 1  
BORDERS**

cide bombers, and drugs and weapons smuggling. These topics were taught in the classroom and with practical exercises.

"The students might sit in the classroom and learn about check-point operations for example," Yedlinsky explains. "Then they actually come outside, set up a mock check point and go through what they just learned."

Yedlinsky commends the academy's curriculum but believes the course is more than just a refresher for border patrol operations.

"We want to help them understand what they are capable of as NCOs," he said. "Initiative is the biggest thing we try to instill in the students. We hope they walk away with that."

Yedlinsky explained, until recently, the Iraqi Security Force Noncommissioned Officer Corps was not recognized in terms of leadership. Instead, NCOs took on roles of runners to the officers.

"In addition to explaining the role of the NCO to the students here, we also explain it to the officers that we work with," Yedlinsky said. "We explain to

the officers that they are very busy men and can rely on their NCOs. What we are starting to see now, especially in the staff sections, is the officers really using their NCOs."

"Patriotism, honor, duty, and service," said Carlos Carrillo, a retired U.S. border patrolman. "Appreciation of their service is what every warrior seeks. Their motivation is commendable."

Yedlinsky explained, with the 3rd HBCT's current advise-and-assist mission in Iraq, American instructors, like Tucker and Carrillo, show the students how American NCOs operate, then let them build their own style of leadership.

"The Iraqis are capable people," Yedlinsky said. "This works for them because they live the culture and they know the people better than we ever could."

Lt. Hider, dean of the 5th DBE Academy, agreed and added a touch of pride to his already growing confidence in his students.

"The students take this course seriously," he said through a translator. "They are the first barrier of defense to protect this country. They should be proud. They represent the Iraqi Security

Forces and they protect the people of Iraq."

The students will graduate Jan. 4th at the academy compound on FOB Echo. Kadom, a student enrolled in the course, said he is proud and happy that he will be one step closer to becoming an NCO and said he is ready to become a role model for his subordinates.

For more of Staff Sgt. Hendrick's stories, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Hendrick](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Hendrick)

**ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY**

Ashovic badin-  
See you later

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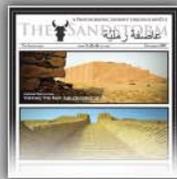
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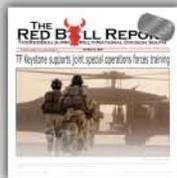
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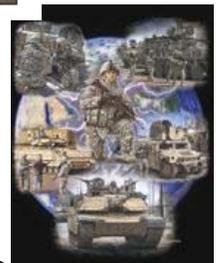
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## Around the world in 34 seconds



**ZURICH** - Five people died in avalanches in Switzerland over the weekend, including a doctor flown in to help rescue trapped skiers, and at least three were still missing, police said on Monday. Four people were killed in the Bernese Oberland, a region in western Switzerland popular with British tourists. Two avalanches on Sunday hit the first a group of skiers and then rescuers too, Bernese police spokesman Otto von Allmen said at a news conference. Two of the dead were Swiss, one German and the fourth victim was not yet formally identified, regional investigating judge Matthias Wiedmer said at the conference. Still missing were two Swiss and a German skier. The first group of skiers, members of another group who had gone to the rescue of the first, and a team from Switzerland's Rega helicopter emergency service were hit by the second avalanche. A doctor was engulfed and died later in the hospital. Rega said it was the first time one of its doctors had been killed by an avalanche. Bad weather made the search for the missing impossible on Monday and efforts were set to resume on Tuesday, Switzerland's Alpine rescue service said at the conference.



**WASHINGTON** - Threats against U.S. judges and federal prosecutors rose almost 12 percent in fiscal 2008, the government said in a report released on Monday hours before a man opened fire with a shotgun in a Las Vegas courthouse. Judges, court officials and prosecutors reported 1,278 threats in the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2008, up from 1,145 in fiscal 2007 and more than double the 592 reported in 2003, according to the report by the Justice Department's inspector general. In an incident on Monday that illustrated the threat, a man pulled a shotgun from under his coat and opened fire at a federal courthouse in Las Vegas, the FBI said. The gunman was killed after he shot dead a court security officer and wounded a U.S. marshal in the building, which also houses the offices of Nevada's two U.S. senators. Officials said that the motive for the shooting was not immediately known and that the gunman apparently was operating alone.



**CHICAGO** - EA Sports said on Monday it was moving forward with plans to introduce a Tiger Woods online game despite the top golfer's public relations nightmare and drastic drop in popularity following his adultery scandal. The Electronic Arts Inc unit's president, Peter Moore, said in a company blog, [www.itsinthegame.com](http://www.itsinthegame.com), that the company would this month begin offering "Tiger Woods PGA Tour Online," a browser-based golf game developed in the past year. EA's move comes four days after AT&T Inc terminated its sponsorship deal with Woods, joining other companies that have either distanced themselves or cut ties with the world's first billionaire athlete since he became engulfed in allegations of multiple extramarital affairs after a minor car accident outside his Florida home November 27.



**LONDON** - A gambler who threatened to kill a racehorse in a bid to stop it taking part in a race after he forgot to place his syndicate's bet was given a suspended jail term on Monday. Andrew Rodgeron, 26, warned a stud manager not to run 2008 St Leger winner Conduit in a valuable race at Ascot after he forgot to place the accumulator bet, the Press Association reported. He panicked when he realized that victory for Conduit in last July's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes would lead to the syndicate expecting winnings of 50,000 pounds (\$80,500), Bolton Crown Court heard. Rodgeron, of Balderstone, near Rochdale, sent a series of text messages and e-mails to Peter Reynolds, the general manager for the Ballymacoll Stud Farm in Ireland which owned Conduit. Ten days before the race he texted Mr Reynolds: "Dear Peter, we would just like to warn you should Conduit run in the King George then the horse will be killed." Five days later he followed up with an email to the general manager, which read: "Dear Peter, I don't believe you are taking the threat of death to Conduit very seriously. "We want the horse removed from the King George this weekend. If you co-operate the horse will live. Police were informed and Rodgeron was arrested at his home address just two days before the race.