

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



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Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

Mar. 21, 2011



Col. Douglas Crissman and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Kelley with 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division uncase the brigade's colors at a transfer of authority ceremony March 12. The GREYWOLF Brigade assumed responsibility for U.S. military operations in the Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Basrah provinces from the 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 4th Inf. Div. of Fort Carson, Colo.

Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

“Greywolf” brigade assumes authority in southern Iraq

By Spc. Sharla Lewis
3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division uncased its colors and assumed authority from 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in a ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq Mar. 12, 2011.

This marks the fourth deployment to Iraq for the Greywolf Brigade. They served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, 2006 and 2008.

In 2008, the Greywolf Brigade was responsible for the Ninawa Province in northern Iraq. The brigade conducted operations to improve security, stimulate economic growth and create enduring stability. When they left, they transferred responsibility for security in Mosul and Tal Afar to the Iraqi Security Forces.

Fifteen months later, the brigade finds itself back in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, with responsibility for helping

maintain security and advising, training and assisting the ISF in the Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Basrah provinces.

“This is Greywolf Brigade’s fourth tour in Iraq and we’re excited to serve as the newest members of the (U.S. Division-South) team during this historic time,” said Col. Douglas Crissman, the brigade commander.

This was the fourth deployment to Iraq for the outgoing 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 4th Inf. Div. as well, and their first in support of Operation New Dawn. The “Iron Brigade” advised, trained and assisted dozens of local military and security organizations, transitioned 19 military bases to Iraqi control and helped provide local areas with new and improved infrastructure.

“We are departing proud of our accomplishments, none of which would have been possible without the blood, sweat and tears of our incredible Soldiers,” said Col. James Rainey, the brigade commander.

After applauding the Iron Brigade

for their help in the transfer of authority process, Crissman vowed to continue to build on their foundation.

Speaking directly to the Iraqi partners present, Crissman acknowledged the significance of the coming year and said, “Your presence reflects not only your genuine respect for Colonel Rainey and his team, but also your recognition of the importance of our partnership in the year ahead.”

In his speech, Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, the commander of U.S. Div.-South and the Texas National Guard’s 36th Infantry Division, praised the Iron Brigade for their work and told the Greywolf Soldiers that he could not think of a better unit to help conclude the U.S. military mission in Iraq with success and honor.

The Greywolf Brigade joins the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and 4th Sustainment Brigade as one of three Texas-based brigades all serving under a Texas National Guard division headquarters in southern Iraq. ♥

ENGLISH 101

English is the third most spoken language in the world. When international oil companies began drilling in Iraq in 2009, they used English as the primary language for business communications. It's no surprise then that when Maysan's government and community leaders were asked by the Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team what would benefit the community, English classes were at the top of the list.

By Sgt. Christopher Jelle

3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

MAYSAN PROVINCE, Iraq – Twelve Iraqi English students attended the first “English as a second language” class held at the Maysan Training and Development Center near Camp Garry Owen, February 10. Of the 12 students attending the classes, one of them was female.

While most of the students attended the classes to improve their business communications or because they plan to travel to the United States, the young woman is attending the class with her brother-in-law to simply broaden her horizons. Requesting to stay anonymous, she said she wants to be able to read books and news on the Internet that are printed in English.

She also said that even though it took a little while to get used to the atmosphere of the classroom, the other students welcomed and encouraged her.

The rest of the students said they plan to use the skills they learn during the seven-month course to increase their business communication skills.

“They are eager to learn other things by using English,” said Hasan Jabber Hussein, one of the two instructors for the English course and a professor at the University of Maysan. Hasan said the students enjoy learning more about their own fields by communicating with foreigners with similar careers.

While English classes have been taught in Iraq in primary and intermediate schools before, the lessons were used more for propaganda under the previous regime according to Hasan.

“[In] our past regime, the textbooks and the methods used to teach [English] made the students too weak or novice in learning English,” said Hasan.

As more and more western books, magazines, films and videogames come onto the Iraqi market,

“As Maysan develops economically and broadens its international reach, having an English-speaking workforce will be of great benefit.”

the interest in learning English has increased, especially among young people.

The new classes use a communication-style of learning that is similar to ESL classes found in the United States. The course consists of two-hour classes held twice a week for approximately six months.

“We are also working with the education community to provide ‘train-the-trainer’ classes in English teaching methodology,” said Anne Callaghan, Maysan PRT leader, who hopes that the students attending the classes continue to pursue their education with English.

Callaghan added, “As Maysan develops economically and broadens its international reach, having an English-speaking workforce will be of great benefit.” ♥



Iraqi students, broken into groups, practice conversational English with basic question-and-answer problems during English classes at the Maysan Training and Development Center near Al Amarah February 12.

Photo by Sgt. Christopher Jelle



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Sgt. Rolando Estabillo and another Soldier from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment perform their final checks and inspections in preparation to tow an RG33 vehicle. Estabillo is a member of Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd ACR.

Courtesy photo

Because the auto club won't help you out here

By 1st Lt. Amanda Sharp
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

BABIL, Iraq - Across the five northern provinces of southern Iraq, Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment stay busy performing numerous daily tasks in support of Operation New Dawn. One section of Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, has the demanding mission of recovery support.

This unique support is vital to the mission of both the Regimental Support Squadron and the 3rd ACR. The Soldiers

of this section hastily repair or recover any damaged vehicle on any route throughout southern Iraq.

"I've got a great team," said Sgt. Adam Bauer, a mechanic with Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd ACR, and a native of Thorntown, Ind. "They're the best. They all have that 'can-do' attitude, and I know that they will always get the mission done. That's what I need."

The missions for the service and recovery section range from daily support operations on convoys traveling to bases in the regiment's area of responsibility, to

short-notice recovery missions to assist vehicles anywhere within a 100-kilometer radius of Contingency Operating Station Kalsu.

Often, these Soldiers risk their lives by spending hours on the road, hooking up broken down trucks, changing tires, or troubleshooting other mechanical issues that arise during convoys.

"Of course our job is tough," said Spc. Anthony Huggett, a mechanic from Fort Walton Beach, Fla. "Long hours, always busy on the road or servicing our equipment, it never stops. But we're awesome. That's how we deal with it."

In addition to repairing the broken vehicles on convoys, their knowledge and expertise is requested when civilian resupply trucks within the convoys break down or have other types of mechanical issues.

Ideally the least used, but one of the most essential support sections in the Army is the recovery section. This group of Soldiers is charged with being wheeled and tracked-vehicle recovery specialists.

In the 3rd ACR, the recovery section is proving itself vital to the mission every day. To date, the Soldiers of this section have completed more than 135 missions, logged more than 23,000 miles, and made 36 recoveries with their four M948 wreckers, and two M88A2 Hercules track vehicles. ♣



Spc. Mon Calayag and Cpl. Tyler Bailey pose for a photograph next to a M984WW. Both are members of Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd ACR.

Courtesy photo

Soldiers delve into history, gain new perspective from top of Ziggurat

By 1st Lt. Theresa Ockrassa

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

DHI QAR, Iraq - The Soldiers of Company G, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division took a break from their support operations to experience some of the culture and history of Iraq.

The Ziggurat of Ur stands proudly outside Camp Adder and is believed to be 4,000 years old. While originally a temple to the moon god, it has become a symbol of honor for Iraqi ingenuity and culture, as well as the birth place of the prophet Abraham.

Over the course of three weeks, the entire company ventured out to the Ziggurat and met with local tour guide Dhiyf Mahsen, who willingly shared his knowledge of Iraq and the historical site. The trip started with a trek to the top of the Ziggurat, where Dhiyf discussed the history of the people of Ur, the significance of the Ziggurat and the temple that used to stand on top of it.

"It was really cool to stand on top of the Ziggurat and see the whole area we have been working in for months. It gave me a new perspective," said Pvt. Dante Tate, of St. Louis, Mo.

While learning about the historical city of Ur, as well as the structural specifications of the Ziggurat, Soldiers also learned a few interesting bits of trivia from Dhiyf. They learned that the city of Ur had the first written law under king Ur-namu and that it predated the Code of Hammurabi by almost 300 years. Dhiyf shared that the first wheel had been built in the area and that despite its lasting impact on human society and technology, it was originally designed as a child's toy.

"The wealth of knowledge we got from our guide was amazing. This guy knows his history," said Spc. Dorian Johnson of

Stoudsburg, Pa.

After the view from the top of the Ziggurat, the Ghost Riders headed down into the ruins of the Ur-namu Shugli Palace near the base. Despite being more than 4000 years old, the Ghost Riders were able to see the original foundations and got to walk into the excavated royal tombs.

Within the tombs, much of the ancient technology fascinated the Ghost Riders. The door hinges made of wood tied to a door in a stone base and the ancient written language of cuneiform were particular favorites.

"It was amazing to be around all the old artifacts and structures," said Spc. Cody Bryan of Dayton, Ohio. "The most interesting part was the three original bricks still engraved with cuneiform."

The Ziggurat stands by the remains of the biblical prophet Abraham's birth home and many Soldiers were excited to see this portion of religious history in person. The house had fallen to its foundations over time, but was rebuilt in 1999.

"Actually seeing Abraham's house and knowing an actual prophet lived there was really awesome and a once in a lifetime experience," said Spc. David Adkins of Harker Heights, Texas.

The time at the Ziggurat and the surrounding historical sites was beneficial for the Ghost Riders and helped them understand a portion of Iraq's history in a way they had not understood before.

"It was interesting to see something from so long ago still standing and show the ingenuity and progress of mankind," said Johnson. "The trip was enlightening."

The Soldiers returned from their adventures feeling inspired and more connected to the history of the country they have been working to support. ♥



The Soldiers of Maintenance Platoon, Company G, visit the historical Ziggurat of Ur. The Ziggurat is one of Iraq's many historical sites and is located just north of Camp Adder near Nasiriyah.

Photo by 1st Lt. Theresa Ockrassa

Street BEAT

Excluding the post exchange, what vendor would you like to see close last?



Chief Warrant Officer Michael Davidson, Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems operations officer, Air Operation, Madisonville, Texas



1st Sgt. Donald Unsell, Bravo Company first sergeant, Division Special Troop Battalion, College Station, Texas



Sgt. 1st Class Arturo Rodriguez Jr., Signal Systems Intergration and Oversight non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Charlie Company, San Antonio



Sgt. Tiffany Wilson, administrative non-commissioned officer, Joint Visitors Bureau, Headquarters Support Company, Detroit



Sgt. Arturo Reyes, event planner, Joint Visitors Bureau, Headquarters Support Company, Kyle, Texas

The Oasis's tea shop. It's a place to sit down and relax, enjoy the band, talk with your friends, and pretend you're not here.

The Oasis. You can get every thing there: coffee, tea, food.

Cafe' Fardous. It's a place where a group of us go to after church services to relax and enjoy each other's company over cups of coffee.

Subway. It's healthy and gives you a little taste of being at home. It also gives you another option other than going to the dining facility every day.

The Oasis. It offers a variety of vendors and shopping choices. You can purchase souvenirs and other locally made gifts not found in the exchange.

CHOW

Midnight • 0000 - 0130

Breakfast • 0530 - 0830

Lunch • 1130 - 1400

Dinner • 1700 - 2000

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Chaplain Programs and Religious Services

Holy Joe's Coffee

(Coffee Bar and Fellowship)

Monday - Saturday

0600 - 2200

william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

Ladies of the Rosary

Tuesday at 2000

COB Basra Chapel

barbara.reilly@iraq.centcom.mil

Mid-Week Prayer with Chaplain Mays

Wednesday at 1200

COB Basra Chapel

wayne.mays@iraq.centcom.mil

Basra Chapel Bible Studies

Thursday

1900 - New Believers Bible Study

2000 - Bible Study Classes

Protestant Services

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel

1000 - Contemporary Service

1130 - Traditional Service

1400 - Gospel Service

1700 - Liturgical Protestant

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS)

Sunday

Old PX Building

0900 - Sacrament Service

Roman Catholic

Saturday

COB Basra Chapel

2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel

0830 - Catholic Service

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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COB Basra, Iraq

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Asset Request button! Follow the
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MAIL CALL!

Outbound certified/official mail:

1000 - 2000

Mail pick up hours:

Mail handlers:

1000 - 2000

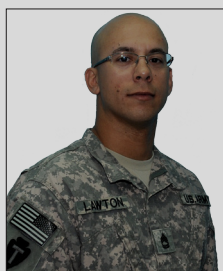
1400 - 1600

Individual pick up:

1000 - 2000

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Sgt. 1st Class
Joe Lawton



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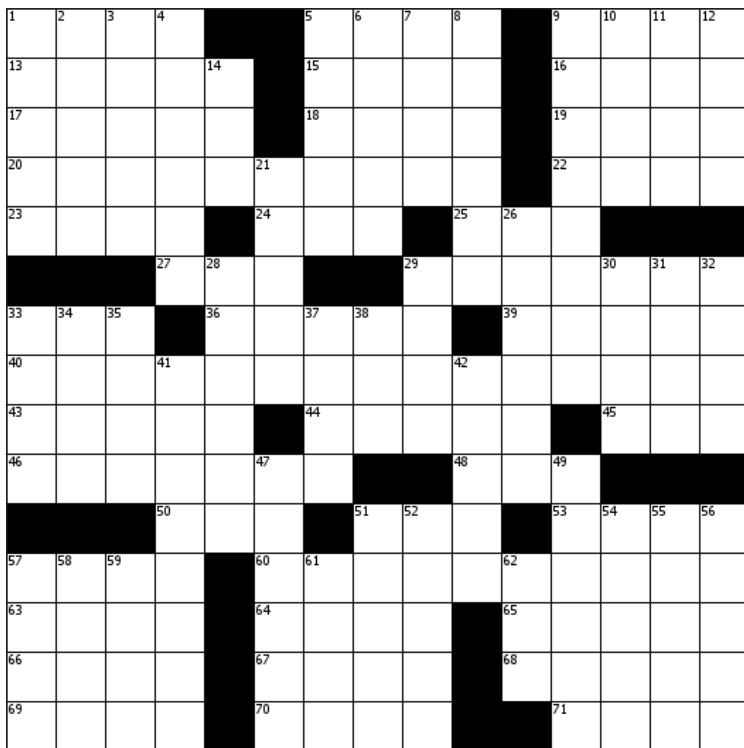
lisa.lerma@iraq.centcom.mil

Anonymous Tip Hotline on NIPR

<https://msc.forces.iraq.centcom.mil/usds/default.aspx>

Capt.
Lisa Ann Lerma





Across

1. Comes to a decision
5. Chicago terminus
10. Determines a sum
14. Pawn taker, perhaps
15. Chiromancers read them
16. Roman numerals for Henry
17. Was right on time
20. Net judge's cry, perhaps
21. Eagle by the sea
22. Eat away at the beach?
23. Sound from the meadow
24. They're found beside temples
26. Shrubs with lavender blooms
29. Lawnmower part
30. Sign at a broadcasting station
31. Make judgments
32. Doctor of sci-fi
35. 19th-century England
39. Nice hot time?
40. Garner
41. ___ prosequi (charges will be dropped)
42. Awakens
44. Burns with water
45. Soft, light and fluffy
48. Galactic bit
49. Kind of zoo exhibit
50. Cripple
51. ___ Palmas
54. Starting location
58. Peter Fonda title role
59. Song accompanied by an alpenhorn, perhaps
60. "Peyton Place" first name
61. Stack part
62. One cubic meter
63. Lacking in liveliness

Down

1. Like some vaccines
2. Hole in a sweater?
3. Legal wrongdoing
4. Enjoy Snowmass
5. "Jenufa" and "Alceste," e.g.
6. Common contraction
7. Balm ingredient, perhaps
8. Former White House initials.
9. Low or high tail
10. Not favoring
11. Mischievous pranks
12. Tube invented in 1904
13. Internet destinations
18. Zipper substitute
19. Beer foam
23. Can of worms, maybe
24. Geriatric orbiter of '98
25. Item with a gooseneck
26. Puppy follower?
27. "What's ___ for me?"
28. Brussels export
29. Chicago squad
31. Memoir of a sort
32. It goes with a way
33. Don't sell
34. English I readings
36. Cayuse checker
37. Put down stakes?
38. Niagara Falls sound
42. Ear bone
43. Morrison or Tennille
44. Archie Bunker command
45. Cuisine featuring dirty rice
46. Rudimentary seed
47. What X may mean
48. Less hazardous
50. It's the way it's done
51. One not to be believed
52. First name in a Tolstoy novel
53. Seize with a toothpick
55. Gov. Pataki's milieu
56. Came by
57. Word with hat or school

Sudoku

4			3				2				
2	7			5							
	9				4	5					
	1			4			7	3			
3	8				1	2					
5			7				8				
	4		1		5	3					
	2	8	4	3				1			
				7							



UNITED STATES DIVISION-SOUTH INSPECTOR GENERAL

You may remain anonymous

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian or Family Member seeking IG help.

COB Basra
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COB Adder
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Photo of the Week



Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Spires

Sgt. 1st Class John T. Armstrong, a non-commissioned officer with the 36th Inf. Div., shakes hands with a Basrah Province citizen during a humanitarian event hosted by Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi civilian doctors at the Basrah Operations Center, where residents were invited to receive acute medical aid, toys, school supplies, food, water, radios and health information. The ISF provided security and opened the Basrah Operations Center for the event on March 7.

Think your photos are good enough for the Photo of the Week? Send them in! Just e-mail us your photo in a high-quality format, along with your full name and rank and a description of what your photo is about and when it was taken. Remember to include full name, rank and job title of each person in your photo. We look forward to seeing what you can do.

Send your photos to:
36idpao@gmail.com

Want your family and friends to see just how awesome you look in full gear?

They can find you on the internet!



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www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



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