

# THE *Ivy* LEAF

U.S. DIVISION-NORTH

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ESTABLISHED IN 1917 TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE



JUNE 24, 2011



## Sgt. Maj. of the Army visits COS Marez



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

Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III presents Spc. Richard Vidal, an infantryman from Brooklyn, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, with a coin during his visit to Contingency Operating Site Marez, Iraq, June 23, 2011. Chandler visited Iraq for the first time since assuming his role as the Army's senior enlisted leader in March.

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III met

with senior U.S. Division – North leaders, spoke with Soldiers and observed U.S. and Iraqi troops working together during a visit to Contingency Operating Sites Marez and Diamondback in Ninewa prov-

ince, Iraq, June 23.

As part of his first tour of Iraq since assuming the Army's top enlisted position March 1, Chandler discussed issues ranging from ending sexual harassment in the Army

to new uniform standards with senior noncommissioned officers during a lunch meeting at the COS Marez dining facility, and spoke with Soldiers during a town hall meeting at the COS  
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STEADFAST AND LOYAL  
IRONHORSE  
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# IRONHORSE STRONG: Soldier of the Week

Working as a platoon trainer at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center near Contingency Operating Site Marez, Iraq, Sgt. Daniel Martinez advises, trains and assists Iraqi Army soldiers who take part in the month-long training courses.

The chain of command of U.S. Division – North and 4th Infantry Division, recently recognized Martinez, a cavalry scout assigned to Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, as the “Ironhorse Strong” Soldier of the Week for his mentorship and training efforts with Iraqi soldiers at the training center.

“Martinez is an all around great noncommissioned officer, technically and tactically one of my best sergeants,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Hayes, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Troop C.

Ironhorse Strong Soldiers of the Week are nominated by their chain of command and recognized for their hard work and dedication in support of the U.S. Division – North mission in support of Operation New Dawn.

“Martinez trains and assists Iraqi soldiers on a daily basis at the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, and he’s also responsible for leading Soldiers within our platoon,” said Hayes, a native of Natchez, Miss.

“Two of his Soldiers recently participated in and won squadron-level Soldier of the Month competitions, which is a testament of how good of a leader he is,” Hayes added.

Currently on his second deployment to Iraq, Martinez trains Iraqi units on urban operations tactics, techniques and procedures during platoon-level exercises at the training center as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, an Iraqi military initiative focused on cohesive



U.S. Army photo

Sergeant Daniel Martinez, a cavalry scout assigned to Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, discusses urban operation with 3rd Iraqi Army Division soldiers at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Iraq, June 23, 2011. Currently serving in U.S. Division – North on his second deployment to Iraq, the Reno, Nev., native earned recognition as “Ironhorse Strong” Soldier of the week for his training efforts at GWTC.

training for Army units.

“It feels great to be recognized for the training we give to the Iraqis at Ghuzlani,” said Martinez, a native of Reno, Nev. “Accomplishments like this reflect on how well our unit is doing advising and assisting the Iraqi soldiers here.”

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## THE IVY LEAF

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1st Advise and  
Assist Task Force  
1st Infantry Division

2nd Advise and  
Assist Brigade  
1st Cavalry Division

4th Advise and  
Assist Brigade  
1st Cavalry Division

## SMA, cont'd from Pg. 1



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

**Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III addresses military issues with Soldiers deployed as part of U.S. Division – North during a visit to Contingency Operating Sites Marez and Diamondback in Ninewa province, Iraq, June, 23, 2011. During a question and answer period, the Soldiers, who are deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, asked Chandler about the future of Army policy and what he expects to change during his tenure as the Army's top enlisted Soldier.**

Diamondback theater.

Chandler asked the Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn to share their opinions on how to improve the quality of life for themselves and their comrades, and afforded troops the opportunity to ask questions about Army policy.

"Every one of you is doing a great job," he said. "You have a voice, use it. Be respectful, be tactful, but use your voice, because people will listen. From your voices comes change."

During the town hall meeting, Chandler impressed upon the junior troops the importance of stepping up as a new generation of young leaders ready to take responsibility for the future of the Army.

"It's not Sgt. Maj. Chandler or Gen. Dempsey or your brigade commander or sergeant major that will get our mission done," Chandler told the young leaders. "It is you team leaders,

you section sergeants, you platoon sergeants. You are going to make the Army successful. You are responsible for setting and maintaining the standard."

Chandler also toured the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center where U.S. Soldiers assigned to 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conduct military training with soldiers assigned to 3rd Iraqi Army Division.

He also visited a combined security checkpoint east of Mo-

**Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III speaks with Sgt. Maj. Bolan, senior enlisted leader, 1st Battalion, 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, about the combat readiness of Iraqi soldiers at the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, near Mosul, Iraq, June 23, 2011. Chandler visited the training center during his tour of Contingency Operating Sites Marez and Diamondback while on his first visit to Iraq since becoming the Army's senior enlisted leader in March.**

sul, where 4th AAB Soldiers advise, train and assist IA soldiers, policemen and Kurdish Peshmerga, who maintain security on the roads throughout Ninewa province.

By taking time to interact with "Long Knife" troopers of 4th AAB both in the field and on post, Chandler demonstrated to the Soldiers at the most basic level that they are valuable to the Army's overall mission and have a voice in the enactment of policies set down from the upper echelons of Army, said Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Overstreet, senior enlisted leader of 4th AAB.

"Soldiers need to see their senior leadership and have that opportunity to interact and share ideas with them openly about the future of our military," Overstreet said. "I'm sure he is very proud of the work and the job the 4th AAB has done during their tenure here in Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn."

Private 1st Class Daniel Garcia, Company A, 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th AAB, said Chandler's views on the Army's standards and expectation of excellence reinforced his desire to distinguish

himself and further his military career.

"This was an experience for a (junior) enlisted soldier like me," said the Los Angeles native. "I never met anyone higher up in the command than my brigade commander and command sergeant major. For a soldier like me, he reminded me I had to focus on education and career progression. To get anywhere in the Army, you have to have an education."

By personally meeting with Soldiers deployed to northern Iraq, Chandler demonstrated his commitment to the betterment of all of the men and women within the rank and file of the Army, said Staff Sgt. Adam Cunningham, Battery A, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th AAB.

"He didn't beat around the bush with his answers," said Cunningham, a Mason, Ky., native. "He gave us straight forward answers; either 'I do know,' 'I don't know,' or 'I will find the answer.'"

Cunningham said by visiting troops in Iraq, Chandler proved he is not above coming to the field to make sure his Soldiers know him and have their voices heard.



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

# Soldiers, Families celebrate Father's Day during deployment to Iraq

Sgt. Justin Naylor  
2nd AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – Missing important events like anniversaries, Christmas or New Year's Eve can be one of the hardest parts of a deployment. Fortunately, Soldiers and families still find ways to make these events special.

For two Soldiers of 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, "Black Jack," 1st Cavalry Division, currently serving at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, the thousands of miles separating them from Families in the U.S. was not enough to stop the troops from celebrating Father's Day.

"When I joined the Army, I expected to miss important events," said Pfc. Jared Knutson, an Olathe, Kan., native, and an infantryman with 2nd AAB.

Deployed for the first time, Knutson said this is the first Father's Day he missed since he found out his wife was pregnant with their daughter, Kylie, more than five years ago.

Knutson said he and his Family usually go out for a nice dinner on Father's Day and his wife, Jennie, usually buys him a present every year. This year, Jennie sent him a care package with small gifts and cards from Kylie and their youngest child,

Private 1st Class Jared Knutson, an Olathe, Kan., native, and an infantryman with 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, "Black Jack," 1st Cavalry Division, reads a card sent from his wife in celebration of Father's Day while deployed to Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, June 17, 2011.

Dylan.

"It was important for us to mail him cards from all three of us," said Jennie.

It is important for the children to show they are still thinking about their father and to understand he is still "Daddy" and still part of the Family, she added.

"It feels nice to see that even when I'm away, she still makes an effort to remember Father's Day," said Knutson.

For Staff Sgt. Semeli Toilolo, currently on his fourth deployment to Iraq, missing Father's Day is nothing new, but he said his Family still has some difficulties with it.

"It is still tough for her," Toilolo said of his wife of 13 years, Margaret.

Toilolo, who hails from American Samoa, said it was especially difficult for his wife on his second deployment when he was wounded by a suicide bomber and spent three months in recovery in Qatar.

"She asks me how many more Father's Days can I miss, but she understands," he said.

"The kids also ask why I'm not home for Father's Day," Toilolo continued. "I just



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Justin Naylor

say that I have to help the kids here first."

Toilolo, who has been an infantryman since 1998, said his wife usually makes a point of sending him a care package on Father's Day with letters from his four children and his favorite candy, chocolate.

"It's always an important event for our Family," said Toilolo. "It makes it a little easier for me knowing that she remembers every year. I always tell my wife not to worry about it; I don't need anything as long as I have her and the kids."

For Soldiers and Families separated by deployment, celebrating holidays may not be easy, but keeping connections is important, said Jennie.

"I think it is important for families to keep up with the holidays to show the children that they are still a Family," she said. "Just because their Soldier is deployed, it does not mean they cannot celebrate together. I find celebrating holidays to be a nice way of feeling that connection to our Soldier."

Staff Sergeant Semeli Toilolo, a native of American Samoa and an infantryman with 2nd AAB, "Black Jack," 1st Cav. Div., writes to his wife on a social networking site while serving at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, June 16, 2011.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Justin Naylor, 2nd AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

# Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade conduct fire team techniques at Manila Training Center

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

MANILA TRAINING CENTER, Iraq – Members of 1st Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade conducted fire team and buddy team maneuvers during a training exercise on small unit tactics at the Manila Training Center, Iraq, June 16.

Iraqi cadre, graduates of a previous course at MTC, facilitated and led the training to prepare KRGB soldiers for the live fire version of the exercise

scheduled to take place later in the week.

“This was a dry iteration that was done in preparation for the live fire exercise that they will do,” said Capt. Joe Kidder, commander, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division. “Each training event that we do here at Manila is done as a dry run, without the use of ammunition, but we also do live fire versions of each training exercise. This is one of the things that sets

Manila Training Center apart from other training areas in Iraq.”

Instructors at Manila build on a foundation of rudimentary soldiering skills using the “crawl, walk, run” method of continually building trainees’ skills into more advanced concepts.

“Today was pretty basic stuff; they worked on buddy team movements, or bounding, and fire team movements on an enemy position,” said Staff Sgt. David Benoit, Battery A. “We start with the small-

est unit size, the fire-team, because it is easier to grasp. Once they have a good base of knowledge, they will train these things again, but with more soldiers participating and larger unit sizes.”

Bounding is the tactical movement of a group toward an enemy objective while maintaining enough suppressive fire on the enemy to make the move possible.

Since the students just began the training cycle and are in the “crawl” phase of working collectively as units, cadre instilled the concepts with the trainees using the smallest maneuver elements – the buddy team and fire team.

“We start small and end up big,” said Kidder. “We start, really, at the individual soldier, and work our way up to things like fire teams, squads and platoons.”

Originally leading the training operation, U.S. forces now serve in a support and overwatch role, providing advice, as requested, to Iraqi instructors.

“Here at Manila, it is the Iraqi training center cadre, not us, who are in the lead and taking responsibility for the training mission here,” said Kidder. “This is exactly what the advise, train, and assist mission is about, and now we are seeing it come to fruition.”

A soldier with 1st Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade moves tactically toward an enemy objective while members of his fire team provide suppressive fire during a fire team movement training exercise at the Manila Training Center, Iraq, June 16, 2011. Trainees learned fundamentals of small unit tactics, such as moving in pairs and fire teams.

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

# Iraqi Army soldiers use urban assault tactics to eliminate threat at GWTC

4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Turner, 4th AAB PAO

Spc. Angel Turner  
4th AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq** – Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, applied lessons from squad and platoon urban operations training as they conducted company-level urban raid training at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Iraq, June 18.

Company leaders issued the operations order for capturing a suspected high value target prior to Iraqi soldiers building and rehearsing a plan to carry out the raid while U.S. Soldiers assessed the training.

Soldiers assigned to Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, assess the training of soldiers at GWTC during Tadreeb al Shamil, an ongoing Iraqi military initiative focused on modernizing combat capabilities.

“The purpose of this training is to show (the IA) different techniques to minimize casualties and give them better ideas on how to conduct their operations,” said Sgt.

A soldier with 1st Battalion, 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, provides inner cordon security while fellow soldiers search a building during urban operations training at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Iraq, June 18, 2011. U.S. Soldiers assigned to Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, advised and assisted the IA soldiers as the trainees searched multiple buildings for a suspected high value target and a factory utilized to manufacture improvise explosive devices during the training exercise.

Daniel Martinez, a scout team leader assigned to Troop C.

Moving as a platoon, Iraqi soldiers tactically moved to their objective, using only hand and arm signals to communicate. The units hid in the grass, using terrain to their advantage, before proceeding to their objective point.

“As a force, this training will help them to get to their target and ensure the safety of their people in the process,” said Martinez, a native of Reno, Nev.

Each platoon had a separate task during the company’s mission of securing the area. Two platoons set up inner and outer cordon security, while the last platoon assaulted the building, looking for an improvised explosive device factory and the suspected high value target.

“From the urban environment to the defense, ambush and attack training, all of this is used in modern warfare and even in normal operations that the IA have to conduct,” said Pfc. Michael Agunzo, a scout assigned to Troop C.

As part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, Iraqi soldiers learn tactics during the four-week rotations to help make them a sustainable force for their country.

At GWTC, IA soldiers build on a month of exercises before culminating with a battalion-level live fire event.

“This training is beneficial to the IA soldiers,” said Agunzo, a native of Levittown, N.Y. “We are setting these soldiers up for success. From the time they start to when they finish, they improve tremendously. It is like they are two different armies.”

Iraqi soldiers positioned themselves outside their objective with their weapons up and ready. The assault platoon searched

each room moving expeditiously to secure the area from the imposing threat.

Iraqi soldiers also use the current rotation at GWTC to prepare for Operation Iron Lion, a series of exercises conducted with Iraqi Police and 3rd Federal Police Division personnel to demonstrate cooperation and tactical skills between the Iraqi Security Forces.

“Getting this training from U.S. Soldiers helps us become a sustainable force,” said Pfc. Shaker Ahmed, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Bn., 10th Bde., 3rd IA Div.

“I joined the Army to serve my country and to help get rid of insurgents,” said Ahmed. This training will help us defeat them.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Turner, 4th AAB PAO

After getting into position, a soldier assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, motions for a platoon of soldiers to assault a building during urban operations training at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Iraq, June 18, 2011. Soldiers assigned to Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, trained with the IA soldiers at the squad and platoon level prior to the company level training event at GWTC.

# Head of the class

## First unit of expanded Combined Security Force graduate training

1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div.



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

The Kirkuk expanded Combined Security Force conducts a pass and review for the audience and distinguished visitors, introducing their newest company during a graduation ceremony at the Kirkuk Training Center, Iraq, June 20, 2011. The members, consisting of Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, and Kurdish Security Forces, marched carrying the Iraqi flag as a sign of their service to Iraq.

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

**KIRKUK TRAINING CENTER, Iraq** – The first company of the new Kirkuk expanded Combined Security Force “Golden Lions” graduated from the Kirkuk Training Center during a ceremony in Kirkuk, Iraq, June 21.

Graduates hosted several demonstrations showcasing the

eCSF’s abilities to assault an objective and capture violent extremists, and conduct precision drill and ceremony.

Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police, Kurdish Security Forces, and American Soldiers established the CSF in 2009 as a combined unit with the mission of working together to provide security in the area surrounding Kirkuk City.

“In 2009 you established a company-sized formation,”

said Col. Michael Pappal, commander, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, during his remarks. “Today, we are all here, witnessing your growth from a company to a battalion under American advisement, not control.”

The expansion to the battalion element capped a 30-day training cycle at the Kirkuk Training Center initially led by U.S. Soldiers, said Capt. Michael Neely, commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment.

“At first we were involved in training the new CSF, teaching them what needs to be taught and how to teach it,” said Neely, a Fort Worth, Texas, native. “Our goal was for them to train themselves.

During the training cycle, Neely said the eCSF trained on everything they needed to be an effective element in combat and security operations, with U.S. Soldiers present to ensure it is done correctly.

He said the training began with individual development consisting of classroom instruction on topics such as traffic control points, first aid and movement.

“The Iraqis training each other is what is best for them,” said Neely. “I feel that is the next step – them operating in-

dependently, taking care of themselves, each other and their country without the U.S.”

As U.S. Soldiers continue the advise, train and assist mission of Operation New Dawn, leaders of 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., transferred training responsibility of the Golden Lions battalion to Col. Salah of the Iraqi Police.

Prior to the event, Lt. Col. Joseph Holland, commander, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., served as the battalion commander for the CSF, considered a part of Company A, 2nd Bn.

“Today is important in many ways,” said Pappal, a Creekside, Pa., native. “It shows the cooperation of the Iraqi Security Forces at individual and senior levels in the province, the cooperation of the various ethnicities that makes Kirkuk unique, and how the security and welfare of the people of Kirkuk, of Iraq, are priority.”

As the eCSF guidon – a black flag crested with the head of a golden lion – passed from U.S. to Iraqi authority, Neely said the overall success of the eCSF lies within the members as they continue to provide security for Kirkuk province.

**Colonel Michael Pappal, commander, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, passes the “Golden Lions” expanded Combined Security Force guidon to new eCSF commander, Col. Salah, concluding the unit’s graduation ceremony at the Kirkuk Training Center, Iraq, June 20, 2011. Passing the guidon symbolized the transfer of training from U.S. to Iraqi responsibility.**



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins

# Ghost troopers mentor, develop IA leaders



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

**Sergeant Corey Maier, an armor crewman and team leader assigned to Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, observes an Iraqi infantryman assigned to 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, fire at a qualification target during a live fire exercise at Joint Security Station India, Iraq, June 16, 2011.**

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

JOINT SECURITY STATION INDIA, Iraq – Soldiers of 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, successfully qualified with their M16A4 rifles after firing several magazines of ammunition at a live fire training range at Joint Security Station India, Iraq, June 16.

“Ghost” troopers from Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, coached Iraqi instructors leading the weapons qualification for trainees.

“These guys have all the tools to be successful and proficient marksmen. Their instructors taught them well,” said Sgt. Corey Maier, an armor crewman and team leader assigned to Troop D.

Trained by U.S. Soldiers earlier this year, the Iraqi instructors taught their trainees how to utilize the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship – steady position, proper sight picture, breath control and trigger squeeze – to engage targets in the prone supported and unsupported firing positions.

“I know we’re making a difference here

when I see these instructors train their soldiers to successfully complete training events like this,” said Maier, a native of Cocoa Beach, Fla. “That is what being a noncommissioned officer is all about – training and leading soldiers.”

For the past eight months, Ghost Soldiers have advised, trained and assisted soldiers from 2nd IA Div., in support of Operation New Dawn.

Prior to becoming instructors, IA soldiers attended Operation Lion Leader



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

Forge, a monthlong training event at JSS India, where they learned enhanced military and leadership skills.

“When we first started this training program, it was U.S. Soldiers training future Iraqi instructors,” said Capt. Robert Prescott, commander of Troop D, 2nd Sqdn., 7th Cav. Regt. “Over the past couple of months, we’ve gradually handed-over responsibility of the training to the IA soldiers.”

During Lion Leader Forge, U.S. Soldiers taught their counterparts basic and advanced marksmanship techniques, contact and reaction drills, dismounted patrolling tactics and combat lifesaving skills.

Now that IA soldiers are the primary instructors, Ghost troopers observe and advise their former students on concepts that can improve the training course.

“The Iraqis are very proud to be in their current role. We are just here to support them in any way we can,” said Prescott, a native of Pomona, Calif.

While Iraqi instructors coached their trainees and reminded them to apply their firing fundamentals, U.S. Soldiers observed the instructors and acted as safety officers during the live fire exercise.

After trainees fired all their ammunition, U.S. mentors and IA instructors walked down the range to gather the paper targets and evaluate their performance.

“This is one of the best groups I’ve had the pleasure of working with,” said 1st Lt. Jordan Morris, platoon leader, Troop D. “They all qualified, and each one of them have the potential to be future instructors.”

In addition to the Lion Leader Forge training effort, U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces soldiers are preparing for Operation Iron Lion, a series of exercises demonstrating interoperability of ISF agencies.

“As a leader in today’s Army, it makes me feel good to know that we’ve set these Iraqi instructors up for success,” said Morris, a native of Port Allen, La. “I look forward to seeing these guys go on to do great things.”

**Corporal Bassan Mazyan, an infantryman and Iraqi instructor assigned to 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, coaches an Iraqi trainee as the soldier zeroes an M16A4 rifle during a live fire exercise at Joint Security Station India, Iraq, June 16, 2011.**

# Iraqi soldiers defend position during company level training at GWTC

Spc. Angel Turner  
4th AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq** – Concealing themselves in camouflaged firing positions, Iraqi soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, worked as a company to defend their positions during defense training at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Iraq, June 20.

Cavalry troopers of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, trained Iraqi soldiers on basic soldiering skills as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for

All Inclusive Training.

“We are training the IA soldiers so they can get the basic principles of defense,” said Sgt. John Daulton, a scout from Dayton, Ohio, assigned to Troop C.

“They are learning conventional warfare tactics – how to defend an area and where their front lines would be in the fight,” said Daulton.

U.S. trainers advised and assisted the Iraqi soldiers during the scenario, providing different methods to accomplish the objective.

“I think this training is essential (for the IA soldiers),” said Daulton, in regard to the defense training. “Whether they’re learning attack or am-

bush, at any point in time it can turn into a (defensive) situation.”

After waiting more than an hour in their defensive positions, gunshots finally broke the silence and IA soldiers proceeded to apply skills taught by U.S. trainers during the previous two weeks at GWTC.

Focusing on the attacking force, IA soldiers fired their weapons to eliminate “enemy” forces in their immediate area.

In between loud explosions and white smoke filling the air, Iraqi soldiers quickly moved back and forth between their primary and secondary fighting positions to better secure the area.

Iraqi soldiers assigned to

1st Battalion plan to showcase all of their training learned at GWTC during Operation Iron Lion later this month.

Iron Lion, which includes Iraqi Police, 3rd Federal Police and Iraqi Special Operations Forces, is designed to demonstrate Iraqi Security Forces’ abilities to collectively protect the local populace against internal and external threats.

“The populace needs to know that their soldiers can defend them,” said Sgt. Gregory Leavitt, a scout assigned to Troop C, and a native of Eureka, Calif.

“Here, Iraqi soldiers learn how to defend and take care of themselves for future operations,” he said.



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

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, provide security while fellow soldiers run to secondary fighting positions during training at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Iraq, June 20, 2011. U.S. Soldiers of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, provided basic defense training to Iraqi squads and platoons prior to their company level exercise in preparation for Operation Iron Lion later this week. Operation Iron Lion is an exercise including Iraqi Army soldiers, the 3rd Federal Police Division and Iraqi Police, intended to display the Iraqi Security Forces ability to protect Ninewa province.

# Military policeman strives to set standards

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – “Be the standard to set the standard.”

“I go by this motto that I got from my old desk sergeant,” said Cpl. Kevin Dickinson, a military policeman serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division.

“I believe in the need to lead from the front, whether in (physical training), paperwork, or appearance,” Dickinson added.

Growing up with his father in the Army, the Columbia, S.C., native said he knew being a Soldier was what he wanted to do, and his mother gave parental consent for him to enlist in the South Carolina Army National Guard at 17.

Dickinson said he chose to become an MP because he saw MPs setting standards and exemplifying professionalism in their day-to-day duties. Two years after joining the National Guard, Dickinson decided to transfer to active duty.

“I switched over because I enjoyed my Guard weekends and being in the Army environment,” said Dickinson.

During his first years of active duty, Dickinson worked police cases in Germany and credits that experience to the knowledge he is able to pass on to fellow Soldiers and noncommissioned officers in his current assignment.

“He stepped up as a very knowledgeable patrolman and taught classes on the COPS system,” said Staff Sgt. Leo Guzman, Dickinson’s squad leader, referring to the Centralized Operations Police Suite.

COPS allows MPs to input reports into a central database that can be accessed by any provost marshal in the world who uses the system, Guzman explained.

“Not only did he teach the Soldiers how to input cases, but he also taught the NCOs how to correct and process the cases in the system,” he added.

Although he’s known Dickinson for only five months, Guzman said Dickinson stands out in his professionalism and his selfless service.

“Dickinson exemplifies leadership by



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

**Corporal Kevin Dickinson, a military policeman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, monitors traffic exiting Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq, June 15, 2011.**

taking initiative in the absence of orders,” said Guzman, a native of Asheville, N.C. “He will not hesitate to accomplish a task. All he needs is to know the intent and the mission and he is already formulating a plan.”

Originally an MP with the 287th MP Company, 97th MP Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Dickinson said he volunteered to deploy with 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Inf. Div., in support of Operation New Dawn.

“Not knowing what mission was going to be, I stepped up and said I’ll go,” said Dickinson. “I’d seen so many Soldiers who’d deployed three to four times, and I figured it was my time. There was no use for someone who’s been deployed to (deploy again) if I hadn’t done my time yet.”

He also said he is proud to be a part of the “Devil” Brigade’s advise, train and assist mission by helping keep everyone safe.

“I would hope people feel a lot safer knowing we’re an internal quick reaction force,” said Dickinson. “We’re here, and they don’t have to worry about something happening because we’re here to help.”

MPs enforce the traffic code and ensure vehicle safety, and conduct roving patrols around COS Warrior to ensure the safety and protection of every Soldier, as well as

property on post, said Guzman.

MPs also respond to crimes, indirect fire alarms, and all first responder calls to assist with any casualties, he added. The bottom line, said Guzman, is the MP assists, protects, and defends the base from interior and exterior threats.

Dickinson works as an MP patrol supervisor and a desk NCO, managing patrols, ensuring paperwork is complete in accordance to standards, and providing MPs have everything they need for their shift.

Aside from his duties working at the MP station, Dickinson also assists and works with members of the Iraqi Air Force on COS Warrior.

“They will be taking over the gates, and we’re working and training them to be ready to do that,” said Dickinson. “We’ve taught them the basic stuff, such as how to properly run a gate and vehicle searches, so when we leave, they can do it on their own.”

At the end of the day, Dickinson said it is rewarding knowing he helped someone, whether it is a senior, peer, subordinate, or an Iraqi counterpart. He said there is anything he hopes to pass on to people he encounters, it is his standards and discipline to pay attention to little things, which he said makes a big difference.



# Chaplain's Corner: \_\_\_\_\_

## Maintaining Marital Integrity

Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Hurst  
Deputy Chaplain  
USD-N

Next month my wife and I will celebrate 35 years of marriage. Ok, that makes most of our Soldiers young enough to be our kids, and if you do the math that means we were married in the wild days of the mid-70s.

It was a very different world back then. Fashion fads included leisure suits, polyester pants and platform shoes. We were listening to great music: Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, the Eagles, Stevie Wonder and of course, it was the "Age of Disco" when the Bee Gees thrilled us with "Saturday Night Fever."

Novelist Tom Wolfe, in a New Yorker magazine article, called the 70s the "Me Generation" – a time when personal preferences and desires were more important than those of our society or our religious communities.

This was typically demonstrated when my soon-to-be bride and I attended the wedding of one of her childhood friends in upstate New York. Complete with appropriate leisure suit and min-skirt style wedding dress, the bride and groom came down the aisle to the 8-Track tape version of Paul Stookey's "Wedding Song." Yes, he is the Paul from Peter, Paul and Mary.

With minimal participation by the minister, the couple completed their marriage vows by simply saying, "We promise to love each other, as long as we both shall love."

It sounded so romantic and sentimental to all those Me-Generation folks at the time. But think about it – it does not promise to do anything beyond what a person felt like doing.

It said, "I will only love you when it is easy, convenient and does not interfere with other things in my life."

Clearly this was not the basis for a long-term relationship and did not provide the foundation upon which to face the hardships of the future.

On my previous deployment to this great vacation destination in beautiful sun-drenched Iraq, one of our unit's difficult obstacles was the hard work of maintaining marital fidelity when Soldiers were away from home.

Obviously, this is nothing new and must be confronted by every unit, in every deployment, and in every war. And we must confront it in U.S. Division – North in 2011 if we want to finish strong.

The problem is that some Soldiers come with a Me-Generation commitment in their marriages and are insufficiently equipped to make wise and loving choices to be faithful over the long haul of the deployment.

We are more than eight months into this mission, and it is never too late to look yourself in the mirror and remind yourself

what you are committed to back home. Let me explain.

First, you need to be convinced of the inescapable folly of letting yourself go down the path of marital unfaithfulness. The wisdom of Solomon has always re-enforced my thinking along this line.

Proverbs 6 warns us with the question, "Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?"

Solomon's intent in Proverbs 6 is to warn his son about the end state of such action. We must reinforce our heart by deciding ahead of time that marital infidelity is not an option. The decision must be made before the temptation arrives.

To not decide is to leave ourselves open for Family heartbreak and ruin. This is very much a matter of the heart. Folks who value and treasure their loved ones will act wisely.

Second, use Army resources to strengthen your relationship with your spouse. Talk to your chaplain or behavioral health counselors about what is happening in your relationships. Look for healthy ways to build up your commitment to your spouse. We are surrounded by valuable technology that allows us much greater access to our Families than any time previously.

Thankfully, we are no longer limited to the Me-Generation philosophy of the 70s. Do the hard work of protecting your loved ones back home by maintaining



— U.S. Division-North Social Media Sites —

To view more photos and read the stories that go along with them, check out the link below to view the U.S. Division-North Facebook page!

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

# Hey Doc: *‘Is it ok to have pets now?’*

Maj. David Schnabel  
Preventive Medicine  
USD-N Surgeon

*“Hey Doc, I wrote to you earlier in the deployment and your reply said I couldn’t feed a stray cat near my CHU, but I recently saw this cute picture of a Soldier in Afghanistan holding two feral puppies on the AKO sign-in page. That must mean that it’s now OK to have pets in Iraq, right?”*

*Signed, “Beef Jerky Joe”*

Dear “Joe,”

I saw that picture on AKO, too. I am concerned because it conveys the notion that it is

ok to hold and keep animals in Iraq and Afghanistan. This impression is absolutely wrong.

General Order Number 1A, Paragraph K, still states, “Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic wild animal,” is off limits.

To reiterate our past response, the U.S. military is not trying to restrict your contact with feral animals out of mean-spiritedness. It is because we fear the risk of rabies, which if not treated quickly after exposure to an animal bite or animal saliva, is almost 100 percent fatal. Last year, 26 percent of all animals that bit

service members in Iraq tested positive for rabies, so the risk is very high. In the U.S., the riskiest animals are bats, raccoons, and opossums, with less risk within the dog and cat population because of animal and public health efforts.

In Iraq, there are no such animal and public health efforts, so dogs and cats are the biggest risks, though any mammals encountered, besides small rodents, are potentially dangerous.

It is impossible to tell if an animal carries rabies, so stay away and call the Preventive Medicine folks.

If you are unlucky enough

to be bit or scratched by an animal, vigorously scrub the wound with soap and water – which decreases chance of infection by over half – and immediately go to the nearest medical provider. Medical personnel will administer the rabies treatment, which consists of injections of immunoglobulin and vaccine administered over a couple of weeks.

Of course, this treatment is not 100 percent effective, so the best thing to do is avoiding picking up those puppies.

Save your love and attention for your pets back home, Joe, and keep those Taskforce Ironhorse questions coming!

## Food service Soldier keeps unit fed at training outpost

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

MANILA TRAINING CENTER, Iraq – Soldiers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, recently assumed responsibility of operations and manning the remote training outpost at the Manila Training Center in Kirkuk province, Iraq.

The field artillery soldiers, deployed to northern Iraq as part of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, do not, however, go without hot, fresh cooked meals during their days.

Specialist Clifford Stewart, food service specialist with Company B, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st AATF, works at the training center to provide support to fellow Soldiers training Iraqi forces in support of Operation New Dawn.

“My mission here at Manila is to provide support to the Soldiers of the (1st Bn., 5th FA Regt.) while they are out here on this outpost conducting their training mission,” said Stewart. “This is the first time I have been out to a place like Manila. It is an eye-opener; it really makes you appreciate everything that is on the larger posts here in Iraq.”

Stewart currently serves as the only food

service specialist on the outpost at Manila Training Center. He provides two hot meals per day – a breakfast and a dinner – as well as a cold-cut sandwich lunch for Soldiers to grab and eat while on the run or working.

“Our days are pretty busy; we only have one battery of Soldiers here to go out and conduct the advise, train, and assist missions, pull security, and conduct the base defense mission,” said Sgt. Ian Blankenship, Battery A. “It really helps to know that there is going to be a hot meal at the beginning and at the end of the day. It’s a big morale booster.”

Each morning, Stewart is one of the first Soldiers to be up and moving at Manila. If Soldiers find themselves awake at 4:30 a.m., they can find Stewart firing up the burners in his kitchen to make sure Soldiers have the nourishment they need to accomplish the mission, day in and day out.

Stewart said he typically begins his day at 4:30 a.m., and finishes cooking the last meal of the day around 6:30 p.m.

“The most gratifying part of being out here at Manila is being able to provide the Soldiers out here with the meals they desperately need,” said Stewart. “If I wasn’t here to do this job, the Soldiers out here would be limited to MREs, or meals ready to eat. Their job is hard enough living out



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

**Specialist Clifford Stewart, a food service specialist with Company B, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, prepares dinner chow for Soldiers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st AATF, at Manila Training Center, Iraq, June 18, 2011.**

here, on an outpost like this ... having to go without good food.”