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SEPTEMBER 30, 2010



Photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Mayer, Photo Illustration by Pfc. Khori D. Johnson

Soldiers of Taskforce Blackjack stand strongly alongside a few mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles belonging to 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav at Basra.

## Task Force Blackjack relocates to Basra, commences Operation New Dawn

by Sgt. David Dasilma

4th Sqdn., 10th Cav., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div

During the final days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Task Force Blackjack was given a new mission for Operation New Dawn along with orders to relocate from Dhi Qar to Basra Province.

The execution of such a large-scale move took planning, coordination, and strong leadership. Remarkably, the transition from Nasiriyah to Basra was completed within three weeks of the initial announcement.

Normally, relocation and transition can lead to added stress levels; however, some Blackjack Soldiers have a different take on the situation.

"With this new mission it's almost as if our tour has been split in half. It negates any potential complacency as a new location means new ways to do things and new procedures to learn," said Spc. Zachary Homalon, of Oahu, Hawaii, signal support systems specialist, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav.

"It's a welcome shift in momentum and seeing how efficiently and quickly we moved motivates me. Basically, we successfully completed a redeployment test-run. We'll be that much more ready when it's time to pack up and head back home to Colorado Springs," said Sgt. Gregory Cravener, of Houston, Texas, human resources specialist, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, TF Blackjack was tasked to augment three southern Provincial Reconstruction Teams in their mission to assist the Government of Iraq in establishing enduring institutions, thus increasing civil capacity.

TF Blackjack's new mission entails advising and assisting the 4th Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, in an effort to help Iraq secure its borders and protect its sovereignty.

This requires training the 4th DBE and allowing Iraqis to take the lead in order to demonstrate full compliance with the security agreement, which officially changed the U.S. forces' role in Iraq from

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## Commander's Letter

Greetings once again from southern Iraq. October marks the halfway point of our tour of duty. I don't think I have to tell you how important that is for the Iron Brigade and our families.

In addition to reaching the halfway point in the deployment, we are now one full month into Operation New Dawn. One of the major changes for the Brigade as part of New Dawn is the transition of Task Force 4-10 from their mission working with the provincial reconstruction teams to a new task advising and assisting the Iraqi border forces. Blackjack did an outstanding job moving its headquarters down to Basrah and quickly getting to work with the department of border enforcement. Patrolling a border is a more traditional cavalry mission, and the troopers of 4-10 have already proven more than up to the new mission.

TF 1-68 continues to work with the Iraqi security forces in Basra proper, and have done a great job synchronizing the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police in the area, really putting a serious dent into enemy activity.

In Amarah, TF 1-8 made a huge push at the end of the fiscal year as they took over the civil capacity role from 4-10, starting a vast array of new projects in the area to stimulate good governance and social services and working closely with the U.S. State Department to improve the capability of the political system.

TF 3-29 continues to work with its Iraqi partners providing security in the largest portion of OE Iron, and is on track to have the first province in the entire country to shift away from the army and to police primacy. The 64th BSB continues to provide flawless logistical support to an



**Col. James E. Rainey**

*Commander*

*3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.*

area the size of the state of Maine, moving supplies by both ground and air, while the 3rd BSTB ties everything in the brigade together with comms and intelligence support to the force. All our great Iron Brigade Soldiers are making our nation proud every day.

As always, thank you for supporting your Soldier and our country. Continue to take care of each other. Iron Strong!



## A Word From The Command Sergeant Major

Family, friends, and Soldiers of the Iron AAB,

Is the glass half full or half-empty? Who cares! The important fact is the Iron Strong Brigade is halfway complete with its deployment to Iraq. That means we are halfway to being home and rejoining with our friends, Families and loved ones. I know many of you celebrated this milestone both here and back home.

The month of September has been another month of heroic actions and distinct recognition of Iron Strong Soldiers. Two NCOs earned the Purple Heart Medal. Thanks to the outstanding actions by Soldiers within their patrols, these two NCOs are still with us and still doing their duty in Iraq. The Iron Brigade continues to be the jewel of United States Division-South. Sgt 1st Class Padilla from Troop D, 4-10 CAV along with eight

soldiers throughout the brigade maintain the USD-S resiliently campus on COB Basra. During the month, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment hosted the new USF-I command team of Gen. Austin and Command Sgt. Maj. Allen out at Garry Owen. Your Iron Soldiers remain Steadfast and Loyal, whether it's closing bases, pushing excess equipment south to Kuwait, or getting bad guys off the street.

The days here are long and hot. Iron NCOs stay very busy taking care of their Soldiers, maintaining equipment, conducting missions, and working hard to build a capable Iraqi Security Force through long hours of advising, assisting, and training. Throw in PT, eating, sleeping, up half the night on the internet, and you would think there is no time left for anything else. That's true in most units, but not the Iron Strong NCO Corps.



**CSM Miles S. Wilson**

*Brigade Command Sergeant Major*

*3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.*

Nine NCOs from across the Brigade earned the coveted Sgt. Audie Murphy Award and induction into the Iron Strong Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. Congratulations to each NCO and their proud Family.

Pictures from all the above mentioned events can be found on the Brigade Facebook page. I encourage everyone to be a 'fan' and spread the word about all the hard work and sacrifices your Soldiers are doing. Again, I'm honored to be a part of such an outstanding unit - the Iron Brigade!

Stay Safe! Stay Iron Strong!



[www.facebook.com.com\3bct4id](http://www.facebook.com.com\3bct4id)



# Commanding general visits Garry Owen

by Pfc. Khori Johnson

3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, U.S. Forces Iraq, paid a visit to Garry Owen and Camp Sparrowhawk September 22.

Austin visited both installations to receive a series of briefings that explained the current status of the Maysan Province and to meet with the commanders of each installation.

While at Garry Owen, Austin also met with a few Soldiers to congratulate them on their hard work and award them coins.

Ambassador James F. Jeffrey, ambassador to Iraq, Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, United States Division-South, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen also visited Garry Owen on the same day.

Photos by Pfc. Khori Johnson

[Clockwise] Lt. Col. John Digiambattista speaks with Gen. Austin during the tour of the compound. A formation of Soldiers wait patiently before the coin ceremony. Spc. Edwards receives a coin from Austin. Austin speaks to the formation after awarding the selected Soldiers their coins. Spc. Felts receives a coin from Austin.





## Physical therapists and physical therapist technicians hold theater-wide conference to exchange ideas

by Pvt. DeAngelo Wells  
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., Public Affairs

Physical therapists and physical therapist technicians from units across Iraq and Afghanistan held a training conference at COB Adder Aug. 27-29.

The participants traded experiences between different brigades on physical therapy techniques and taught technicians how to create a more complete patient file.

"This was a great experience as well as a great conference," said Col. Andrea Crunkhorn, physical therapist branch chief. "Everyone has been exposed to something that is new, or at least improved on. The whole basis for this conference is taking care of Soldiers as far as a physical therapist can."

One technique demonstrated at the conference was intramuscular stimulation, or dry needling. This technique utilizes the same tools as acupuncture, but primarily targets one muscle or trigger point in order to relieve stress, pain, or tension at the site, whereas acupuncture is used throughout the body, said Capt. Shaun O'Laughlin, brigade physical therapist, 3rd Advise and Assist, 4th Infantry Division.

"I feel it is a great technique to incorporate into the rehabilitation process because patients with trigger points often

have muscular dysfunctions and often develop weakness secondary to pain," he said. "Dry needling is an excellent way to release the trigger points, restoring normal muscle function."

Back, shoulder, and knee injuries sustained in theater were among the prime discussions during the conference. According to O'Laughlin, therapists demonstrated techniques to minimize Soldiers healing time, allowing them more time on the job.

The conference also covered nonsurgical techniques such as splinting a broken finger and evaluating foot and spine injuries.

"The thing about conferences of this type is that it allows people of different medical backgrounds to come together and share ideas," said Sgt. Adam Lautenschlager, brigade physical therapist technician, Company C, 64th Brigade Support Battalion. "Tricks of the trade that can be learned here can be very valuable to these deployed clinicians because they allow for better treatment when all the resources and technologies we have back at Fort Carson are not available."

"The conference provided further information on what physical therapy has to offer for the Soldiers," he said. "The increased knowledge the medical providers get on skeletal evaluations

will increase the standard of care for the Soldiers within the brigade. Along with the information given to the medical providers, physical therapists pass insight on techniques to incorporate into their treatment on Iron Brigade Soldiers."

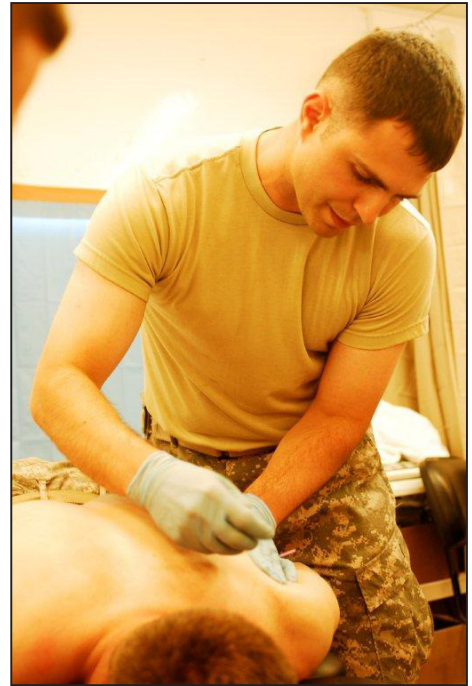


Photo by Pvt. DeAngelo Wells  
Capt. Shaun O'Laughlin, brigade physical therapist, 3rd Advise and Assist, 4th Infantry Division, demonstrates intramuscular stimulation, or dry needling, on Sgt. Adam Lautenschlager, Company C, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., during a demonstration at the conference on COB Adder.

## Blackjack: Ensuring success while taking on a new mission with Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement

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a combat mission to an advise and assist role as of Sept. 1.

To ensure optimal mission success, TF Blackjack reassumed command and control of Troop B, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav., who were attached to another battalion during OIF.

"We are excited about the opportunity to come back together as a squadron and take on this new mission. We are proud of what we accomplished in support of the PRTs and civil capacity efforts, but

have a lot to offer the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, given our traditional role as a reconnaissance and surveillance formation," said Lt. Col. Christopher Engen, of Eau Claire, Wis., TF Blackjack commander, regarding this realignment.

The Soldiers within the task force exhibited a high level of versatility and adaptability in switching from combat operations to civil capacity and then advisory roles.

"Raising your level of performance requires two things: a proper mentality

and meaning from within—that's what every Soldier in 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry has. That's how they get the job done," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby, of West Palm Beach, Fla.

TF Blackjack stands ready to aid the 4th DBE along the border, to ensure the local population is confident in the DBE's ability to stop smuggling operations and secure the border.

"As our motto states we are 'ready and forward,'" said Engen, proud to once again be at the tip of the brigade's spear.





## Chaplain's Perspective

### Leadership: Service Over Position

Strong servant leadership goes a long way in helping one become a strong leader in other areas of life, to include work and family.

Leadership within the military is traditionally associated with one's position of authority rather than the personal quality of his or her character. Conversely, examples of spiritual leadership in scripture show that one's position is not as important as being a servant to those we lead.

John: Chapter 13 shows Jesus doing the work of a servant while remaining in the position of a leader. Verses four and five state, "he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

Once Jesus, the undisputed leader of this group, completed this service he returned to his place at the head of the table and taught his disciples a valuable lesson in leadership and service.

Their leader by position took on the role of a servant yet retained his position as leader while working to serve those he led. We too must realize that being a leader is more about serving those we lead than getting the recognition of a position we hold.

Our quality of leadership is remembered far longer than the positions we hold along the way, from the youngest team leader to the most experienced commander or command sergeant major.

Let us always lead by example in our service first and our positions will always remain.



**Capt. Benjamin Dillon**  
3rd BSTB Chaplain  
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

## IRON SAFE EQUALS IRON STRONG

**I AM AN  
IRON STRONG SOLDIER**

**RESPONSIBLE FOR  
ADHERING TO ALL  
ARMY AND IRON  
STANDARDS**

**OBSERVANT OF MY  
SURROUNDINGS,  
I WILL MANAGE  
MY DAILY TASKS**

**NEVER GAMBLE WITH  
MY SAFETY OR  
THE SAFETY OF  
MY TEAMMATES**



# PSEC

IF YOUR FRIENDS CAN SEE IT,  
SO CAN YOUR ENEMIES



**Erik Gryphon** is heading out on patrol at 0400.

19 September at 23:03 · Comment · Like

13 insurgents like this.

[View all 8 comments](#)



**Joey Jihad** See you there!!!

19 September at 23:39 · Like



Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Jelle

**[Top]** Command Sgt. Maj. Miles S. Wilson holds a moment of silence with the "Led Zeppelin" tribute band, "Hammer of the Broads" in remembrance of the victims and events of the September 11 attacks. "Hammer of the Broads" played their final show on the Adder military installation as a part of their tour for service members deployed to Kuwait and Iraq. **[Bottom, Left to Right]** The Hammer of the Broads includes drummer, Nikki Lane Taylor; lead singer, Dyna Shirasaki; bassist, Andrea Zermeno; and lead guitarist, Tina Wood.

## Hammer of the Broads rock the sandbox

by Spc. Glen Baker

224th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs Office

The all-female Led Zeppelin tribute band, Hammer of the Broads, rocked the Adder Commons stage near Memorial Hall during a concert held, Sept. 11, at Camp Adder, Iraq.

Hammer of the Broads includes their lead singer, Dyna Shirasaki, their lead guitarist, Tina Wood, their bassist, Andrea Zermeno, and their drummer, Nikki Lane Taylor. All four band members are Los Angeles natives (or as Zermeno says, "La-la land!").

The band described what performing their music for the Soldiers meant to them.

"It's a little thing that we can do and give back and say thanks for everything that [the Soldiers] do," said Shirasaki. "After doing a number of these tours, you realize how difficult it is and how much they have to sacrifice in order to do what they do, and they do it for the love of their country. We really want to show our appreciation, so we come out and do these tours and try to break up the monotony of their deployment. It really means a lot to us – what we do."

Sgt. Steven Spence, an operations non-commissioned officer-in-charge with the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and a Wilmington, N.C. native, said that he enjoyed Hammer

of the Broads' performance.

"I do Community Relations Team projects and Provincial Reconstruction Team missions," said Spence. "I've been a Led Zeppelin fan since I was in high school." He said that the first song the band performed, "Good Times, Bad Times," was his favorite.

Pfc. Zechariah Scott, a Soldier with the 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., and a Des Moines, Iowa native, said that it meant a lot to him that the band traveled a long distance to perform.

"It's really great when people show their appreciation for the troops, especially flying all the way here," said Scott.

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Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Jelle

Spc. Chase Anderson, of Pleasant Grove, Utah, HHT, 3rd BSTB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., poses with the ladies of Hammer of the Broads during the autograph signing after their show on Camp Adder at Memorial Hall.

## Rock: Hammer of the Broads show a whole lotta love

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“A 20-hour flight – it’s just amazing to play for us in 120-degree weather. I thought the music was great. I thought they represented Zeppelin really well.”

Zermeno described how the band formed. “I was in a Led Zeppelin tribute band with the drummer, Nikki,” said Zermeno. “They needed a bass player, so I came in place of the old one. And that band broke up. Then Nikki and I brought in these two, Dyna and Tina, who I’d been playing with for many years. That’s how it formed.”

The band members explained why they chose to play in a Led Zeppelin tribute band instead of covering another band.

“I never thought of doing it myself,

although I’ve been a huge Led Zeppelin fan forever,” said Taylor. “These girls found me on MySpace and started pestering me until I finally got together with them and started playing and I’m like, ‘Ooh, this is fun.’ It was the previous girls who started the Led Zeppelin project and needed a drummer and they found me. I started playing the music and then we ended up replacing our bass player with Andrea. It was kind of already formed, but if it was my choice now to say, ‘Hey, I’d be in a tribute band,’ it would definitely be Led Zeppelin if I had to pick one.”

The band members gave advice to those who are thinking about playing in a band or performing onstage.

“Practice, practice, practice,” said Taylor. “Be good at your part. Otherwise your band won’t be able to be great. You’re only as good as your weakest link.”

Wood said being relaxed is important, as well. “No matter how it’s going up there, you want to make it look like you’re having a good time, even if you’re having the worst night of your life,” she said. “The audience feeds off your vibe. If you look like you’re having a bad time, they’re having a bad time. You’re acting as well as performing.”

“We love our troops. Stay safe. Hurry up and get the job done and come home soon,” said Shirasaki.

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## Medical Soldiers advise Iraqi army on MASCAL

by 2nd Lt. Jon Morgan  
64th BSB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

An ambulance races down the street, leaving a dust cloud in its wake. Coming to an abrupt halt, doors fly open, and a medic jumps out. Fellow Iraqi army soldiers are wounded and in need of medical care at Iraqi army Camp Ur Aug. 16.

Patients are stabilized for transportation and placed into the ambulance. The back doors are closed and the ambulance races furiously back to the aid station at the camp. A 10th Iraqi Army Transportation Headquarters treatment team advised by a 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, medical noncommissioned officer is standing by waiting to receive casualties.

Luckily, all of this was only a drill. It was an effort to evaluate what the 10th IA, learned after three months of Iraqi army led training, advised by the 64th BSB.

During the mass casualty exercise, Brig. Gen. Ali Jawad Kazem, 10th IA Transportation HQ commander, observed the work of the medics at the aid station.

"I am confident that my medics can

handle multiple casualties and save many lives," he said after the exercise.

Sgt. Francisco Solis, of El Paso, Texas, medical NCO, 64th BSB, has spent three months assisting and advising Iraqi instructors on how to plan for mass



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jon Morgan  
Sgt. Francisco Solis, of El Paso, Texas, medical NCO, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, observes as a 10th Iraqi Army Transportation Headquarters medic stabilizes a casualty for evacuation in a training exercise.

casualty operations, how to set up casualty collection points, triage, trauma treatment areas, and how to evacuate casualties to a higher level of care.

Partnered with two Iraqi medics, Solis taught four basic first aid and medical classes similar to a combat lifesaver training program. The classes illustrated that mass casualty situations are not only about giving medical treatment but on security, logistical and personnel support, and leaders' command and control to bring order to chaos.

Warrant Officer One Marquest O'Neil, of Fort Gibson, Miss., logistical training and advisory team chief, has been advising Ali over the last few months on the importance of the operational side, establishing casualty collection points and ensuring the evacuation plans were established for Camp Ur.

"Brig. Gen. Ali is constantly focused on training and improving his organization. All of his officers and [Soldiers] understand his priorities and take training events very seriously, which causes them to continuously improve as a unit," said Capt. Tiffany Bilderback, from Milwaukee, Wis., 64th BSB, logistical training and advisory officer.

## BRIGADE COMMANDER REENLISTMENT INCENTIVES

(1) Any Soldier, who either reenlists, regardless of reenlistment option, participates in the BEAR Program, special programs (Green to Gold, OCS, Warrant Program), or transitions into the Guard or Reserve, will receive one four-day pass including two full duty days.

(2) Reenlistees will receive the day of the reenlistment ceremony off.

(3) Soldiers who reenlist, participate in the BEAR Program, or other special programs, will be excluded from the duty roster for 30 days, starting upon re-deployment and after the Rear Detachment completes its service.

(4) Soldiers who reenlist will be afforded the opportunity to take one semester of college upon redeployment, unless on assignment instructions. The semester must end by 31 August 2011. Each Soldier electing to take a semester will sign a memorandum of agreement with the respective Company/Troop Commander outlining the guidelines for formation times and course schedule.



## Blackfoot enhances Department of Border Enforcement

by 1st Lt. John Nikiforakis

4th Sqdn., 10th Cav., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div

The 'Blackfoot' troopers of Troop B, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, recently began training with Iraqi forces from the 9th Brigade Department of Border Enforcement to enhance their skills on patrolling and security operations.

Blackfoot troopers work to enhance the Department of Border Enforcement that secures the border between Iraq and Iran.

Training teams consist of Blackfoot noncommissioned officers and Soldiers who offer training on patrolling techniques, reaction to contact, and observation points.

"The Department of Border Enforcement is a motivated organization eager to work with U.S. forces. Soldiers of the Department of Border Enforcement take great pride in defending the Iraq-Iran border and enduring the hardships of remote checkpoints in order to ensure national security," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Naylor, of Los Angeles, Calif., platoon sergeant, Troop B, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg.

Department of Border Enforcement leadership coordinates with Blackfoot

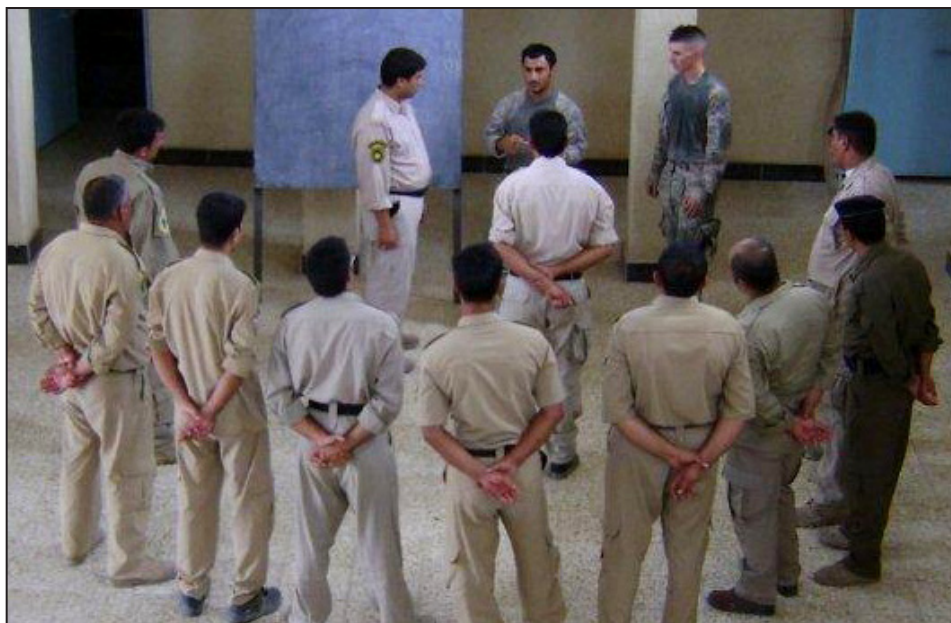


Photo by 1st Lt. John Nikiforakis

Spc. Matthew Voight, of Lubbock, Texas, 2nd Platoon, Troop B, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, works through an interpreter to instruct a class on dismounted patrolling techniques with Iraqi forces from the 2nd Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Brigade, Department of Border Enforcement.

leadership on necessary training topics. Blackfoot Soldiers are then selected based on knowledge and experience to instruct and train the border forces.

Since July, Blackfoot Troopers have trained two companies of the 9th Brigade Department of Border Enforcement and are scheduled to begin training a third company in September.

"Enhancing the skills of the 9th Brigade

Department of Border Enforcement will enhance security in United States Division-South and ultimately all of Iraq. We look forward to continuing training. Our actions directly affect the citizens of the Basra Province," said 1st Lt. Thomas Jones, of Alexander City, Ala., fire support officer, Troop B, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg.

## Nine Iron NCOs earn the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award, carry on time-honored tradition

by Capt. Andrew Huth

3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

Spc. Chastity R. Boykin

3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., Public Affairs Office

Sergeant Audie Murphy, the son of a sharecropper, became a legend on the battlefield during his three years as a combat Soldier in World War II, the most highly decorated Soldier in American history. It was an unlikely fate for a man turned away from both the Marines and paratroopers for being too small.

Nine select noncommissioned officers of the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, earned the Sergeant

Audie Murphy Award Sept. 21.

For Sergeants 1st Class Joe Bernal, of Sanger, Calif. Morris Dale, of East St. Louis, Ill., Marc Guillory, of Orange, Texas, and Johnny Herrera, of Hialeah, Fla.; Staff Sergeants John Meyer, of Longmont, Colo., Nathaniel Piper, of Virginia Beach, Va., and Clint Wilson, of Jerusalem, Ark.; Sergeants Josh Barnash, of Paolina, Colo., and Bart Gammon, of Bonne Terre, Mo., the process to earn such a privilege was not taken lightly.

To earn the award, NCOs have to pass a rigorous series of requirements proving that their heart, courage, and skills make them a great Soldier, much like Murphy

did when insisting on becoming a combat Soldier with the U.S. Army despite his stature.

"First, our commanders had to nominate us which isn't a task they take lightly," explains Barnash.

Candidates were screened to determine their leadership ability, training excellence, care for Soldiers and their Families, commitment to Army Values, and dedication to the Soldier's Creed, and NCO Creed.

Then unit leaders conducted performance evaluations based on

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# SEXUAL ASSAULT

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IN THE **ARMY**.

IT DEGRADES MISSION  
READINESS BY DEVASTATING  
THE **ARMY'S** ABILITY TO WORK  
EFFECTIVELY AS A TEAM.

EVERY SOLDIER WHO IS  
AWARE OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT  
SHOULD IMMEDIATELY  
(WITHIN **24 HOURS**)  
REPORT THE INCIDENT.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS  
INCOMPATIBLE WITH  
THE **ARMY** VALUES  
AND IS PUNISHABLE UNDER  
THE **UNIFORM CODE OF**  
**MILITARY JUSTICE (UCMJ)**  
AND OTHER FEDERAL AND  
LOCAL CIVILIAN LAWS.

## 354th MP Company mentor, train Iraqi Police in Basra Province

by Staff Sgt. Amanda Kobernick  
354th MP Company, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

The Soldiers of 354th Military Police Company, attached to the 3rd Advise and Assist, 4th Infantry Division, are going strong on their mission to help Iraqi Police operate their police stations more effectively.

The MP squads visit police stations in the Basra province and provide training courses for Iraqi police officers and the Iraqi army.

The training consists of crime scene management, room entry procedures, officer safety, and riot control. Soldiers from the 354th MP Company instruct these courses both at COB Basra and Iraqi Police training centers.

"Our police team's mission is critical to the support and stability of Iraq during this transition. We are teaching them critical skills and compounding the basic skills they possess already, helping them to achieve a more effective and efficient police force in Basra," said 1st Lt. Angela Smith, commander, 354th MP Company.

Based out of St. Louis, Mo., the 354th MP Company is a reserve unit where many of the Soldiers are civilian police

officers back home and can share firsthand experiences and knowledge with the Iraqi Police. Having both the skills of a military police officer and a civilian police officer is unique to the Army Reserves.

Thus far, the Iraqi police officers are very impressed with the knowledge and skills these Soldiers have and can relate to their experiences as civilian police officers, said Smith.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Kobernick  
Spc. John Bosecker, of Ullin, Ill., 354th Military Police Company, attached to the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, shows a member of the Iraqi army how to properly use non-lethal force at a range on Camp Basra.

## Murphy: An even higher standard

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the training accomplishments of the candidates and their Soldiers, which narrowed the field of candidates.

Finally, the candidates appeared before the Audie Murphy board, standing before a panel of Sergeants Major, who asked situational questions designed to draw out how the NCO functions daily as a leader.

NCOs who make it through the rigorous board process are presented with the award and serve as an example to others.

Carrying on the tradition of a distinguished NCO is of great significance. This level of merit shows Soldiers that NCOs truly are the backbone of the Army, said Command Sgt. Maj. Miles Wilson, board president, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.



Photo by Capt. Andrew Huth  
The Audie Murphy awardees stand proudly with their medals in front of an audience made up of their peers during the ceremony held at Memorial Hall on Camp Adder Sept. 21, 2010. [From Right to Left] Sgt. Josh Barnash, Staff Sgt. Clint Wilson, Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Piper, Staff Sgt. John Meyer, Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Herrera, Sgt. 1st Class Marc Guillory, Sgt. 1st Class Morris Dale, Sgt. 1st Class Joe Bernal.



## Cav Soldiers work, train, live side-by-side with Iraqi security forces at Joint Security Station Umm Sa'ah

by 1st Lt. Will Swearingen

4th Sqdn., 10th Cav., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div

Officers from the 10th Iraqi Army Division, 41st Iraqi Army Brigade, and 10th Department of Border Enforcement Brigade recently met at Joint Security Station Umm Sa'ah in Maysan Province, Iraq for the grand opening of the 10th Iraqi Army Division Joint Coordination Center.

Over the past few weeks since the JCC's inception, Troop C, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division has partnered with the 41st IA and 10th DBE and the JCC to effectively plan and execute joint missions to further provide safety and security to the Iraqi people within the province.

In addition to planning and operating out of the JCC, the IA and DBE soldiers assigned to JSS Umm Sa'ah live and take part in all activities at the JSS along with their U.S. counterparts.

In terms of training and mission proficiency, "Comanche" Soldiers ensure that every 41st IA and 10th DBE Soldier

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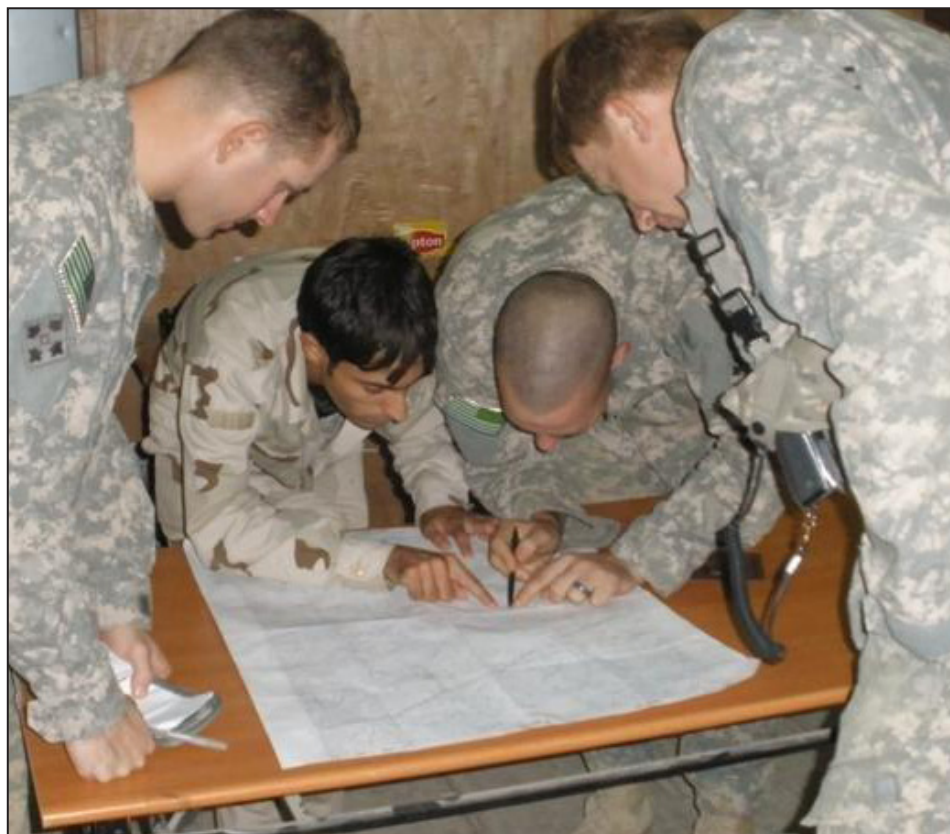


Photo by 1st Lt. Will Swearingen

Staff Sgt. Aaron Walters, of Stevens Point, Wis., Spc. Justin Annett, of Tucson, Ariz., and Pvt. Ronald Johnson III, of Independence, Mo., explain how to plot a six-digit grid on a military map to a Department of Border Enforcement soldier during a day of military skills competitions at JSS Umm Sa'ah Aug. 11.

## Bulldogs ensure Stryker Brigade has clear road home

by 2nd Lt. Jon Anderson

3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

Soldiers of Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, provided route security as the last officially designated combat unit departed Iraq the end of August.

Marking the official end to combat operations in Iraq, the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, the last brigade in Iraq assigned a combat mission, conducted a week-long movement from central Iraq to Kuwait.

The Battery B Bulldogs and Team Exodus engineer detachment, Task Force Pacesetter, 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., provided security, over watch, and route clearance for the 4th Stryker Brigade to

redeploy in an operation code named Operation Switchback.

"Operation Switchback marked the first occasion in which the two units worked together from the same command post. The Bulldogs and Exodus have extensive experience working with one another, conducting route clearance and interdiction operations in Dhi Qar Province," said 1st Lt. Christopher Painter, of Fort Washington, Pa., platoon leader, Company E, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, TF Pacesetter.

The engineers conducted route clearance along the main road to Kuwait, while members of Bulldog platoon provided security along the route until the 4th Stryker Brigade had safely cleared the TF Pacesetter operating environment.

Bulldog's White patrol was the first element that the Stryker Brigade encountered in the TF Pacesetter operating environment, and during its initial linkup with each unit, it ensured that the Stryker Brigade could communicate effectively with the task force headquarters during its movement.

"Although this was the first time we were able to conduct planning and mission execution from under the same roof, we accomplished the mission with great success," said 1st Lt. Justin Bokmeyer, of San Diego, Calif., executive officer, Battery B, 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg.

U.S. forces were not alone in providing security on the road during this operation

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## Partnership: Working closely with Iraqi security forces to improve protective measures for the people of Iraq

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living at Camp Umm Sa'ah is proficient in map reading, weapons, vehicle maintenance, and physical training.

"It's their mission now. We are working [closely] with the Iraqi security forces to ensure that they are properly trained to protect the people of Iraq when the U.S. no longer has a presence here," said Sgt. Alex Stubbs, squad leader, of Savage, Minn.

The units work and train together, they also take time for recreation. On August 11, 1st Platoon, Troop C and 10th DBE soldiers participated in a day of friendly competition.

The 1st Platoon Soldiers teamed up with 10th DBE Soldiers to compete in land

navigation and weapons familiarization.

Each team was timed as they worked through the language barrier to speak a common military language. In addition, each individual Soldier raced against the clock to disassemble and reassemble an AK-47.

At the request of the Comanche Troop Soldiers, Maj. Hassan, 10th DBE company commander and Capt. Hameed, 10th DBE, JCC operations officer, taught an introduction to Ramadan class that covered the history of the holiday as well as the daily schedule for the Iraqi soldiers during the month.

"It is very important for the U.S. Soldiers to learn about the traditions and customs of Iraqis during Ramadan.

This way, the U.S. forces have a good understanding of what to expect from their Iraqi partners during this very important holiday," said Hassan.

These events continue to strengthen the relationship between Comanche Soldiers and Iraqi security forces. This increased partnership allows for better communication and coordination while conducting joint training and missions within Maysan Province.

Due to the success of the training partnership between Troop C, 41st IA and 10th DBE of the JCC, the ISF are better equipped to provide safety to the people of Maysan, said Stubbs.

## Bulldogs: Iraqi and U.S. Security Forces remaining vigilant

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Iraqi army and Iraqi police played a critical role in securing the route and providing the necessary cultural expertise and geographical familiarity that U.S. forces could never replicate.

Iraqi Highway Patrol kept a nonstop watch over the route throughout the day and night, while the IA maintained check points all along the highway.

"Iraqi security forces remained vigilant

and provided critical assistance to the U.S. forces' redeployment throughout the week, truly displaying the depths of the partnership and commitment that has developed between U.S. and Iraqi forces," said Capt. Michael Scott, of Manassas, Va., commander, Battery B, 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg.

The Bulldog Black patrol secured the area surrounding COB Adder to prevent enemy indirect fire attacks on the base,

while the Stryker Brigade conducted maintenance and resupply operations before continuing its movement to Kuwait.

"Switchback was the culminating event signaling the transition by U.S. forces to Operation New Dawn and support of civil authorities," said Painter.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jon Anderson

1st Lt. Christopher Painter, of Fort Washington, Pa., platoon leader, Company E, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Pacesetter, stands with members of the Iraqi Highway Patrol while conducting route clearance for Operation Switchback on the route to Kuwait Aug. 20.



# Mountaineer convoy brings home the bacon

by Pvt. DeAngelo Wells

3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. Office of Public Affairs

Soldiers of 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, along with KBR civilians, continue to deliver much needed supplies to Camp Garry Owen in the Maysan Province, Sept. 7.

The 64th BSB is tasked to bring supplies from Camp Adder, near Nasiriyah, to various military installations at a moment's notice. According to Soldiers, they can bring supplies to one station one day, refuel, and then be tasked to bring more to another the next day.

"As a brigade support battalion, we are the ones to bring the supplies to the other units within the brigade," said Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Brown-Ramos, of Mobile, Ala., healthcare specialist and convoy commander, Company A, 64th BSB.

These Soldiers have accomplished more than 30 supply shipments throughout the bases of southern Iraq since being deployed. Although the trek to Garry Owen is eight hours from Adder, the Soldiers of 64th BSB have so far delivered 20 shipments there to keep the Soldiers well supplied.

Despite the long hours it takes to gather the supplies, maintain and perform quality control on the vehicles, and drive throughout the night, these Soldiers continue to get the job done.

"I take my hat off to all of you here," said Lt. Col. Geoff DeTingo, 64th BSB commander. "I tip it off to you for what you guys do every day. Going out to these places and always completing the mission."

Soldiers of 64th BSB don't just go to Garry Owen without preparation. Before setting out on any supply runs, Soldiers prepare themselves and each other through pre-combat checks and inspections, mission briefings, rehearsals and run-throughs.

After staging the vehicles in order and inspecting the equipment and Soldiers, Brown-Ramos and other noncommissioned officers give a very thorough briefing on the mission. The briefings contain subjects such as routes,



Photo by Pvt. DeAngelo Wells

Soldiers of 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, rehearse movements before beginning a supply convoy from Camp Garry Owen, Iraq, to Camp Adder Sept. 7. The Soldiers completed various rehearsals concerning IED response, maintaining perimeters, and maintenance procedures.

convoy objectives and duties, call signs, and recent enemy activities on the routes the convoy is travelling.

After the mission briefing, Soldiers go through an intensive dry run of improvised explosive device response procedures, and dismount routines. Each Soldier runs through the rehearsals, acting out the emergency response for an improvised explosive device.

The rehearsal includes responding to a threat or being hit with an explosive charge, explosive ordinance procedures, perimeter control, and convoy movement afterward. The rehearsals are run until the Soldiers show they completely understand their actions as part of the team. Soldiers then eat dinner, gear up and start their journey.

"We go through the rehearsal before each convoy," said Pvt. Tramaine James, of Sunsea, S.C., fueler, Company B, 64th BSB. "We don't leave until everyone knows what they have to do."

The convoy arrives at Camp Garry Owen within 10 hours after leaving from Camp Adder, if there are no malfunctions with the vehicles or tactical stops. Soldiers

See "Mountaineers" Page 15



Photo by Pvt. DeAngelo Wells

Maj. John Lim, brigade chaplain, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, prays over 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., before they head out on a supply convoy to Camp Garry Owen Sept. 7. 64th BSB take supplies to many joint security stations and bases throughout southern Iraq.



## Iraqis share Eid al-Fitr dinner with Basra Soldiers

by Capt. Ari Martyn

1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

Iraqi Commandos of the 14th Iraqi Army Division welcomed Company B, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, into their mess hall on Sept. 10, the last night of Ramadan, to share the Eid al-Fitr feast.

Eid al Fitr or Eid feast, as it is commonly called, celebrates the conclusion of the thirty days of dawn-to-sunset fasting during the entire month of Ramadan. This three-day celebration ends the ninth month and begins the tenth month of Shawwal with absolute happiness and contentment for the ability to sacrifice for Allah. The aim of this festival is to promote peace and bring oneself back to the normal course of life after a month-long period of self-denial and religious devotion.

Since arriving in Iraq in April, Company B has conducted numerous operations with the Commando Battalion, including route security and warrant-based apprehensions. Additionally, they often conduct joint training and



Photo courtesy of Capt. Ari Martyn

Spc. Christopher Burman, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, shares dinner and a conversation with an Iraqi commando.

See "Commando" Page 15

## I. A.M. Iron Strong

The Army has taken a number of steps to increase awareness of the Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Policy. The Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention Program and "I. A.M. Strong" campaign were created to spread awareness.

The slogan "Intervene, Act, Motivate" is designed motivate Soldiers to "act" and "intervene" to prevent sexual harassment and assault.

In the Iron Brigade, we have implemented a number of measures to ensure all Soldiers are aware of the "I. A.M. Strong" Campaign, and we reinforce that sexual assault will not be tolerated. With two Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinators at our brigade level, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bryant and Maj. Rebekah Lust, and Unit Victim Advocates at our lower levels, we can assist with program awareness and support to victims if needed.

Our brigade also takes protective measures such as the strict enforcement of the "battle buddy" system, and courtesy patrols in the living areas.

[www.sexualassault.army.mil](http://www.sexualassault.army.mil)



Maj. Rebekah Lust  
DSAR Coordinator  
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.



## Mountainteers: Training hard, working hard, to accomplish the mission



Photo by Pvt. DeAngelo Wells

Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Brown-Ramos, of Mobile, Ala., healthcare specialist, convoy commander, 64th BSB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., gives instructions on the next 24 hours of operations while at Camp Garry Owen Sept. 8.

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are then briefed on the next 24 hours of operations covering where they will sleep, when they will eat, and the preparation for the next day's mission to return to Camp Adder.

Those long 8-to-10 hour drives can make it hard to remain alert. Soldiers use many methods to keep their vigilance up. Between constant convoy information being given out, random and sometimes thought provoking conversations within one vehicle, cold drinks from a cooler and even a few snacks, these Soldiers have

spent so much time doing these convoys together that they have found techniques to keep themselves and each other alert but also entertained.

"We train to work long hours and be up all night to accomplish the mission," said Pvt. George Braithwaite, truck driver, Company B, 64th BSB, of Jacksonville, Fla. "I was trained to transport supplies and do what I am doing now. That's what my sergeants ask of me, so that's what I do."

## Commando: A lasting bond

### Continued from Page 14

interact almost daily, building a lasting relationship.

The dinner resembled American-style Thanksgiving dinner, with a different culture's food, said Pfc. Patrick Shirley, gunner, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg.

"It was nice to watch an American private and an Iraqi Private connect and recognize that they are really not that different," said Sgt. 1st Class John Blyler, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg.

About 150 Iraqi commandos and 60 U.S. Soldiers indulged in a feast of chicken, rice, soup, and dates courtesy of Maj. Gen. Aziz, 14th Iraqi Division commander, and Col. Khalid, Commando Battalion commander.

"We have conducted a lot of joint missions and training," Blyler said concerning the 14th IA Div. "To share a meal was a great opportunity to interact and have casual conversation."



Photo courtesy of Capt. Ari Martyn

Col. Robert Forrester, 14th Iraqi Army Stability Transition Team Chief and Capt. Ari Martyn, commander of Company B, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. share dinner with Maj. Gen. Aziz, commander, 14th IA Div.



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