

2-127th Soldiers hand off camp

as 515th assumes command

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
17th Fires Brigade



CAMP BUCCA – “No attacks on Bucca and no successful attacks on coalition forces in the Bucca operational environment on our watch: that was our battalion’s mission and through your efforts we accomplished that mission perfectly,” said Lt. Col. Brad S. Anderson, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, commander.

Anderson, relinquished operational control of Camp Bucca to Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Nava, commander of the 515th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a transfer of authority ceremony held at the camp Jan. 10.

Once home to around 8,500 prisoners, Camp Bucca, located close to the Kuwaiti border, was Iraq’s main theater internment facility. The TIF remained opened up until September 2009.

Now the base will serve as a strategic strong point for U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces as they carry on the continued partnership until the eventual draw-down of U.S. forces in Iraq.

“I am very happy to transfer operational authority of Camp Bucca today, because it means that we are on our way home,” said Anderson. “To the Soldiers of 2-127th Infantry, you have all done an exceptional job. You should return home proud of your accomplishments, proud of your service and proud of this fine battalion,” he added.

The Wisconsin National Guard unit

“I am very happy to transfer operational authority of Camp Bucca today, because it means that we are on our way home.”

Lt. Col. Brad S. Anderson

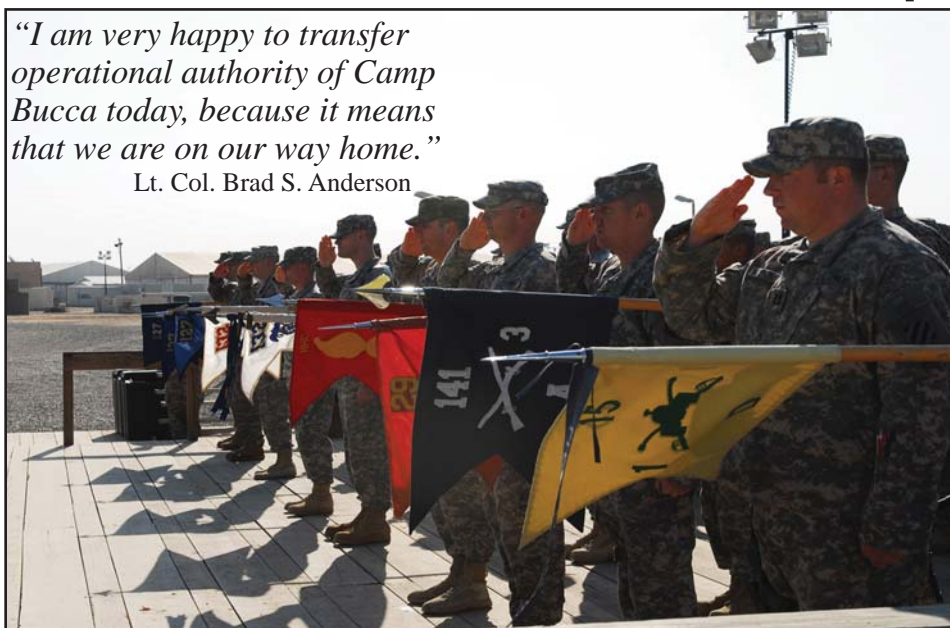


Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Commanders of the various units order their Soldiers to present arms during the transfer of authority ceremony during which 515th CSSB took over Camp Bucca from 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt. and 132nd BSB Jan. 10.

deployed to Iraq with the unique mission of transferring the remaining detainees from the camp’s prison into the custody of the Iraqi Police as stated and agreed upon in the security agreement between the United States and Iraq.

This transfer of authority ceremony is one of the first under the newly configured U.S. Forces- Iraq.

The 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Reg., and the 132nd Brigade Support Bn., comprised of Wisconsin and Michigan Guardsmen, were replaced by a single unit, the 515th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a National Guard unit from New Mexico.

The 515th CSSB, commanded by Nava, is tasked with an unfamiliar role for them, and the support from the

outgoing units was appreciated, Nava said.

“We find ourselves doing a nonstandard mission for a CSSB. We want to thank the Soldiers from the 2-127th; 132nd BSB and the 17th Fires Brigade for the excellent transition they have provided us,” Nava said.

Jokingly Nava said that he appreciated the unit’s diligent efforts to mark all the land mines for them as they begin their mission in Bucca.

“The Soldiers of 515th are ready to continue the work here on Camp Bucca alongside our friends at Safwan and Umm-Qasr,” Nava said.

For more of Spc. Galloway’s, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway

Saying goodbye to bravery

Commentary by Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT, 3rd ID



FOB KALSU – As an American Soldier, I've witnessed bravery in a variety of forms. Whether it was observing my battle buddy overcome his fear of heights and repel down a 20-foot tower during basic training or watching one of my best friends overcome the amputation of both his legs and become an amazing non-commissioned officer, I've seen countless instances of men and women setting aside their fears and doing what they had to do.

To be honest, I've sort of come to expect it.

I believe this determination is instilled in most Soldiers during basic training and is further developed as we serve around people who have learned to push through their anxieties in order to fulfill the oath they took to defend our country.

As I returned home from my 15-day leave, I saw it again in the most unlikely of places.

My six year old son isn't a warrior. He didn't volunteer to be the child of a Soldier. In all honesty, his opinions have very little effect on me when I start talking about deployments and how long I'm going to be away.

He is put in the unfortunate situation of being stuck with my decision to serve our country.

I'm sure he is proud of me most days, but there are sacrifices he must endure in my absence.

Dad isn't there for every holiday or birthday.

I can't tuck him into bed every night.

When he goes to Cub Scouts, he is one of the few boys whose father isn't there.

The list of every-day things that I'm absent for could go on for pages and it takes a toll on his young psyche.



File photo

He has nightmares some nights. Most nights, he sleeps in my bed with his mother for reassurance.

Many days, he asks her if I'm going to come back home. He has been pulled out of school to deal with sepa-

ration anxiety, further making him "different" from the children around him and hindering his ability to be a good student.

It isn't fair. I'll admit that.

Despite my best efforts to provide for him and his younger brother, they are both forced to live in a single-parent home every deployment.

Both of them live with the specter of Daddy not coming home or returning home with an injury they can't understand. My oldest has seen one of Daddy's injured friends, the one with the "robot" legs, and noticed that Daddy walks with a limp now.

A six-year old might not understand all of the details, but he has a unique perspective of what war is and he also understands what that could mean for me.

Unfortunately, I ask him to accept this and not worry. I ask him to go about his life "like normal" and await my return.

To be honest, I try not to think about what a huge task that is.

For many of us, "talking to the kids about deployment" is one bullet on a huge list of important things we have to get done before we get on the plane to go overseas.

I wish I could say that I've eased my child's mind and he is performing normally, I wish I could say he doesn't cry when he talks about Daddy being gone, I wish he wouldn't worry that

BRAVERY
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THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
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34th Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Kevin Olson
OIC, Command Information: 1st Lt. Shamika Hill
NCOIC, Command Information: 1st Sgt. David Bennett
NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
Managing Editor: Sgt. Ben Kibbey
Graphics Designer: Sgt. Francis Horton
Layout/Design: Spc. Samantha Johnson
Staff Writers: Sgt. Francis Horton, Spc. Sam Soza,
Spc. Samantha Johnson, Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Contributing Units

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

Media Queries please contact 34th Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office at MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

3rd HBCT keeps female Soldiers informed

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



FOB KALSU – Female Soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division attended a woman's town hall meeting Jan. 8 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq to address any potential issues.

The meeting supported the unit's female Soldier deployment readiness luncheon held before the 3rd HBCT deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Oct. 2009.

During the event, Soldiers were introduced to leaders of health and welfare services such as behavioral health, stress management and the unit victim advocate program.

"One of the purposes of this meeting today is to inform you of what agencies to go to when you have a problem and where to find those agencies," explained Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, 3rd HBCT.

Pearson opened the floor for questions after speaking to the Soldiers on the sexual harassment and assault policy in the brigade.

"I want you hear these words come straight from my mouth," he said. "Sexual harassment and sexual assault will not be tolerated in this brigade. Action will be taken."

For many of the Soldiers, the town hall meeting was a chance to associate faces with names, not only of the leaders but also of their female battle buddies.

"No one understands female Soldiers like other female Soldiers," said Captain Joan Hollein, commander, Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT.

Spc. Michelle Cook, Headquarters Company, 203rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is one of those Soldiers who understands what it means to be a female in the military.

"Sometimes we have to go out of our way to get respected," she said. "We have to prove ourselves where sometimes male Soldiers are just ex-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick
Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, 3rd HBCT, speaks to the brigade's female Soldiers during a woman's town hall meeting, Jan. 8 at FOB Kalsu. Pearson spoke to the Soldiers on the sexual harassment and sexual assault policies in the brigade, after which he opened the floor for questions from the audience.

pected to do well."

Although many deemed the meeting a success, concerns surfaced among the audience.

"I feel there were some concerns that people weren't saying," said Spc. Brentney Williams, HQ Co., 203rd BSB. "I think some people just weren't comfortable. I think there

needs to be a way to get people to talk more. It's important."

The 3rd HBCT will continue holding woman's town hall meetings during the unit's current deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For more of Staff Sgt. Hedrick's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Hedrick

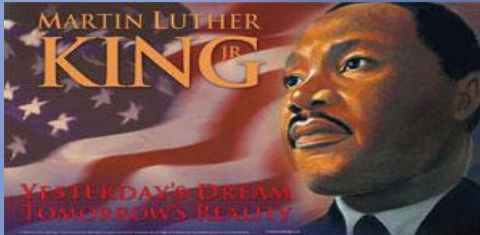




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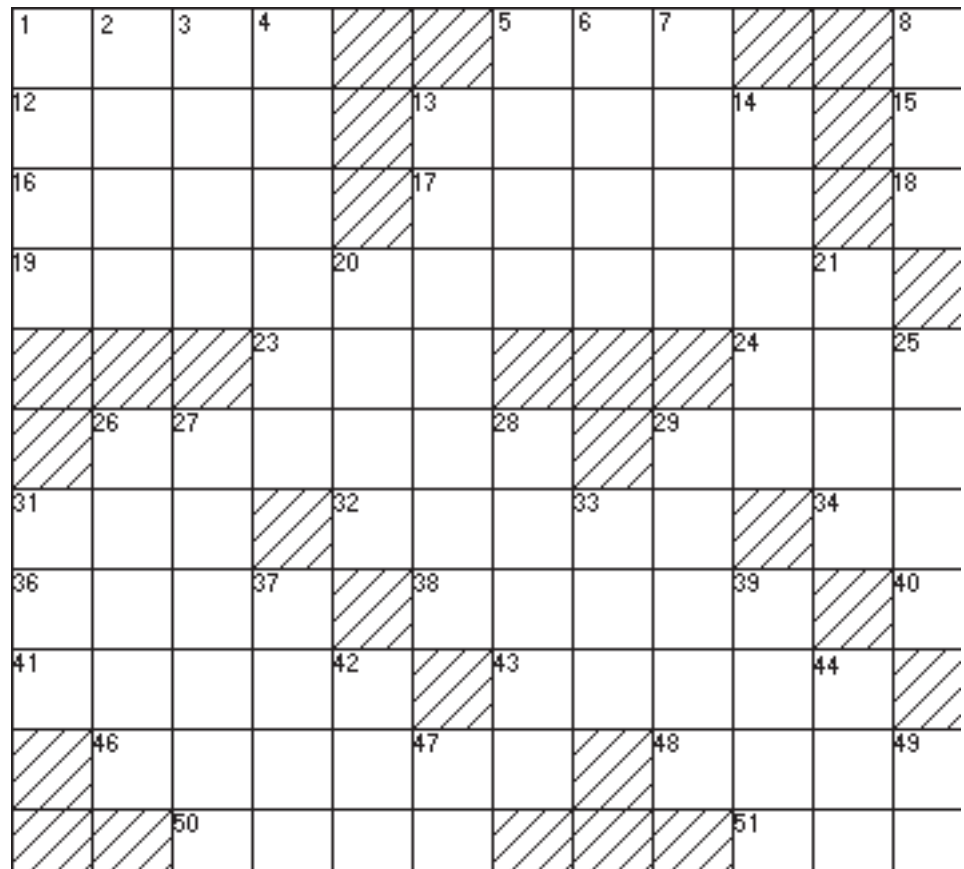
 Iraqi's train
thier own

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ARABICWORD OF THE DAY

 Tis'd-
Nine


Crossword


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DOWN

1. Fashionable
2. Start over
3. Chocolate cookie
4. Munition
5. Dwarf buffalo
6. Dolt
7. Central points
8. Anagram of "Sue"
9. Moneymaking
10. Curse
11. Margarine
13. Layer
14. Picture

20. Wickedness

21. Naked
25. Discover
26. Push
27. Warranted
28. Explode
29. Notions
30. Cousins of ospreys
31. If you had this, you would know this
33. Sick
35. Nevertheless
37. Bog
39. Misstep

42. Teller of untruths

44. Verbal
47. Sporting venue
49. Sculpted
52. Creative work
53. As well
55. Arid
56. Pitcher
57. Distribute
58. Back of the neck
59. They man a ship
60. Visual organs
62. Donkey

ACROSS

1. Black bird
5. Alien Life Form
8. Eardrum
12. Not there
13. Spy on
15. Secure against leakage
16. Bright thought
17. Make physical contact
18. Coastal raptor
19. Collaboration
22. Chief executive officer
23. Egg cells
24. A type of volcanic rock

26. Set ablaze

29. A tincture
31. Relative of an ostrich
32. Sensational
34. Way in
36. Unwanted email
38. Donkeys
40. Eat
41. Danger
43. An ancient Athenian philosopher
45. Allow
46. Lasso
48. Billows

50. Close

51. Blemish
52. Cereal grain
54. Similarity in appearance
61. Supplication
63. Handrail post
64. Deviate
65. Purposes
66. Mountain crest
67. Sword
68. Mats of grass
69. Before
70. Current event information

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From Page 2

BRAVERY

Mommy is going to leave him now, as well; but that isn't the case.

There are a lot of days he struggles with it, and I hope one day I can help him understand how proud I am of him for the sacrifice he is making.

I want to pull him close and thank him for being as brave as any Soldier I've ever served with. Armed only with a child's hope that "everything will be ok", he has done a wonderful job of getting through this deployment.

Unlike me, my kids will never get an award for their service. Generals typically don't give "Hooah" coins to children.

The only award they will receive is the countless toys and kisses they'll get from me when I get off the plane next October.

For them, it is enough.

As I got out of my car at the airport, I walked around to the backseat to give him a kiss goodbye.

I opened the door to see him, his eyes shrink-wrapped in tears, trying to give me a gapped tooth smile despite a quivering lip.

I smiled my best reassuring smile, gave him a big hug and kiss, and told him "It's going to be all right, bud. I'll be home soon. I promise."

Without shedding a tear, he just gave me another quivering kiss on the lips and whispered, "I know, Daddy. I love you. Please come back quick."

That, folks, is as brave a thing as you'll ever see. Take it from someone who sees it every day.

For more of Sgt. Hutto's, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Hutto



CHALDEAN RITE MASS CAMP BASRA

Historic Event: *The acting Chaldean Bishop of southern Iraq will celebrate Mass at the new COB Basra Chapel. We invite you to come and worship with us at this sacred and blessed event.*

MASS

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When: 1600 16 JAN

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Dinner with the Bishop following Mass: 1700-1800

Thunderbolt DFAC

POC: CH (LTC) JOHN MORRIS
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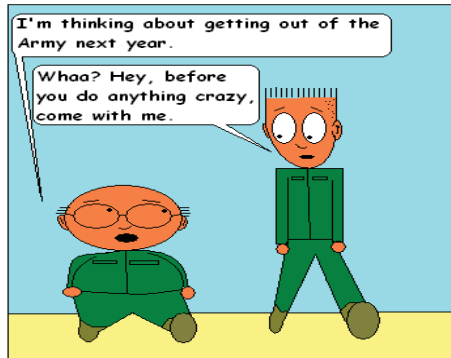
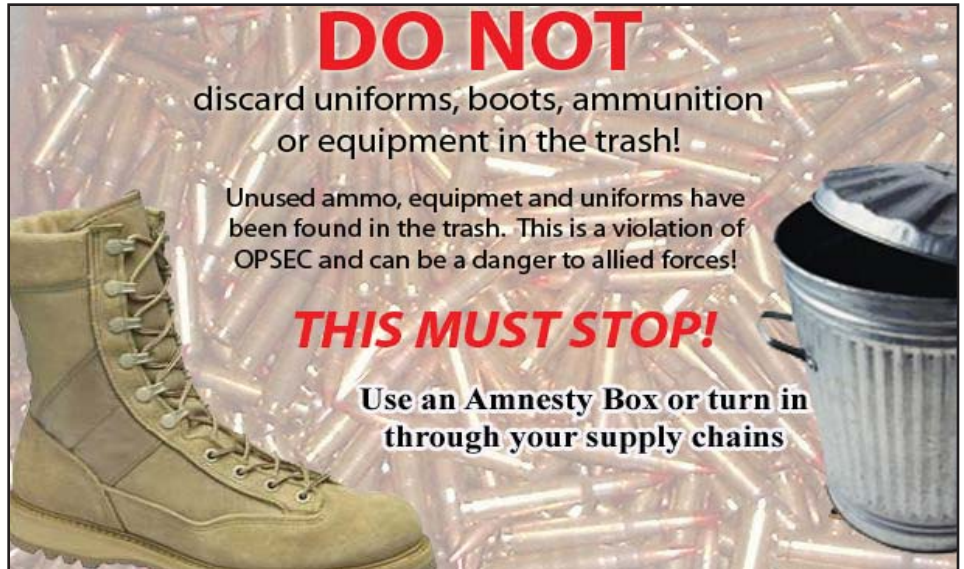
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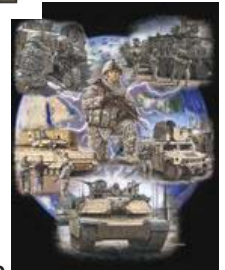
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11:30 - 14:00
17:00 - 20:00
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05:30 - 08:30
11:30 - 14:00
17:00 - 20:00
0:00 - 01:30

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JAN. 18 1130-1230 DFAC 2
1230-1330 DFAC 3

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USO hours
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Around the world in 34 seconds



PORT-AU-PRINCE - Traumatized Haitians slept out in parks and streets on Thursday, fearing aftershocks to the catastrophic earthquake that flattened homes and government buildings and buried countless people. Tens of thousands of people were feared dead and many were believed to be still trapped alive in the rubble of the major 7.0 magnitude quake that hit Haiti's capital on Tuesday. Survivors feared returning to their precarious homes and slept in open areas where groups of women sang traditional religious songs in the dark and prayed for the dead. Foreigners slept around the hotel's pool and scores of injured Haitians lay outside the damaged hotel. Bodies were visible all around the hilly city: under rubble, lying beside roads, being loaded into trucks. Scattered bodies were laid out on sidewalks, wrapped neatly in sheets and blankets.



SAN FRANCISCO - Google Inc. says it may be forced to leave China, but the search giant has room to compromise in its battle with Beijing, and both sides have reason to do so. The company's surprise statement on Tuesday that it was no longer ready to censor search results in China and might pull out of the world's biggest Internet market by users has put it squarely at odds with the Chinese government. But analysts and business experts on Wednesday said Google's past clashes with powerful companies and industries, and the importance of the Chinese market to Google's future, suggest that self-imposed exile from China may not be Google's end-game. Hard lines in previous battles have been negotiating tactics and could be this time, too, they said. China has roughly 360 million users, and its search market topped \$1 billion last year.



DALLAS - An ailing Kobe Bryant drained a game-winning jump shot with 28 seconds remaining to pull the sliding Los Angeles Lakers to a 100-95 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday. Plagued by an injured finger on his shooting hand as well as back spasms that forced him off court on Tuesday, Bryant delivered the big shot to break a 95-95 tie and help Los Angeles (30-9) snap a four-game road losing streak. The Lakers closed the contest with free throws, spoiling the night for Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki, who recorded 30 points in the losing cause to surpass 20,000 points over his career.



PODGORICA - Montenegro's only hippopotamus escaped from the mountainous Adriatic nation's zoo during floods this week, officials said Wednesday. The two-ton female called Nikica broke out of her cage and swam away after seasonal floods hit the zoo just outside the Montenegrin capital Podgorica, zoo manager Davor Mujovic said. The hippo found a dry spot a mile away from the zoo as shelter from cold flood waters. Mujovic said zoo guards would have to wait until the water recedes to try to lure the animal back to its enclosure with food. In its native Africa, the world's third largest mammal on land is considered aggressive and dangerous. But zoo owner Nikola Pejovic said Nikica was not a threat to people.