

THE *Ivy* U.S. DIVISION-NORTH LEAF



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★★★★★ ESTABLISHED IN 1917 TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE ★★★★★

MAY 6, 2011

U.S., Iraqi senior enlisted leaders meet to discuss Iraqi NCO Corps

Sgt. David Strayer
109th MPAD
USD-N Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Senior enlisted leaders of the U.S. and Iraqi Armies gathered at the Iraqi Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy to discuss the current state of the NCO Corps and NCO Education Systems within the Iraqi Army at Camp Taji, Iraq, April 25.

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel

A. Dailey, senior enlisted leader of 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, and Command Sgt. Maj. William D. Hain, command sergeant major for 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, joined several other command sergeants major from U.S. Army brigades and Iraqi Army divisions at the meeting.

The IA recently took steps to integrate the role of NCOs into its ranks, including the for-

mation of the NCO Academy and Senior NCO School for potential sergeants major, both of which are situated on a portion of Camp Taji controlled by Iraqi Security Forces.

“At the moment, they have several levels of NCOES that are similar to what we have,” said Dailey. “Our intention was to get some of the Iraqi Army division sergeants major to meet the commandant of the NCO Academy and Senior

NCO School to get that one-on-one relationship so that they understand the needs of the academy as far as what type of people they need to be sending to the academy, and to also get some feedback from the commandant about the quality of student that he is receiving.”

A commandant should have that line of communication with the command sergeant major to

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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Strayer, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey, command sergeant major of the 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, center, discusses the Iraqi Army Noncommissioned Officer Education System with command sergeants major of several U.S. Army brigades and Iraqi divisions at Camp Taji, Iraq, April 25, 2011.

STEADFAST AND LOYAL
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LONGKNIFE
DEVIL
FIT FOR ANY TEST
WARRIOR

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IRONHORSE STRONG: Soldier of the Week

Throughout military history, Soldiers' ability to gather and analyze intelligence has swayed the balance between victory and defeat.

Spc. Lila Scaife, a cryptologic linguist assigned to Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, received recognition as the Ironhorse Strong Soldier of the Week for her attention to detail and support to her unit while serving as a part of U.S. Division-North.

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Barthelme, a cryptologic linguist assigned to Company A, nominated Scaife for the honor.

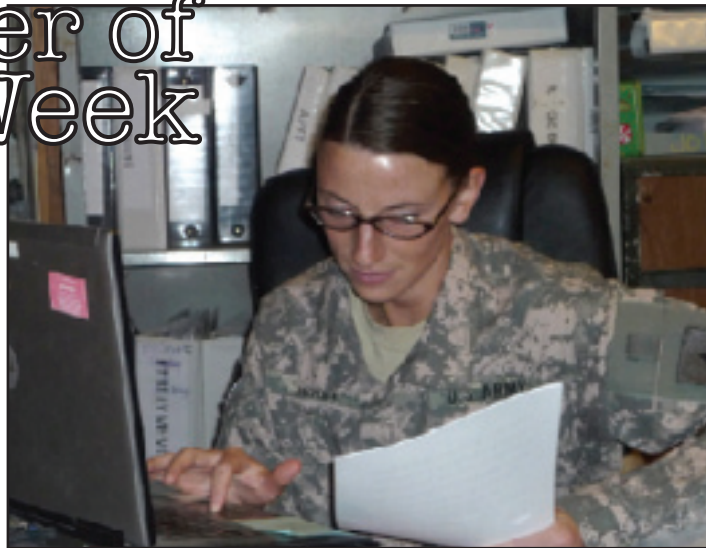
"Spc. Scaife's ability to accurately report on the events in Kirkuk and surrounding regions allowed leaders throughout the Advise and Assist Task Force to more competently engage their Iraqi counterparts in developing ways to combat violent extremists in the area and increase the security of the region before the withdrawal of U.S. forces," he said.

While working in the 1st AATF Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, the Zillah, Wash. native, whose primary duties include analyzing Arabic data, cross trained as a signals intelligence analyst, increasing her skill set and providing greater capability to her unit.

From Feb. 9-15, Scaife proved herself exceptional in her duties by completing 70 of her section's 117 tactical reports with zero errors during one week with several significant events.

The work provided by Scaife allowed vital intelligence to be analyzed and disseminated related to the operating environment of Kirkuk and surrounding regions.

"She set the shop record for how many reports one Soldier could send up in a day," said Staff Sgt. Michael Brooks, Scaife's supervi-



U.S. Army photo

Spc. Lila Scaife, a cryptologic linguist assigned to Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, works through tactical reports at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, May 2, 2011. Scaife recently cross-trained as a signals intelligence analyst and completed 70 reports for her section in one week, earning her the title of Ironhorse Strong Soldier of the Week.

sor and a signals intelligence analyst assigned to Company A. "She is very driven, self-motivated, self-confident and trainable."

Brooks said Scaife consistently proves herself as an outstanding Soldier and a future leader in the U.S. Army.

Scaife remained humble about the honor, sharing credit with the rest of her unit.

"Our mission is a cooperative effort," she said. "I could not have performed as well without both excellent linguists and outstanding leadership showing me the way forward."

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FIRST AT THE SCENE

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A CATALYST FOR CHANGE:
'DEVIL' SOLDIER FINDS
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'BLACK DRAGON' SOLDIERS
MENTOR IRAQI POLICEMEN AT
GHUZLANI

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THE IVY LEAF

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TASK FORCE IRONHORSE

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Command Sergeant Major – Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey

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1st Advise and
Assist Task Force
1st Infantry Division

2nd Advise and
Assist Brigade
25th Infantry Division

4th Advise and
Assist Brigade
1st Cavalry Division

Cont'd from NCO, Pg. 1 —

help improve the system and improve student performance, said Dailey.

U.S. Army leaders consider the NCO Corps as not just a selective group, but the backbone of the Army. Senior NCOs work to empower leaders at junior and intermediate levels, allowing officers to maintain situational awareness on the larger operational picture and encourage professionalism at all levels.

“(Iraqi leaders) need to empower their NCOs at every level to not only better facilitate small unit tactics, but to also allow for the development of their officer corps,” said Hain. “They really need to better define their duties and responsibilities at the various levels of the chain of command.”

Traditionally, IA leaders structured their forces without much intermediate NCO leadership; instead using a top down method, giving the officers more of a hands on, “in the weeds” style of leadership dealing with discipline issues, small unit tactics, and combat preparation.

With the presence of a strong

“Every day we are helping to train and assist with the development of their NCO Corps, from the advisors that we have at their academies to the training that goes on at the unit level.”

— Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey

chain of NCO leadership, such as team, squad and platoon leaders, officers can focus on the bigger picture of battlefield maneuvering, logistics, and sustainment.

Hain said Iraqi units can benefit from the empowerment of NCOs since officers could then focus on higher level management and leave the running of day-to-day operations at smaller unit levels to sergeants.

There is an undisputable need for an officer corps to lead units, said Dailey, but NCOs are the bridge between officers and Soldiers, and those intermediate leaders play a crucial role in making things happen on the ground.

In coming together at the Camp Taji NCO Academy complex, senior enlisted leaders of both U.S. and Iraqi forces hoped to identify areas that may be acting as road blocks to the IA NCO Corps becoming a fully

functional element of their army.

“Our greatest issue to date here at the academy has to be selection; getting the right guys for the right course,” said Lt. Col. Alexander Osmirko, an officer in the Ukrainian Army, currently deployed to Iraq with NATO and serving as the chief coordinator of training at the Senior NCO School.

“We have experienced, knowledgeable instructors, good course material, and very good facilities here,” said Osmirko. “We need IA soldiers who are not only experienced enough and distinguished from their peers; they must also have the desire to become NCOs and take on the mantle of responsibility that goes along with it.”

Hain said the only real improvements still needed for the academy to run smoother are placing more emphasis on student selection and using the cadre in a way that maximizes

individual strengths and draws on practical experiences.

Such changes will play a large role in producing better quality NCOs when graduation day comes, Hain added.

“Every day we are helping to train and assist with the development of their NCO Corps, from the advisors that we have at their academies to the training that goes on at the unit level,” said Dailey.

U.S. and Iraqi forces are currently developing Iraqi noncommissioned officers and soldiers at junior and intermediate levels, helping them to understand the roles of team leaders, squad leaders, and platoon sergeants within units, Dailey said, noting the ongoing Tadreeb al Shamil training at Kirkush Military Training Base.

“What we are seeing now at KMTB and the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center in the northern part of the country, is we are putting the NCOs in charge of running ranges, platoon and squad live fire exercises, and they are absolutely excelling,” said Hain.

“In turn, this allows us to pull those officers out of that training and give them professional development classes to help them develop and understand their role, as well as the NCO’s role, in a professional, elite army, and as a result, become a better officer,” Hain added.

The training goes back to the basics, said Dailey. Every soldier in the Iraqi Army should be able to look at his NCO and trust that he will take care of him, that he can learn from him, and know his NCO has been there in the past and has done the things that the soldier will now be asked to do.

“The capability and willingness is there,” said Hain. “At this point we really have to go from the top down to make sure that this empowerment of the NCO Corps permeates throughout the Iraqi Army.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Strayer, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey, command sergeant major of the 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, discusses the current Noncommissioned Officer Education Systems the Iraqi Army has in place, and possible points of improvement, with Col. Haydar, commandant of the IA NCO Academy at Camp Taji, Iraq, April 25, 2011.

Task Force Devil medics first at the scene

1st Advise and Assist Task Force Soldiers work as a team to aid Iraqis after accident

1st Infantry Division

Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – Three combat medics assigned to 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division gave emergency medical attention to a local Iraqi resident injured in a three-vehicle accident occurred in Kirkuk, Iraq, April 19.

Sgt. Lionel Semon and Spc. Nathan McChristy, both combat medics serving with 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st AATF, were en route to Contingency Operating Site Warrior when

three Iraqi civilian vehicles collided in front of their convoy.

“Our platoon was returning from Fire Base Manila when the vehicle in the lead of our convoy radioed to myself and Sgt. Semon to grab our gear and assess an accident,” said McChristy, a native of Los Angeles.

When the medics arrived at the location of the accident, they first checked a vehicle that was rolled on its side to see if there were personnel inside. They then cleared the vehicle and moved through a group of bystanders crowded around the other two vehicles involved in the crash, explained McChristy.

“When we started moving

closer to the vehicle I realized there was a man trapped inside,” said McChristy.

As McChristy and Semon directed people to step back from the scene, Spc. Nestor Gomez, a combat medic from Company C, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div., who was on another mission just across the street from where the incident occurred, joined in the effort to assist the injured man.

“When I heard the crash, I went and grabbed my aid bag and ran out to where the accident was,” said Gomez, a Sacramento, Calif. native.

Gomez then joined Semon and McChristy as the three

medics worked to provide aid to the injured driver.

Gomez assessed that there was a danger to the life of the injured Iraqi driver and helped provide aid while waiting for Iraqi medical personnel to arrive on scene.

Working together, Semon and Gomez attempted to pull the victim out, but quickly realized he was trapped.

“Once we realized he was stuck in between the dashboard and the seat, together we pushed the dashboard up just enough to be able to get the man out,” said Gomez.

Semon said he took an advisory role during the incident and allowed the junior medics to take the lead in treating the patient.

“While McChristy and Gomez worked on the patient, I stepped back to give them space and assisted them in handing them the supplies they needed to get the job done,” said Semon, who hails from New York City.

“An ambulance from Kirkuk hospital arrived within 10 to 15 minutes of rendering first aid, and took the patient to the nearest hospital for further treatment,” McChristy said.

The three medics ensured the scene was safe and continued with their missions after Iraqi medical personnel took control of the incident.

Gomez said a medic’s job is to help people, regardless of the situation or mission.

“A medic is a medic, and our primary mission is to do everything we can to aid the patient,” he said.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Maj. Lakei Evans, executive officer, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, presents an Army Achievement Medal to Sgt. Lionel Semon, a combat medic with 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div., during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, April 23, 2011. Senior leaders and fellow Soldiers recognized Semon for his efforts in aiding an Iraqi citizen injured in a three-vehicle accident that occurred in Kirkuk, April 19 2011.

Called to serve

Spc. Andrew Ingram
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – “Chaplains do not volunteer, they are called,” said Chaplain (Col.) Jeffrey Houston, outgoing division chaplain, 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, during his promotion and awards ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, May 2.

Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general, 4th Inf. Div. and U.S. Division-North, officially promoted Houston to the rank of colonel and presented him with the Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal for his exemplary performance while supporting service members deployed to Iraq as part of Task Force Ironhorse.

“While we may have the best gear in the world and the best training in the world, the thing that makes us special is the people,” said Perkins. “Chaplains, specifically people like Jeff, give us inner strength. That is what he has done for me, and that is what he has done throughout his military career.”

Less than a year after joining the Army, Houston, a native of Van Buren, Mo., deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as a battalion chaplain with 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Second Bde., 82nd Airborne Div. was one of the first units to put boots on the ground during the conflict, and Houston became the third chaplain to arrive in the Persian Gulf.

“I came to Iraq as a captain and I will leave as a colonel,” he said. “All my key positions have been in Iraq. It has been an honor to serve here.”

Following the first Gulf War, Houston continued to serve Soldiers’ spiritual needs throughout the Army, serving at multiple positions within the chaplaincy while moving from battalion to



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram, USD-N PAO

Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, promotes Chaplain Jeffrey Houston to the rank of colonel during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, May 2, 2011.

division level positions.

In 2006, and again in 2008, Houston deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before joining 4th Inf. Div. in 2009.

During his tenure as the “Ironhorse” Division Chaplain, Houston deployed once again, this time as the senior chaplain for U.S. Division-North.

Through two decades of service, Houston watched first-hand the progression in Iraq.

Houston said the drastic shift in the relationship the U.S. shares with Iraq brings him hope for a better future in a country that now has the tools to govern itself as a self-sufficient democracy for the first time.

Houston’s hard work in the service of troops and their Families epitomizes the spirit of the chaplaincy, said Perkins.

“He’s had all the hard assignments,” said Perkins of Houston’s career. “He has spent his time out where Soldiers are, he spends his time out where Soldiers unfortunately die, and he spends his time with Families of Soldiers who have been killed in action.”

Jeff has spent his life on the front lines dealing with Soldier issues and supporting Families, Perkins added.

The senior chaplain said 20 years ago he never would have expected to reach his current station in the Army.

“My goal was to stay in 20 years and make lieutenant colonel and it just didn’t work out that way,” he said.

Houston explained God had a different plan for him.

Houston is leaving Iraq to attend the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pa., where he hopes to gain skills to assist him in higher echelons of the Army’s command structure.

Houston’s dedication to his vocation and the Soldiers he has been called to minister fills his Family with pride, said his wife, Lisa Houston.

“I’ve waited a long time in the Army because we keep saying we are going to retire,” said Lisa, who attended her husband’s promotion ceremony via video teleconference. “But you and I have waited for each adventure God has sent our way and neither one of us ever expected to see this moment. It wasn’t on our radar to reach this position, but I am humbled and grateful and honored.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram, USD-N PAO

Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, administers the Oath of Office to Chaplain (Col.) Jeffrey Houston, the division's outgoing chaplain, during a promotion and awards ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, May 2, 2011.

A catalyst for change

'Devil' Soldier finds fulfillment in being part of Desert Storm, OIF, OND legacy

Spc. Kandi Huggins
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – For one staff sergeant deployed to Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, rewards are not found in the form of tangible objects, such as certificates or medals—but from being a part of a catalyst that changes the lives of individuals and nations.

An armor crewman by occupation, Staff Sgt. Sean Cornelison, now a Battle Noncommissioned Officer in Charge serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, employs experiences from years of deployment to ensure his impact on Operation New Dawn is a lasting one.

“This mission is the backbone of our exit strategy,” said Cornelison. “We’re doing everything we need to do to get out of here and give the Iraqis hope and assurance that all we’ve sacrificed during the years over here won’t go to waste.”

Previously deployed during the beginning and middle of U.S. operations in Iraq, Cornelison said he is proud to be a part of what is considered to be its final chapter.

“I was 18 without a lot of direction or structure,” said Cornelison, a native of Ceres, Calif. “I didn’t have any plans after high school, and the Army sounded like a good thing just

to get out of town and do something different.”

Cornelison said he also joined because he wanted money for college, and eventually, he received an associate’s degree in criminal justice.

Cornelison’s path in life also influenced his younger brother.

“He inspired me to join the Army,” said Master Sgt. Scott Cornelison, an instructor at Na-

val School Explosive Ordnance Disposal, a joint-services training center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Scott said he felt proud to see his older brother in uniform, making a difference and then followed Sean’s lead, enlisting in the Army in 1994.

Nearly two decades and four operations later, Cornelison said he received his most rewarding experiences throughout his years in the Army through the opportunities where he taught and helped others.

Halfway through his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, Cornelison said he received the opportunity to work with military transition teams.

He said he served with the first MiTT teams established to coach new Iraqi military and police forces.

For nearly six months, Cornelison said he helped train and plan operations for the Iraqis, which in turn produced a lot of progress.

“They were just starting to get a taste of what democracy was about, and watching what happened and knowing I had something to do with it was very rewarding,” said Cornelison. “I’m not being boastful, but I felt if I didn’t help that Iraqi Army company out, then that town wouldn’t have had the security it needed.”

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U.S. Army photo

Staff Sgt. Sean Cornelison, an armor crewman currently assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, conducts an exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in preparation for his deployment to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn. Cornelison, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, said he is proud to see the progress being made throughout Iraq. “This mission is the backbone of our exit strategy,” said Cornelison. “We’re doing everything we need to do to get out of here and give the Iraqis hope and assurance that all we’ve sacrificed during the years over here won’t go to waste.”



U.S. Army photo

Staff Sgt. Sean Cornelison takes a break from a mission with Iraqi counterparts during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cornelison, an armor crewman currently serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, served in Iraq during Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and now Operation New Dawn as U.S. forces prepare to transition out of the country, 2005.

Cont'd from LEGACY, Pg. 6

After redeploying to Fort Riley, Kan., home of the 1st Inf. Div., Cornelison received another rewarding experience.

Cornelison said he used the knowledge and experience gained from working with the Iraqi military to assist the “Devil” Brigade Transition Team mission.

Between 2007 and 2009, the Devil Brigade served as a training brigade for all MiTT teams deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan.

“When I came back to Riley, they started the training team mission and I fell right in with it,” said Cornelison. “At the time, I had the most recent experience, and for the first year

or so, I had the most experience and probably had the best knowledge of what Soldiers could expect during deployment.”

After his mission changed again during Operation New Dawn, Cornelison said his job as Battle NCOIC is a necessity to the Soldiers at COS Warrior accomplishing their mission and returning home safely.

“I feel my brother has a lot of tactical knowledge from the initial invasion of Iraq,” said Scott. “I’m thankful and proud that (Sean) shares his experience, training, and leadership to deploying units. He inadvertently saves lives from him sharing that experience and knowledge.”

Some of his many responsibilities include tracking all

the brigade elements leaving COS Warrior, collecting and organizing information, communicating with units and their headquarters, and tracking significant activities throughout 1st AATF’s area of responsibility.

With all his experience from previous deployments, Cornelison said he is able to see the big picture and be of better assistance to units at COS Warrior.

“I know from first-hand experience what they’re going through and the different threats they encounter, and I’m going to do all I can to help them out in a quick manner,” said Cornelison. “If they’re attacked or have an emergency, someone has to pick up the radio when they call for help. That’s pretty important. You want the guy on

the other end of the radio to be on his ‘A Game,’ paying attention and to know what they’re talking about.”

Cornelison said he continues to give his best to honor the service members who never made it home and encourages his Soldiers to do the same.

“I know first-hand the sacrifice people made over here and if not for myself and my unit, I want to do my best for them—for the guys that didn’t make it home,” said Cornelison. “I encourage the Soldiers here to gain experience and maintain a sense of pride in their unit for what we’re doing as a whole.”

“Have pride in being a Soldier, do your best and believe it will be enough to make even the smallest difference.”

'Rough Rider' supply specialist takes charge, supports fellow troopers

1st Cavalry Division

Spc. Terence Ewings
4th AAB Public Affairs
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq — Delivering, receiving, storing and maintaining accountability for equipment and documents are primary tasks for all U.S. Army unit logisticians.

Spc. Diana Ortiz, a supply

specialist assigned to Company A, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, was recently named the "Long Knife" Reposture Hero of the North for doing an outstanding job accomplishing these tasks.

Long Knife Reposture Heroes of the North are recognized for their hard work and dedication in support of the

U.S. Division-North mission to transition security missions to Iraqi-led operations.

"Ortiz has done a great job not only fulfilling her duties as a supply specialist, but going above and beyond to ensure all company logistic operations are taken care of," said Staff Sgt. Sabrina Taylor, supply sergeant, Company A.

During the deployment, Ortiz oversaw the turn-in of wheeled vehicles, military corrugated metal packing crates, and a palletized load system trailer—equipment with a combined value of more than \$3 million.

Ortiz played an integral part of all turn-in processes and change of command inventories, where 4th AAB inventoried more than \$35 million worth of equipment with no losses.

In addition to her duties as a supply specialist, Ortiz is also a company armorer responsible for maintaining accountability of weapons, optical devices and other supplies within the company's arms room.

"We are here to support the company by ensuring all their supplies and equipment are mission ready and capable," said Taylor, a native of Sumter, S.C.

Even though logistics specialists sometimes work long hours during their overseas deployments, they ensure their fellow Soldiers have the necessary equipment they need to conduct the company's support missions within the brigade's area of responsibility.

"Ortiz has experience in managing supplies, maintaining property and (facilitating) transactions that happen within

the company. She's a great asset to have, because she is that good at doing her job," said Taylor.

Born and raised in Ecuador, Ortiz moved in with family members in Miami prior to joining the military in 2007.

In 2008, after completing basic and advanced individual training, Ortiz was assigned to Company A, 27th BSB, and deployed later that year with the brigade to Tallil, Iraq.

"My first deployment taught me a lot," said Ortiz. "I got to my unit and learned how to do my job there; it was a good experience for me."

Currently on her second deployment with the unit, Ortiz uses her knowledge to support her section sergeant in sustaining the company's supply operations.

"I enjoy doing my job, because it allows me to support other Soldiers here," said Ortiz. "The Soldiers here appreciate what we do, and it shows by me receiving this award."

When Ortiz is not filing hand receipts and maintaining accountability of the unit's tactical vehicles, weapons and equipment, you can find her taking online classes and continuing her undergraduate studies in business administration.

After redeploying to Fort Hood, Texas, Ortiz plans to finish her studies and earn her bachelor's degree. She eventually wants to attend Officer Candidate School.

"The Army has done great things for me so far, and I'm sure I have a lot to look forward to as I continue to do great things for the Army," said Ortiz.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

Spc. Diana Ortiz, a supply specialist assigned to Company A, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, signs a hand receipt after completing accounting for the equipment during an inventory of the unit's arms room, April 26, 2011. Ortiz, a native of Miami, Fla., works as the company's armorer and unit supply specialist.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Spc. Entoinne Johnson, a supply sergeant serving with Company A, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, places condition codes on forms necessary to turn in his unit's unserviceable equipment at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, April 26, 2011. The Daytona Beach, Fla. native said he uses the codes to explain what needs to be done to the item before it reaches its final destination.

DRMO streamlines equipment return

Spc. Kandi Huggins
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., U.S. Division-North

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – As U.S. troops prepare to transition out of Iraq by the end of 2011, leaders must consider the daunting task of reducing operations and turning in the millions of dollars-worth of equipment.

In the past, as deployed units rotated back to the U.S., replacement units would maintain accountability for all of the permanent equipment left behind; but for Soldiers of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, the task is more challenging because they are scheduled to be one of the last units in Iraq.

As a way of being prepared for when the time to leave arrives, "Task Force Devil" Soldiers began turning in unserviceable property at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, April 26, through the Defense Re-

utilization and Marketing Office.

DRMO, a Department of Defense organization, is responsible for taking equipment a unit cannot use anymore and either re-assigning it to other Army units, selling it, or scrapping it.

"Today is a proof of principle aimed to relieve company commanders of accountability and responsibility of items needed to be turned in to DRMO," said Col. Alvin Burgess, commander, Direct Support Team-Iraq, Defense Logistics Agency.

Burgess, a York, Pa. native, said he is responsible for disposition services, meaning he oversees equipment turn-ins.

"They take everything we can't use anymore," said Maj. Christopher Rozhon, Brigade Logistic Support Team chief, 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div.

If computers are repairable, the first thing DRMO would do is offer them to other Army units who need them, Rozhon explained. This method allows the Army to

draw out the use of equipment and fill supply gaps.

"If these computers are a surplus within the Army, the next step would be to sell them in order to recover some money for the taxpayers. Lastly, if we can't do anything else with it, we scrap it," continued Rozhon, a native of Fox River Grove, Ill. "If an item is at the end of its life cycle and the unit doesn't need it anymore, or if it's at the end of its usage as far as if the Army is concerned, we turn it in to get as much value from it as we can."

While units must normally travel to DRMO, Rozhon said the April 26 turn-in stood out because it was the first time DRMO personnel went out to a unit to recover property.

If the DRMO personnel did not fly to COS Warrior, the equipment would then have to be shipped to their headquarters in Baghdad, he explained.

"For each property book, everyone would have to send a representative to turn in property at that location or conduct coordination to get equipment turned in and make sure it's properly received," explained Maj. Joel Gleason, logistics officer for 1st AATF. "Here, they can bring a small team forward and allow all the people to turn in at this site."

If a mistake occurs in the normal system of mailing gear to DRMO, paperwork and shipping the items back and forth creates delays for getting equipment turned in, whereas if the DRMO personnel on site say it is a quick fix, the units have all the assets here to fix it, Rozhon explained.

"We get the paperwork, it goes and it's one transaction, one trip," he said.

Bringing DRMO assets to the unit saves time, personnel and money and alleviates many of the problems redeploying units face, he added.

Conducting a test-run helps identify friction points and if it works, the units will see if there is a valid need to change the system, said Col. Steve Cook, a Lampasas, Texas native, serving as logistics officer for U.S. Division-North, 4th Infantry Division.

Gleason, a Colton, N.Y. native, said if the day turns out to be a success, other units will be able to have DRMO occasionally come to their location to allow them to turn-in excess property, which means the use of fewer resources to draw down the theater of Iraq.

'Black Dragon' Soldiers mentor Iraqi policemen at Ghuzlani

Spc. Terence Ewings
4th AAB Public Affairs
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ – U.S. Soldiers assigned to Battery A, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment taught Iraqi policemen room-clearing techniques during an urban operations class at Ghuzlani Eagle Training Site, April 27.

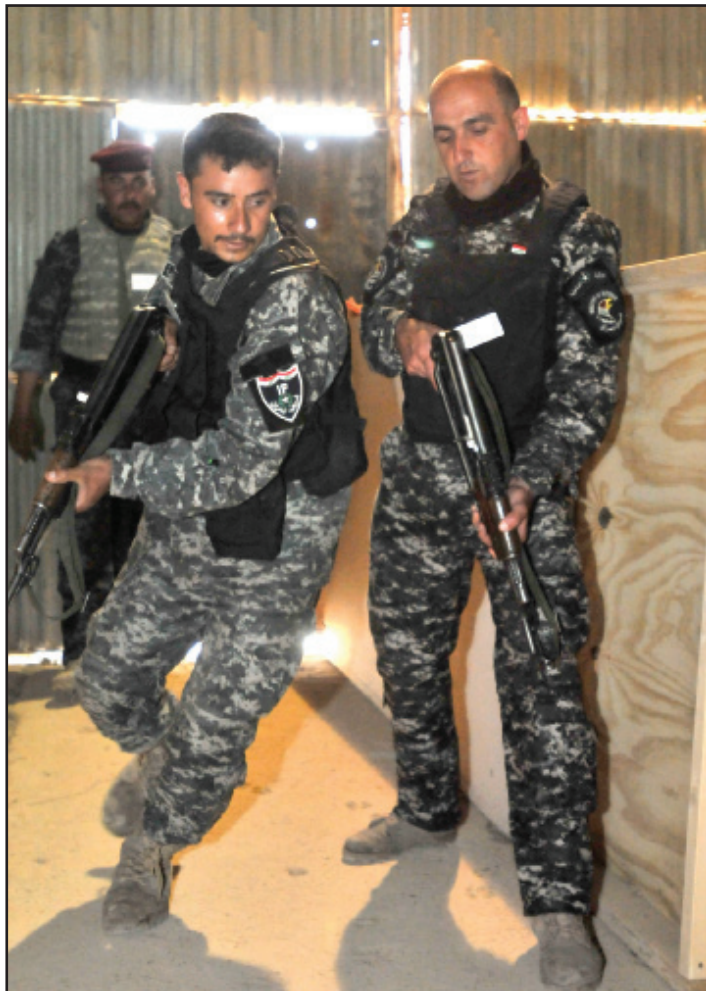
The "Black Dragon" Soldiers, part of 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, are responsible for training the 1st Emergency Response Brigade policemen on checkpoint and urban operations.

"It's great to see our Soldiers contribute to the overall growth of the Iraqi military forces," said Command Sgt. Maj. Calvin Coler, senior enlisted advisor of Black Dragon Battalion. "We'll continue to assist the Iraqis in building up the units we are partnered with by teaching them in these exercises."

U.S. Soldiers trained their Iraqi partners on the proper techniques to enter and clear rooms, hallways and rooftops during the five-day training course.

After a brief slide presentation explaining how to properly maneuver in teams of four as a stack formation, U.S. Soldiers assisted the policemen as the students practiced the close quarters battle tactics.

"My favorite part about this partnership and the training out here is seeing these experienced noncommissioned officers pass on their knowledge and expertise to the Iraqis," said Coler, a native of Louisiana.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

Iraqi policemen assigned to 1st Emergency Response Brigade enter and clear rooms during an urban operations exercise at Ghuzlani Eagle Training Site, April 27, 2011. U.S. Soldiers assigned to Battery A, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division advise, train and assist the policemen on urban tactics during the five-day course.

Coler watched as his Black Dragon troopers taught the Iraqis how to properly structure stack formations against the outer walls of the room, check for explosives around the door frame and clear the room of enemy threats.

"The Iraqis are motivated and willing to learn, which makes teaching easy and enjoyable," said Sgt. Kamowa Reynolds, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battery A.

After the Iraqis navigated the room-clearing course in four man teams, Reynolds switched out the Iraqi squad leaders and observed as the students successfully performed their combat techniques.

"We're not only teaching them how to conduct these techniques, but we're walking them through the step-by-step process so they understand how to teach one another and gain leadership skills," said Reyn-

"We'll continue to assist the Iraqis in building up the units we are partnered with by teaching them in these exercises."

– Command Sgt. Maj. Calvin Coler

olds, a native of Allentown, Va., currently on his second deployment to Iraq.

Like Reynolds, the majority of the Black Dragon instructors who taught the course have experience training or fighting alongside Iraqi Security Forces during previous deployments.

"This is a good mission to have. It's fun and we have a lot of good times out here," said Sgt. Larry Falconer, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battery A. "It's a good chance to teach them the drills and techniques I know to help them become better policemen."

Along with the other field artillerymen at the Ghuzlani Eagle Training Site, Falconer, currently on his third deployment to Iraq, works as a trainer-mentor assisting the federal police in becoming proficient in their drills and tactics.

"The federal policemen are always focused and excited to learn," said Falconer, a native of Fordyce, Ark. "Whenever we conduct the exercises at the end of the rotation, they always act like the real thing, which is good because that's what we're preparing them for."



Chaplain's Corner: The Grand Essentials

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Keith Goode
U.S. Division-North Chaplain

As I begin my time here as the division chaplain, I am trying to be intentional about the things I need to learn on this deployment and the things I need to forget from the last deployment! Not everything I knew then is needed now.

Each day I must ask myself, "What do I need to succeed?"

It is a good question to ask not just professionally, but personally as well. There are some things in life that all of us must have, or else we will fail. Fail in life, love, relationships, you name it. How about it? Can we name some things we cannot do without?

Air, water, food—these quickly come to mind. As a matter of fact, they are basic to living. We are all dependent on every one of those things and no one has been able to quit any of them, for any length of time, their whole life! If we miss these, talk about failure!

But why are those so important to successful living? Medically, we must have food for fuel, breath for oxygen, and water for our existence. This is easy enough, but it begs the question – "Are these the only things we need to in order to win in life?"

Absolutely not!

We may be alive physically, but what about being alive emotionally and spiritually? What other things might be considered essential in order to achieve all that we desire from life? It is more money, the next promotion, great sex, a good beer, new game station, a fast motorcycle, a cool tattoo?

We can enjoy all those things (especially after we get home and General Order No. 1 is no longer present!), yet for all the pleasure these may bring, we still feel the emptiness and sense of failure that can lead to despair. No, there must be something else.

What is essential? More stuff? More conquests? No, it is nothing temporary.

Let's turn our attention to something else, that while elusive, is more enduring. These were named long ago and have become known today as the "Grand Essentials" of life. If we hope to succeed in this lifetime, we need—

1) Something to do. Human beings need to know that what we are doing matters. The work or the effort – it all needs to be for a reason. Even if it is the simplest or silliest thing in the world, as long as we know it will do something that helps, fixes, protects, builds up, or accomplishes the

mission, the work is worth it and we will not quit the task.

2) Something to love. Humans have a strong desire to care about others and share passions that require sacrifice for the benefit of others. To live only for self is like living in the high altitude back home in Colorado – it is lonely and there is not enough oxygen to survive! When we cannot love, we suffocate. Will we be disappointed in trying to love others? Sometimes, but dare not quit because it is worth a lifetime of pursuit to learn about and know love from another.

3) Something to hope for. This one is more than just hoping to win the lottery someday! This is a confidence that knows the future is both real and attainable. The human spirit influenced by a religious faith makes all the difference here. Our faith lifts us when we lose on love. Our spirit rebounds when we fail at the task. We do not despair or give up because we have something beyond ourselves to love and to live for.

Some essentials are easy enough to know – water, food, and air keep the body alive. But when it comes to the soul—do we have these grand essentials keep the human spirit alive?

Let this time be the time we search for that which we must have to succeed in this life and survive; no—not just survive, but thrive!



www.facebook.com/4thID

U.S. Division-North Social Media Sites



www.twitter/4thInfDiv



www.Slideshare.net/the4id



youtube.com/The4ID



www.flickr.com/photos/the4id

On the U.S. Division-North social media sites, you can find stories, photos and videos of U.S. Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn.

Hey Doc: *Starting to find some scary creatures*

Maj. George Deguzman
Env. Science and Eng. Officer
U.S. Division-North Division Surgeon

"Hey Doc: My buddy heard that a whole bunch of people are seeing snakes lately. I'm combat tested, but snakes really frighten me. I don't want to get bitten! Are the snakes here poisonous?"

– Signed "Sgt. Scared O' Snake"

Dear "Sgt. Snake,"

Snakes are not the only thing you need to be concerned about. Scorpions and spiders are also out there slithering around.

Picture this: while running the football, you trip and fall and there's a snake smiling at you. As you slowly back away, you accidentally disturb a pile of wood and a dozen scorpions come out racing to get to you. Pretty scary, huh?

Some snakes are highly venomous and can result in life-threatening illness and death. Symptoms range from pain and swelling to loss of consciousness and shortness of breath. Scorpion stings vary from painful, tingling, and burning sensation to numbness, difficulty breathing, and even death. On the other hand, spider bites only cause minor swelling and discomfort, but sometimes lead to infection if the wound is not cleaned.

These venomous creatures are usually found under shrubs, mammal burrows, woodpiles, rock piles, construction debris and dumps. You can also find them under



connexes, HESCO barriers, latrine and shower units and port-a-johns. As we pack up to go home, we can expect increased sightings of snakes as we disturb their environment by moving around equipment, connexes, and containerized housing units.

COB Speicher vector control personnel have been busy responding to service calls related to snakes, including six in April.

To prevent snake bites, spider bites and scorpion stings, simply avoid their habitats. These creatures are generally not a threat to humans and avoid confrontation unless

they are cornered, accidentally stepped on or touched. Never put them into a situation where they feel threatened. Do not pick them up!

Do your part to keep the snakes away. Keep your areas clean and dispose of food properly. Keeping rodents away will eliminate snake food.

If you are bitten, remain calm, and make a mental note of the snake or scorpion's appearance. Don't try to catch it. Don't let your buddy try to catch it. Seek medical help. Remember to remove jewelry on the bitten extremity in case swelling progresses. If you have time, wash the bite with soap and water.

Be careful and stay safe, Sgt. Snake, and keep those Taskforce Ironhorse questions coming!

