

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



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MAY 20, 2011

## U.S. forces transfer COL McHenry to IA



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

**“Golden Dragons” Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division render honors as the American flag is lowered for the last time at Contingency Operating Location McHenry during a Base Transfer ceremony in Kirkuk province, Iraq, May 15, 2011. After conducting operations at the base since 2003, U.S. forces transferred responsibility of COL McHenry to the Iraqi government.**

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION MCHENRY, Iraq – U.S. Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment officially transferred responsibility of Contingency

Operating Location McHenry to the Iraqi government during a ceremony in Kirkuk province, Iraq, May 15.

The return of COL McHenry, or Mo’Oscar Bagarrah, as it’s known to the Iraqi people, represents a big step toward the completion of U.S. forces’

mission in Kirkuk province, said Lt. Col. Andrew Ulrich, commander of 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., part of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division.

“The transition of Mo’Oscar Bagarrah is one of the first and most important

transitions in Kirkuk,” said Ulrich. “Although we are leaving our footprint here, we will continue to advise, train and assist. I have full confidence that the Army and the partnered security forces gathered here today are ready for this transition.”

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STEADFAST AND LOYAL  
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WARRIOR

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U.S. Army photo

Pfc. Shawn Phillips, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, prepares for a mission at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, May 17, 2011. Phillips, selected by his leaders as "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week, led his unit in the advancing of combat skills of Iraqi Service Emergency Units at checkpoints near Kirkuk, teaching ERU soldiers close quarter combat techniques and proper usage of multiple weapon systems.

Many U.S. Soldiers draw from experiences outside their military lives adding to an ever-expanding wealth of knowledge to become effective assets for their unit and one day effective leaders of Soldiers.

Pfc. Shawn Phillips, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, earned the title of "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week for using his training in martial arts and Modern Army Combatives to advance Iraqi Emergency Service Unit

# IRONHORSE STRONG: Soldier of the Week

soldiers' skills at multiple combined check points near Kirkuk.

"He taught (Iraqi Security Forces) self defense skills," said Sgt. 1st Class Carl Barton, a platoon leader with 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt. "He taught them how to disarm hostiles as well as how to defend against being disarmed."

Phillips, a native of Cheyenne, Wyo., took the lead during close quarters combat training, teaching Iraqi soldiers how to defend themselves, conduct personnel and vehicle searches, and how to use minimum force necessary to control the situation.

"He's a sponge, soaking up anything he learns and readily gives it to others," said Barton, who hails from Rock Springs, Wyo. "He's motivated to train and assist in any way he can, and is the first to volunteer to train the ISF at combined checkpoints."

Phillips also used his experience to teach ESU how to use various weapon systems, demonstrating how to break down the weapons as well proper as fire techniques.

"As my gunner, (Phillips) went over all the weapons systems and other infantry battle drills that we use ourselves," said Staff Sgt. Rahamane Cisse, squad leader, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

In addition to performing his duties in an outstanding manner, Phillips also stands above his peers as the only junior enlisted Soldier to achieve a perfect score of 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test, said Cisse, a native of the Ivory Coast, West Africa.

"He's one of the younger guys in the platoon, but right away when he got here he set himself above his peers and has been a role model," said Cisse. "Having a high (Physical Training) score is just another way he does that."

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## THE IVY LEAF

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## TASK FORCE IRONHORSE

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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 McHenry, Pg. 1**

Ulrich officially transferred the base and its remaining facilities to Staff Brig. Gen. Mohsin, commander of 46th Brigade, 12th Iraqi Army Division, who represented the Government of Iraq during the ceremony.

While stationed at COL McHenry, Soldiers of 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., "Golden Dragons," the last U.S. unit to occupy the base, worked diligently with their Iraqi counterparts to ensure the safety of the people of Iraq, said Ulrich.

"We built a lasting and meaningful personal relationship that assured me that we could call on the Iraqi Security Forces at any time and they would respond without hesitation," Ulrich said. "Hopefully, we instilled the same trust in our partners and they now know they have a lasting friend in the American Soldier and the American people."

Until its transfer, COL McHenry served as one of the oldest U.S. operating locations in Iraq, established during the first year of Operation Iraqi



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

Freedom.

By Spring 2006, Forward Operating Base McHenry had grown to a 500-Soldier base with attached services and contractors.

In 2010, the Golden Dragons brought the newly designated COL McHenry into Operation New Dawn as U.S. forces' mission shifted from combat operations to an advise, train and

assist role with Iraqi Security Forces counterparts.

Along with Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. Soldiers have seen a drastic decline in violence and an increase in public safety, medical health and economic growth, said Ulrich.

"Eleven months ago our battalion moved into Mo'Oscar Bagarrah with the mission to advise, train and assist the Iraqi Security Forces in providing security for their people," said Ulrich. "We were not surprised to find that they needed very little assistance and were very competent."

Col. Michael Pappal, commander of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, said the transfer of COL McHenry represents the

Staff Brig. Gen. Mohsin, commander of 46th Brigade, 12th Iraqi Army Division, officially takes responsibility of Contingency Operating Location McHenry from Lt. Col. Andrew Ulrich, commander of 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, during a Base Transfer ceremony in Kirkuk province, Iraq, May 15, 2011. The 46th Brigade plans to continue use of the facilities at COL McHenry for operations after the transition of U.S. forces out of Iraq.

Iraqi Security Forces' ability to continue taking full responsibility for the safety and protection of its people.

"The closure of this camp does not signify that we will be pulling away from our advise, train and assist mission with the Iraqi Police, the Iraqi Army and the Regional Guard Brigade," said Pappal. "Those relationships with our partners in arms will continue and remain strong into the future."

Ulrich thanked his Iraqi counterparts for their hard work, sacrifices and dedication to Iraq and its people while training and working with the Golden Dragons.

"It is with great pride that we end our time at Mo'Oscar Bagarrah on a high note, surrounded by all our security partners who have the peoples' best interest in mind," said Ulrich during the ceremony. "Though you, the Iraqi Security Forces, have suffered losses at the hands of the insurgents, your men's bravery and sacrifice will not be forgotten."

Lt. Col. Andrew Ulrich, commander of 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, addresses his Soldiers, U.S. and Iraqi military leaders, and Iraqi government officials and community leaders during the Contingency Operating Location McHenry Base Transfer ceremony in Kirkuk province, Iraq, May 15, 2011. Iraqi forces of 46th Brigade, 12th Iraqi Army Division, plan to continue to use the base, known to them as Mo'Oscar Bagarrah, for operations after the transition of U.S. forces out of Iraq. "Eleven months ago our battalion moved into Mo'Oscar Bagarrah with the mission to advise, train and assist the Iraqi Security Forces in providing security for their people," said Ulrich. "We were not surprised to find that they needed very little assistance and were very competent. It is with great pride that we end our time at Mo'Oscar Bagarrah on a high note, surrounded by all our security partners who have the peoples' best interest in mind."



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



# 'Head Hunter' Squadron trains Iraqi Army on cordon and search techniques at GWTC

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – With weapons raised at the ready, eyes scanning the surrounding area for threats, Iraqi Army soldiers maneuvered toward a building at the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, May 12.

Iraqi Army soldiers of 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd IA Division cordoned the area and stormed through the training site during the urban operations exercise, May 12.

While IA soldiers fired blank ammunition against opposing forces, U.S. Soldiers from the "Head Hunter," 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division watched intently, taking note of the Iraqi soldiers' progress.

Iraqi soldiers from 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division move tactically across a field toward a house to conduct a cordon and search exercise during urban operations training at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, May 12, 2011. U.S. Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division oversaw their IA partners during the urban operations training.

"This training is good for us, because it allows us to ready ourselves for future security operations," said 1st Lt. Gamal Hussein, commander of 3rd Company, 2nd Bn. "The American officers and (noncommissioned officers) work hard to make sure we benefit from the training."

Hussein commanded half of his soldiers to surround the target in a security cordon, swiftly leading the remaining squads through an attack on the suspected strongholds.

After 3rd Company completed the mis-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO

sion and escorted enemy suspects into custody, Head Hunter Soldiers conducted a mission critique highlighting tactics to sustain and improve for the next practice run.

"It's important for them to know how to safely move into a building or room and detain an enemy with minimal casualties," said Maj. Jason Carter, an instructor assigned to Head Hunter Squadron.

U.S. Soldiers at GWTC work to modernize the Iraqi battalion as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, an Iraqi military training program to provide individual and collective infantry training for Iraq's ground forces.

Starting at the individual, squad and platoon levels, the IA soldiers build on their tactical knowledge and skills, progressing to company and battalion-level exercises during the 25-day training cycles of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training.

Since GWTC opened for training in January, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. troopers led five IA battalions through the training center in support of Operation New Dawn.

"These guys have been great," said Carter, a native of Panama City, Fla. "They are the most disciplined and organized unit I've seen at this training center."

After the completion of the three-day urban operations platoon training, IA soldiers are slated to begin training and maneuvering on company-level urban operations at the training center.

"The IA soldiers are getting better with each training day," said Spc. Tim Caudle, a Head Hunter combat medic from Portland, Ore. "These are challenging exercises out here, but they are determined to be successful and complete the mission."



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

Soldiers assigned to 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division prepare to enter and clear a room housing possible hostile suspects during a cordon and search exercise at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, May 12, 2011. U.S. Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, advise, train and assist their IA partners in enhanced combat tactics during the month-long training rotation as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training.



# Combined Security Forces train at KTC

1st Infantry Division



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

**Iraqi soldiers, Iraqi Police officers and Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade soldiers stand in formation before instructors combine the groups into integrated platoons to train as members of the Combined Security Forces “Golden Lions” at the Kirkuk Training Center, May 18, 2011.**

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq** – Iraqi Army soldiers, Iraqi Police officers and Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade members commenced joint training at Kirkuk Training Center to become candidates for the Combined Security Forces, known as “Golden Lions,” May 17-18.

Iraqi instructors selected applicants from each of the Iraqi Security Forces agencies, integrating soldiers and policemen into platoons as U.S. Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division provided guidance and oversight.

As the Golden Lions increase proficiency during the next few months, it is important for Iraqi CSF veterans to take the lead in the training of

its newest members to provide security for citizens throughout Kirkuk province, said 1st Lt. Daniel Campbell, platoon leader, Company A, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

The CSF started in 2010 and provides an important role in the security of Kirkuk, said Campbell.

One of the great things about the CSF is that recruits are mentored by U.S. forces and actually trained by Iraqi leaders, said Campbell, a native of Houston.

During their first official day of training, the Iraqi forces broke into their new platoons, each selecting recruits from the three different ISF elements.

By integrating the IA, IP and Regional Guard soldiers at the platoon level early in the training, instructors can begin teaching trainees how to work together as a team, explained 2nd Lt. Omar, a platoon leader

and chief CSF trainer at KTC.

Omar said veteran Golden Lion noncommissioned officers and officers will take the primary role during the instruction of the new troops, only requesting U.S. Soldiers to help with practical exercises and provide additional assistance as needed.

“I am really excited about the training and the CSF expanding,” said Omar. “I’m sure this will be a big step for the CSF and for all of Iraq’s forces.”

Omar said the new CSF company personnel are scheduled to study combat drills and military tactics throughout the month-long training cycle.

After recruits spent the first day familiarizing themselves with new trainees, the newly integrated Golden Lions gathered in the KTC conference room under the guidance of Capt. Fasil Gaze Mohmod, legal officer and law instructor at KTC.

Focusing on the Rule of Law first reminds Golden Lions members exactly what they swore to protect and taught soldiers and police officers the proper manner in which to execute duties, said Fasil.

“It is important for these men to know how to take proper actions,” said Fasil. “They are in charge of the security in Kirkuk, and they must be above suspicion for the people to trust them.”

Having worked with the CSF for 11 months, Campbell said he believes the Golden Lions stand united for a promising future in Iraq.

“The CSF can and will do any mission or task that is entrusted to them,” said Campbell. “They have conducted humanitarian aid drops, but they have also conducted cordon and searches. They are a ‘jack-of-all-trades’ unit and they get the job done.”



# *Diyala Provincial Police practice crime scene preservation, breaking crime networks*

Sgt. David Strayer  
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – “Warrior” Brigade Soldiers with the Diyala Province Police Transition Team attended a crime scene investigation exercise conducted by the Iraqi provincial police’s Emergency Response Force and Crime Scene Management Team at Baquba, Iraq, May 15.

Iraqi Police members used the course as an opportunity to exhibit their ability to respond to an emergency, use first responders to secure and cordon the scene, and allow CSM Team members into the area to preserve the crime scene and collect evidence.

“The ERF training exercise exemplifies things that the Diyala police have been training for over the past year,” said Lt. Col. John Shattuck, chief of the PTT, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. “The ERF has come a long way with their tactical proficiency as well as understanding their role in the police force.”

ERF members acted as first responders during the murder scenario. After entering and securing the area, the ERF questioned witnesses and called in the CSM Team to take over the investigation.

Chief of Police Training in Diyala province, Lt. Col. Ali, said he enjoyed seeing different agencies of the provincial police



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

**Members of the Diyala Provincial Police Force Crime Scene Management Team mark, document and collect evidence at a simulated murder scene during a training exercise in Baquba, Iraq, May 15, 2011. CSM Team members enter crime scenes already secured by first responders, such as the Emergency Response Force, and immediately begin preserving the integrity of the crime scene to collect and process evidence, a crucial step in the process of identifying detaining and prosecuting suspects.**

working side by side to achieve a common objective.

Once the CSM Team arrived on scene, the ERF team leader ensured a positive handoff of authority on the crime scene, providing the CSM officer in charge with all of the collected information.

The CSM officer ensures preservation of the crime scene as well as evidence collection and processing to enable arrest warrants and ultimately prosecutions.

“Preservation of evidence is crucial; perhaps the most crucial part of the legal process,” said Ali. “It allows us to make identifications and find suspects so that we

can detain them.”

During Operation New Dawn, U.S. forces remained present in an advisory role, assisting when requested, while Iraqi policemen took the lead on operations and built up their forces.

Shattuck and his team advised provincial police forces on advanced law enforcement skills and identified areas for the IP leaders to improve their efficiency and skills to get more in depth with crime solving.

Iraqi Police units then trained their officers to go beyond fundamentals of crime scene investigation, to take a deeper look into patterns and crack organized extremist networks, said Shattuck.

“One year ago, the IPs in the province were very good at solving individual crimes, such as murder cases; however, if the crime was backed by a complex network of organized crime or an insurgency, that was a bit beyond their level of expertise,” said Shattuck. “They are much more



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Strayer, 109th MPAD

**First Lt. Ali Khalid, officer in charge of a Crime Scene Management Team, takes a statement from a witness at the scene of a simulated murder during a training exercise in Baquba, Iraq, May 15, 2011. As OIC of the CSM Team, Khalid ensures integrity of the crime scene, oversees evidence collection and processing, and takes statements from witnesses. After conducting collections at the scene, the CSM Team uses the information to build an investigation that will eventually lead to arrest warrants and prosecutions.**

See POLICE, Pg. 7



Cont'd from POLICE, pg. 6



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

capable now; they are able to map and identify networks, put the evidence together so that they can issue warrants and eventually prosecute.”

Shattuck said the PTT’s goals at the start of partnered operations were to identify the police force’s developmental needs and then begin to synchronize efforts of different agencies within the Iraqi Police to help develop those areas to reach mission essential capability.

Members of the PTT worked with Iraqi leaders of the various police agencies within Diyala province, focusing on three developmental areas: criminal investigation, evidence procedure and institutional training development.

“With criminal investigation, we wanted to work together with the IP leaders to focus on improving their ability to investigate and prosecute a criminal network,” said Shattuck. “This has been the area of greatest gain, really. It’s something that will be more and more evident over time. The IP ability to map and investigate criminal and insurgent networks has done a lot to stabilize the cities in the province.”

The Crime Scene Management Team’s main objective is to follow up first responders at a crime scene and act as techni-

**An Iraqi policeman with the Diyala Province Emergency Response Force moves tactically providing over watch on a crime scene during a training exercise in Baquba, Iraq, May 15, 2011. ERF act as first responders, securing the scene of a crime, after which a Crime Scene Management Team takes over the investigation to collect and process evidence, leading to the apprehension of suspects.**

cians to preserve the scene and collect the evidence that will lead to prosecutions.

“The IP had 63 crime scene technicians with the criminal evidence directorate when we first arrived,” said Shattuck. “Since we have been here, they have gotten more equipment fielded, and they are tied in with the forensics crime labs down in Baghdad. Teams like the Crime Scene Management Team are now out there preserving, collecting and processing evidence for court.”

Provincial police also focused on institutional training and development for officers, said Shattuck.

“The Iraqi Police agencies have been able to make great gains with their ability to institutionalize training and the develop-

Sgt. Bilal, a team leader with the Diyala Province Emergency Response Force, briefs 1st Lt. Ali Khalid, officer in charge of the Crime Scene Management Team, on information gathered at a simulated crime scene after securing the area during a training exercise in Baquba, Iraq, May 15, 2011. After the ERF initially entered the scene and secured the area, the CSM Team assumed control of the investigation to collect and process evidence, take witness statements and preserve the integrity of the crime scene.

ment of individual policemen over the past year,” said Shattuck.

Iraqi Police forces run a completely self-funded and self-directed training center for operations and development courses, Shattuck said.

Nearly 500 Iraqi policemen now cycle through the institution each month, focusing individual certification training on a wide variety of police courses ranging from initial scene processing to prosecution and detainee rights.

The progress made has been tremendous, said Ali, but there are still criminals out there and they are getting harder to catch. It is up to police to stay one step ahead of criminals, get the job done and bring them down.

“For the Iraqi Police, the line between counterinsurgency and solving crimes is blurred,” said Shattuck. “These guys are by far the best suited to counter an insurgency, where the terrorist networks have receded into the criminal population. They are the best trained to not only detect networks, but also to prosecute once they have captured an individual.”



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



# *U.S., Iraqi Security Forces evaluate combat readiness during Operation Iron Lion*

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION K1, Iraq – Soldiers of 12th Iraqi Army Division demonstrated the ability to conduct missions independent of U.S. forces' involvement during a situational training exercise at Contingency Operating Location K1, near Kirkuk, Iraq, May 16.

Iraqi Security Forces personnel planned and coordinated the event as part of Operation Iron Lion, an ongoing capstone exercise demonstrating cooperation between ISF agencies, allowing U.S. forces to step back and assess progress.

ISF commanders proved their readiness to conduct training without direct U.S. involvement during the exercise, the culmination of six-weeks of preparation by Iraqi troops, said Capt. Sheung Li, commander of Company C, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division.

Iraqi soldiers from each of the division's brigades attended two-week courses on maintenance, transportation and first aid before being tested on the material during the final exercise.

"We're here to see how the 12th IA soldiers retained the previous training we've given them as they react to different scenarios," said Li, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. "We want to see how they carry on training without being told what to do and how to do it, and also how well their advisors observe and evaluate their soldiers' efforts."

During the scenario, IA sol-

diers left their compound at COL K1 on a convoy to Kirkuk to pick up cargo and return to their base. Company commanders evaluated the performance of their units as soldiers faced simulated small arms fire and Improvised Explosive Devices along the route.

American leaders delegated platoon and company-level assessments to Iraqi commanders, focusing objective evaluation on how Iraqi commanders coordinated and planned the event.

"It was about how well they put on a full-scale training

event," said Capt. James Marshall, assistant logistics advisor for the 12th IA Stability Transition Team, 101st BSB. "At this point, we're seeing how well they planned and resourced—it wasn't about how they executed."

Marshall said as Iraqi leaders plan and conduct more independent training, soldiers will become more efficient and confident in their abilities.

Colored smoke filled the air as opposing forces launched the ambush on the convoy. Drivers attempted to rush through the ambush into an open lane when

an IED simulator disabled the second truck in the convoy.

Soldiers jumped from their trucks and rushed through the smoke to check for casualties and recover the damaged vehicle.

Fellow soldiers safely evacuated casualties to a waiting vehicle before securing the damaged truck and towing it out of the ambush zone, ending the exercise.

Iraqi soldiers showcased their capabilities during the exercise, which simultaneously tested units on convoy operations, maintenance and recovery operations, and first aid, said Maj. Edward Huddleston, an operations officer from Springfield, Ill., assigned to 101st BSB.

"This was an example of the Iraqis demonstrating that their security forces are prepared and ready to conduct operations without the U.S. involvement on any level," Huddleston said.

Marshall said as the ISF continues to conduct such training operations, U.S. forces will be able to take even more of a step back from supervisory roles and watch as Iraqi leaders function completely autonomously.

"The biggest key for (Iraqi officers) now is rehearsing different scenarios in order for them to see the different holes in their plans and come up with ideas to improve and adjust their training," said Marshall, a Spokane, Wash., native. "Sometimes you will fall, but it's how you pick yourself up, and as they continue to do more hands-on training and begin realizing the importance of it, they will build more confidence and provide their soldiers with more training."



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

**A soldier from 12th Iraqi Army Division begins recovery operations on a vehicle hit by a simulated Improvised Explosive Device during a situational training exercise at Contingency Operating Location K1, May 16, 2011. Iraqi leaders planned and conducted the scenario without direct assistance from U.S. forces to showcase overall capabilities during a full-scale training exercise.**



# 'Thunderhorse' Soldiers earn their spurs



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

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – “Thunderhorse” Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, deployed to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn, participated in a long-standing Cavalry tradition at Contingency Operating Site Warrior in Kirkuk province, May 14.

During the Spur Ride, 74 participants, or “shave tails,” sought to prove themselves worthy of their spurs—an honor reserved for those within Cavalry units who have mastered their craft as warriors—during a day-long test of mettle, said Command Sgt. Maj. William May, senior enlisted leader of 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., and senior spur holder for the event.

The name “shave tail” derives from the Cavalry tradition of shaving the tails of horses to mark new troopers as ama-

teurs who had not yet earned their spurs. Troopers could only wear spurs once they proved themselves capable of proper performance with a horse and saber.

“We carry forth the tradition of the Spur Ride to maintain the history of the Cavalry,” said May, who hails from Monument Beach, Mass. “We don’t have colts and carbines and horses anymore. We have our warrior tasks that we have to be proficient in; we have our own mounts, which are our tanks or our humvees. Those Soldiers who have proved their proficiency in these tasks prove their worthiness as Cavalry troopers to be spur holders.”

To be inducted into the Order of the Spur, Soldiers must complete a series of physical

Sgt. Alex Phillips, an armor crew member from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, conducts reflexive rifle fire at a station during a Spur Ride at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, May 14, 2011.

and mental tests to demonstrate tactical and technical skills and exhibit knowledge of Cavalry traditions.

The Order of the Spur is open to all Soldiers serving with a Cavalry unit, regardless of military occupational specialty.

Shave tails of 2nd. Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., attached to 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, began the competition at 5 a.m. with a six-mile foot march to test their endurance.

After the march, which the shave tails were required to complete within 90 minutes, they conducted a layout of their gear, took a written test on the history of the 1st Cavalry Division, and recited “Fiddler’s Green,” the official poem of the Cavalry.

Shave tails who could not complete any assigned task immediately became disqualified, and by 8 a.m., only 18 Thunderhorse troopers remained.

Those 18 Soldiers separated into three teams of six to continue the challenge.

May said teams integrated Soldiers from each company within the battalion, ensuring the shave tails would have to learn to work with their new team as they continued the Spur Ride.

During the next 10 hours, remaining Soldiers traveled by foot to sites throughout COS Warrior to test skills at six stations.

Soldiers working as a part of a team, instead of just trying to win something for themselves, is one of the benefits of the Spur Ride, said Sgt. Anthony Ceppaglia, senior mechanic, Company F, who hails from Fresno, Calif.

“I’m having a lot of fun out here,” said Ceppaglia after completing three of the six stations. “I’ve got my teammates here and they are keeping me motivated. I am keeping them motivated, and we are going to finish this thing together.”

By the 6 p.m. finish, Soldiers covered an estimated 12 miles and completed tasks ranging from first aid to troop movements and reflexive rifle firing drills.

After 13 hours of constant action, the 17 remaining shave tails mounted wooden horses, and senior battalion spur holders placed spurs on Soldiers’ boots, inducting them into the Order of the Spur.

“This is awesome,” said Spc. Shahram Darr, an infantryman serving with Company D who hails from Los Angeles. “Once you have been through the whole Spur Ride—10 to 12 hours of hard-core training and challenges—it feels great to know you finished and accomplished the challenge.”

Sgt. Steven Bryant, a native of Dallas, and Spc. Tim Haubenschild, a native of Waukesha, Wis., both infantrymen serving with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, cross the finish line after a six-mile foot march to kick off the Battalion Spur Ride at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, May 14, 2011.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram

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# Social Media – What you need to know

Staff Sgt. Shawn Miller  
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How many of you have sat down at your workstation to see an image of a wounded Soldier with the words, “Someone Blogged!” scroll across your screen saver, only to see a television advertisement promoting military social media a moment later?

While your random blog post may not doom everyone, finding a balance between security and posting information online is critical in the world of modern global technology.

Social media access is a fairly new resource in the military world, and you may be left wondering how to use it properly. So what do you need to know to properly stay within the military’s guidelines for social media use?

As technology innovation rapidly increased during recent years, millions of new users joined online social media sites, such as Facebook, Flickr and Twitter, moving beyond the realm of college students and into business, media and the military.

As with any military resource, there are rules and regulations to follow. The Office of the Chief of Public Affairs released the U.S. Army Social Media Handbook in 2010, with the newest update released January 2011.

The handbook outlines operational security as the leading concern when making posts to your Web sites and when disclosing information to Family members and friends.

While you and your battle buddies may be perfectly aware of OPSEC and how to safely communicate without endangering your mission, remind Family members and friends to be safe as well.

As some units across U.S. Division-North prepare to redeploy, many Soldiers will want to keep their Families informed of schedules. The key to good OPSEC in such situations is to remain vague on critical details.

Social media is great at delivering information around the globe in an instant, but remember that your Facebook wall or Twitter feed is open to more people than just your “Friends.” News reports recently showed that the Taliban have Twitter, Facebook and other blog accounts, and they are looking for Soldiers to slip up and disclose sensitive information.

Be vigilant as you upload information. Photographs uploaded from mobile phones or devices may contain geotagging technology which can give away your location without you even being aware of it.

Finding a balance between keeping loved ones informed and keeping the mission and fellow Soldiers safe is crucial not only for social media posts, but Family posts as well.

Instead of saying, “I am flying to Kuwait July 30, and I will be flying home Aug. 10,” use a more generalized description such as, “I will be returning later this summer.” Have your Family follow similar guidelines when posting similar information.

Be careful about other non-operational details as well. Posting your unit’s mailing address online may seem like a good idea to let people know where to send care packages, but save that information for private correspondence.

You are required to tear address labels off boxes and letters before

throwing them in the trash, so it doesn’t make sense to keep that information permanently posted on a worldwide message board—no matter your security settings.

If unsure of what information to post, ask yourself what the wrong people could do with such information, and if posting those details could pose a safety risk to you, your Family or your unit.

The second key point to remember is that in or out of uniform, in public or online, you represent the U.S. military. Always remember to be professional.

The whole point of social media is to build connections between people. However, use discretion when interacting with superiors and subordinates. An online relationship should not function any differently from your normal working relationship.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice still applies to your online identity, so remember to be professional at all times. If you would feel uncomfortable saying something in front of peers or leaders in person, refrain from saying it online. Once you say something online, it goes out instantly and cannot be taken back.

It is inappropriate to use your rank, title or job responsibility to promote yourself online for personal or financial gain or to make political discourse.

Your Facebook wall is not a soap box. Even if you think that

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# Chaplain's Impress your teenager Corner:

Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Hurst  
Deputy Chaplain  
U.S. Division-North

Ok, I'll confess—my wife and I are re-covering "Band Parents." For those of you unfamiliar with "Band Parents," this is a particular addiction that takes over your life when you have one or more teenagers in the local high school marching band.

It is characterized by such extreme behaviors as driving teens to ritualistic daily outdoor practices that begin in the "dog-days" of August and continue until just before Thanksgiving.

All other forms of Family entertainment cease as we feed the beast of rehearsals, football games, band competitions, band uniform changes, and of course, more rehearsals.

As the announcer for the marching band, it was my duty—and pleasure—to stand up in the press box at football games and competitions to announce the band's entrance onto the field.

From my perspective in the press box, I could see the whole field and especially the overall success of the band in actually forming shapes and patterns in

movement. It was a great view and captured both sight and sound of how well the band was doing.

Let's talk about teenagers. Have you ever noticed that your adolescents love to be dazzled by shiny things around them? Of course the most popular and powerful "dazzler" is their cell phone. Sorry, when my kids were teens, cell phones were too big and expensive. Now our teens live in the grip of constant distraction from tweets, texts, games, pictures, and sometimes even a phone call.

This is an incredible challenge to their awareness of other things around them, including their parents and siblings. This little item holds them prisoner as it becomes a barometer of all their peer relationships and popularity.

For many teens, life is defined by how many texts they send and how many texts they receive. Our challenge, as parents, is engaging a relationship with our teenager that allows them to look up from their shiny devices and gain a grander view of life—a more expansive perspective.

Teenagers need majesty and grandeur. Those of us blessed to be stationed at Fort Carson understand the visual impact of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains.

It is more than just beauty. It is im-

mense beauty, power and overwhelming majesty. A person does not stand next to this glorious field of mountains and proclaim his or her superiority; we are all dwarfed by their grandeur and yearn for more of the same.

Dr. Ted Tripp, author of "Shepherding a Child's Heart," said, "We are made to stand back and gape, to wonder and be overwhelmed by the glory and goodness and greatness of God. We're uniquely designed to respond to this awesome glory with worship, adoration, reverence and being awestruck with God's glory."

To be effective parents, we need to help our kids lift their heads from their cell phones and see the majesty of God's handiwork.

Our adolescents search for significance, pleasure, excitement, meaning and satisfaction. Only one thing is really so big that it answers the grandeur question, and that is the living God revealed in the Scripture. We need to be dwarfed by a glorious God who is really larger than all of life's problems, and in whom, we find infinite refuge.

Once again I invite you to tell me about your teenagers. It is hard work but perseverance pays off. Think about giving your teens a vision of a dazzling God.

## Cont'd from SPURS, PG. 10

Darr said he almost decided not to compete due to an injury he sustained earlier in the week, but decided to push through the pain to support his teammates.

May said he hopes the success of the new spur holders will motivate their comrades to strive for excellence.

"To do this in a combat environment means just a little bit more than doing it back at Fort Hood," said May. "These Soldiers finished this challenge in the environment in which they are executing their craft, and our craft as combat Soldiers is to close with the enemy and destroy them as quickly as pos-

sible."

"To do that, you have to possess these skills as an individual and as a team member," said May. "I'm proud of these Soldiers. They showed their true Cavalry Red and White today."

**First Lt. Tyrie Carroll, left, platoon leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, and Spc. Josh Maze, an infantryman serving with Company B, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., assemble an M2 .50-caliber machine gun as part of a battalion-level competition known as a Spur Ride at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, May 14, 2011.**



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



# Hey Doc: *Should I be worried about Malaria?*

Maj. George Deguzman  
Env. Sci. and Eng. Officer  
Surgeon, USD-N

"Hey Doc, *one of my buddies has mosquito bites on both arms. Should he be worried about malaria?*"

*Signed "Sgt. Moss K. Toe"*

Dear "Sgt. Toe,"

Here is the bottom line up front—have no worries. While it is true that mosquitoes can transmit diseases, the risk of contracting malaria in Iraq is very low, so your buddy is safe.

Avoiding mosquito bites is still wise. There are several other mosquito-borne diseases which can be dangerous but generally not life threatening to healthy people. Since the risk is fairly low, I would worry more about the annoying itchy and sometimes painful bites.

To protect yourself from being bitten, consistently use personal protective measures to reduce your exposure. When outdoors, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants and a hat whenever possible. Always wear your issued flame retardant Army Combat Uniform, which is treated with permethrin, an insect repellent.

Avoid wearing Army Physical Fitness Uniform shorts and short sleeve shirts outside unless necessary; though you do have to balance protecting yourself from bites by wearing temperature-appropriate attire during the summer.

Apply N, N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide,

commonly known as DEET, insect repellent to exposed skin. It is not necessary to apply heavy amounts of DEET.

You can always apply another layer if the initial coat does not seem to repel the mosquitoes. If possible, remain indoors in an air-conditioned area during dusk and dawn, which are peak biting times.

If you have an indoor mosquito problem, seal the mosquitoes out by installing or repairing window and door screens. As a last resort, spray Containerized Housing Units or tents with anti-insect products.

The weather in Iraq this year has been unusually wet, making it more challenging to prevent mosquitoes. The goal is the elimination of mosquito breeding sources such as standing water, tall grasses and weeds.

Examples of past and present high risk areas found in U.S. Division-North are puddles formed by plumbing leaks under toilet units, rain water accumulation in an abandoned swimming pool, and a man-made brine water swamp from a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit outflow.

Old tires and empty cans with rain water are also ideal for mosquito breeding. If you see an unnecessary accumulation of water, remove the standing water source.

Watch those mosquitoes, Sgt. Toe, and Task Force Ironhorse keep those questions coming!

**Cont'd from MEDIA, PG. 10**

you are not speaking on behalf of your unit or branch of service, perception may say otherwise.

One other item the handbook mentions is use of non-attributed copyrighted or trademarked material on your social media Web sites. Remember this point when you are posting your unit's "Hooah" video playing AC/DC's "Highway to Hell." Even if you are not making a profit from the video, such posts violate the U.S. Army's social media guidelines for trademark or copyright infringement.

Online social media is a growing asset with an expanding role in the military.

When using any of the sites, always remember to practice OPSEC and professionalism to stay within the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Army Social Media Handbook.

If you have any questions, contact your unit public affairs representative or Public Affairs Office, or visit the handbook link below:

[Army Social Media Handbook  
www.slideshare.net/USArmySocialMedia/army-social-media-handbook-2011](http://www.slideshare.net/USArmySocialMedia/army-social-media-handbook-2011)

## USD-N SOCIAL MEDIA SITES



**Click on the logos shown above to go to a U.S. Division-North social media page and experience how U.S. Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn advise and assist the Iraqi Forces during Tadreeb al Shamil as well as conducting partnered patrols with their Iraqi counterparts, adding to the internal and external security of Iraq.**

Click on the links below to visit all the USD-N social media pages

[www.facebook.com/4thID](http://www.facebook.com/4thID)

[www.flickr.com/photos/the4id](http://www.flickr.com/photos/the4id)

[www.youtube.com/The4ID](http://www.youtube.com/The4ID)

[www.slideshare.com/net/the4id](http://www.slideshare.com/net/the4id)

[www.twitter.com/4thInfDiv](http://www.twitter.com/4thInfDiv)