

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

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ESTABLISHED IN 1917 TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE



JULY 22, 2011



## Working with Combined Security Force a positive experience for 1st AATF Soldier

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – For one infantryman serving with 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, working alongside Iraqi counterparts during Operation New Dawn proved to be a profound experience.

Currently on his first deployment to Iraq, Pfc. Anthony Richardson, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st AATF, trains and conducts operations with the Kirkuk expanded Combined Security Force – a unit comprised of Iraqi Army soldiers, Kurdish Regional Guard and Iraqi Policemen.

“On a daily basis we work with the (eCSF),” said Richardson, a native of Marion, Ohio.

“We load up and head out to the training areas, or we gear up to go out on a combined patrol with them; there usually isn’t a day that goes by where we aren’t with those guys. We have been together so much that working with the (eCSF) guys is really not any different than working with my platoon-mates now,” said Richardson.

Working with the eCSF is a unique and momentous task-



U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Steven Sierras, Company A, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

**Private 1st Class Anthony Richardson, an infantryman assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, walks with members of the Kirkuk expanded Combined Security Force during a patrol in Kirkuk City, Iraq, March 8, 2011. The expanded Combined Security Force is comprised of Iraqi Army soldiers, Kurdish Regional Guard and Iraqi Policemen serving together in one unit to provide security throughout Kirkuk province.**

ing, especially since the eCSF expanded into a battalion-sized element, said Spc. Raul Verduzco, Company A, who serves as Richardson’s team leader.

Richardson said the eCSF trains on the same tactics that U.S. forces train on, including basic rifle marksmanship, small unit tactics, first aid and counter insurgency operations. They respond to the training well, he added.

Many people respond to

the rigors of a yearlong deployment in a variety of ways. Some read, some go to the gym, others immerse themselves in reflecting upon their missions.

“This is his first deployment, and I’m sure like most of us, he didn’t really expect to be doing this type of (advisory) mission,” said Verduzco, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. “Working so closely with the (eCSF), however, has really had an impact on him. For a guy his

age to be working in such a significant position, on such a unique mission, it’s pretty life-changing.”

“Instead of just trying to do his deployment time and go home, Richardson has really adapted to the mission and embraced it,” said Verduzco.

“It has helped him mature, and I believe that he is a much better Soldier and a better person as a result,” he added.

After nearly a full year of  
**See WORK, Pg. 3**



# IRONHORSE STRONG:

## Soldier of the Week

Soldiers learn a variety of skills throughout their military careers, from basic drill and ceremony to combat operations. Each skill serves an important role in the day-to-day life of every service member.

Specialist Zachary Parker, a cannon crew member, distinguished himself for using his skills, and potentially saving the life of an Iraqi soldier assigned to the Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade at Manila Training Center, June 28.

Parker, assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, uses his knowledge of military tactics to train RGB Soldiers, teaching them to safely engage targets and maneuver the training area without sustaining injury during courses at MTC.

"We looked at it as just another day hiking up and down the mountains towards the ranges to support the RGB," said Parker, who calls New Gloucester, Maine, home.

During the culminating live fire event, Parker noticed one of the trainees showing symptoms of becoming a heat casualty.

Disregarding his own safety, Parker ran over mountainous terrain and pulled the RGB soldier into a shady area and immediately began administering first aid.

"It first felt like training back at the states; just one of those lanes we have to go through," said Parker. "But then I realized that this was for real and that this guy actually needed help."

After treatment from Parker, the trainee recovered and completed the day's training with his unit.



U.S. Army photo

Specialist Zachary Parker, a cannon crew member assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, prepares for a mission at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk province, Iraq, July 21, 2011. Parker performed first aid on a Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade soldier showing signs of heat exhaustion during a training exercise, June 28. For his actions of protecting the well-being of the trainee, Parker earned the title of U.S. Division – North "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week.

Parker's actions exemplified the warrior spirit of the U.S. Army and his dedication to the partnership between U.S. forces and Iraqi forces, earning him the title of "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week.

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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



# U.S. forces transfer COS Sykes to ISF

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – U.S. forces officially transferred responsibility of Contingency Operating Site Sykes to Iraqi Security Forces, June 14.

Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, spent more than a month preparing the base for use by 10th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division.

U.S. forces manned the base, located near Tal Afar, since the initial stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Once OIF transitioned to Operation New Dawn, U.S. forces assumed an advisory role to prepare ISF units to secure Iraq from threats.

"This is the largest base so far that we have transitioned since arriving in country," said Lt. Col Paul Reese, deputy commanding officer, 4th AAB.

Reese said recent gains in security provided U.S. and Iraqi forces the opportunity to successfully transfer the base.

"COS Sykes could not have transitioned if the Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces were not working together in western Ninewa," said Reese, a native of St. Louis.



U.S. Army photo

**Iraqi Army Officers sign paperwork to transfer authority of Contingency Operating Site Sykes from U.S. to Iraqi responsibility during a meeting at the base, July 13, 2011.**

COS Sykes supported several checkpoints and combined security areas in the region around Tal Afar, many of which U.S. forces have already transitioned to the responsibility of Iraqi Army or Kurdish Security Forces.

"Right now the Iraqi Army is stationed in the city itself," said Reese. "As security continues to improve out there, one of the goals is to bring the Iraqi Army out of the city to allow the Iraqi Police to provide security inside the city."

Many Iraqi soldiers who assumed responsibility for operations at COS Sykes

are graduates of Tadreeb al Shamil, an all-inclusive training program conducted with U.S. forces at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center earlier this year.

"The forces that are operating around Sykes and Tal Afar are the same forces that we've been training here as part of Tadreeb al Shamil," said Reese. "These units are much more capable now that they've gone through a rotation here and they are more effective in their area of operations."

Captain Kyle Eldridge, a native of Bryson City, N.C., and commander of Battery A, 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., said U.S. forces transferred the base with many of the amenities intact for Iraqi forces, giving them a head start on operations.

U.S. forces reallocated the equipment through the Foreign Excess Personnel Property program, which is designed to identify and distribute eligible property items to the Iraqi government.

Soldiers continue to transition FEPP items, such as housing units, office and power supplies, to help build capabilities of Iraqi Security Forces units during Operation New Dawn.

"We left all of the living quarters, maintenance bays and some other equipment necessary to run their day-to-day operations such as generators," Eldridge said.

## WORK, Cont'd from Pg. 1

training, instructing and conducting operations with members of the eCSF, Richardson's time in Kirkuk province is nearly over.

Richardson said the measure of success in the mission will be seen in the future of the eCSF units he and his company helped train.

"They are pretty much going to be operating completely independently from us, and it is extremely gratifying to see them get to this point and to know that I personally had a hand in it," said Richardson.

"We were here to not only witness, but also help facilitate the expansion and the growth of the original CSF company into a battalion-sized element that works alongside U.S. forces

with its own operational footprint on COS Warrior," said Richardson. "I have learned a lot over the course of this tour, not only about myself, but about the people and culture of Iraq."

Richardson said he feels a great part of himself was invested in the growth of the eCSF, and a great part of the eCSF provided him personal development.

"It's an experience I will carry with me for a long time," he said.

**Private 1st Class Anthony Richardson, an infantryman serving with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, speaks with a Kurdish boy while on a combined security patrol with Iraqi forces in Kirkuk, Iraq, March 8, 2011.**



U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Steven Sierras, Company A, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

# JNN Soldiers keep the force connected



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

**Specialist Jordan Edwards, a multi-channel transmission systems operator and maintainer, Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, performs maintenance checks on a satellite transportable terminal at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 2, 2011.**

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Throughout history, timely and accurate communication between commanders and soldiers on the front lines meant the difference between victory and defeat.

In the past, the military used couriers and aerial telegraphy to communicate information and orders. In the modern Army, Soldiers communicate via secure radios, telephones and computer networks.

Soldiers assigned to the Joint Node Network section, Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, carry on this tradition by keeping the U.S. Division – North command structure connected to

subordinate units throughout northern Iraq.

“We are the backbone of both secret and unclassified communications for U.S. Division – North,” said Staff Sgt. Ian Riley, day shift noncommissioned officer in charge, JNN section. “The intent of our job is to keep the command connected to the units on the ground.”

Many communications Soldiers traveled to Contingency Operating Base Speicher in the Salah ad Din province ahead of the command staff to ensure the Soldiers of DSTB arrived with a solid communications network already in place.

Without communications Soldiers, leaders would not have an accurate picture of what is happening in the field, said Riley, who hails from Enumclaw, Wash.

“Our first priority is always

to ensure that those lines of communication stay open at all times,” he said.

The JNN Soldiers maintain clear communications by operating and maintaining both the satellite, line-of-sight and wired communications equipment, sometimes a daunting task in the harsh conditions of northern Iraq, said Spc. Jordan Edwards, a multi-channel transmissions systems operator assigned to the JNN section.

“The command chain needs to be in the know when it comes to what is happening on the battlefield,” said Edwards, who calls Fredericksburg, Va., home. “They can’t stay informed if we don’t maintain our systems. We’ve had to deal with dust storms, which can put a lot of wear on our satellite systems. There are power outages, and we drilled constantly when we first arrived in country

to handle those. All in all, we have become very proficient at keeping our systems running and keeping everyone connected during this deployment.”

Whatever the challenge, JNN Soldiers will do whatever it takes to keep the flow of information moving, said Cpl. Holly Hinojosa, signal support systems specialist, JNN section, currently serving on her second deployment as a part of DSTB.

“Things have been a lot more hectic this deployment,” said Hinojosa, a Sebring, Fla., native. “There has been a lot more going on, and we have had a lot less down time, but we have a good team here and I really feel like we have risen to the occasion.”

In addition to keeping lines of communication open, the JNN section’s leadership puts a  
**See JNN, Pg. 5**



# Logistics Soldiers compete in truck rodeo



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Justin Naylor, 2nd AAB PAO

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – When most people hear the word rodeo, images of horses and the “Wild West” spring to mind. For Army logisticians, it brings to mind something completely different.

Soldiers of Company A, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, showed off their skills during a multi-day gun truck rodeo event at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 15.

During the rodeo, squads competed in various tasks such as operating a radio, assembling a squad automatic weapon, and conducting a quick recovery mission on a broken vehicle.

“The goal of the truck rodeo is to inspire

Staff Sergeant Charles Grant, a Bronx, N.Y., native, and a motor transportation operator assigned to Company A, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, tests a clamp used to tow armored vehicles before his squad participates in a gun truck “rodeo” at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 15, 2011.

Soldiers, while at the same time testing their skill level,” said Sgt. Francisco Duran, from Post, Texas, who helped test Soldiers during the rodeo.

For Soldiers who participated, the rodeo offered a chance to demonstrate their proficiencies at tasks that are essential to their daily operations.

The group of gun truck operators routinely escort and provide security for large numbers of civilian and Army logistical convoys, many of which supply necessary supplies and equipment to remote bases in U.S. Division – North.

“We are always trying to compete to see who is the best,” said Staff Sgt. Omar Bouie, a Newark, N.J., native and a motor transportation operator with 15th BSB. “Everyone talks a good game, but this is their chance to prove it.”

This is a good opportunity to show the company and battalion what Soldiers learned in training and daily operations, said Spc. Preston Purnell, a Baltimore native from Company A.

Besides providing a competitive outlet,

Soldiers also used the truck rodeo as a catalyst for cross training.

During the rodeo, every Soldier had to show proficiency at each position, from driver to truck commander to gunner, regardless of their normal duties in the truck, explained Capt. Adam Bradford, from Little Rock, Ark., and commander of Company A.

“We want to make sure everyone is cross-trained on every task,” he continued. “That way any one of them can step into a different seat and execute that task.”

During the rodeo, Soldiers continued training on tasks that are vital to their daily jobs.

“Everything we did here is something we do on missions,” said Purnell.

Soldiers do not always get the chance to fill every role in the truck, and if they don’t practice on these different tasks, Soldiers might not be as effective at other roles, he added.

Although the competition will only produce one winning squad, it affords all the participants the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills.

“Being the best at what we do is something we take pride in,” said Duran. “Soldiers that might not do the greatest at a certain task today will study and be ready to come back and compete even harder during the next rodeo.”

## JNN, Cont'd from Pg. 4

high value on improving themselves both as soldiers and as individuals, she added.

Hinojosa said she took advantage of the opportunity to gain experience as a junior leader during her months with the JNN section.

“Being a junior NCO this deployment has been an awesome experience for me,” Hinojosa said. “It is a challenge to figure out what style of leadership works for your Soldiers, but it is great to get to know

them and learn how to work with them. I am still working on being a strict authoritarian when I need to be, but this deployment has truly been a great learning experience for me.”

Riley credits the Soldiers on his team for a successful deployment. “They have done an outstanding job and have taught me a great deal about this career field. We have accomplished a lot together, and I am grateful for such outstanding Soldiers.”

Corporal Holly Hinojosa, a signal support systems specialist from Sebring, Fla., assigned to the Joint Node Network section, Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, prepares a Secure, Mobile Anti-Jam, Reliable Tactical Terminal, for an inspection at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 18, 2011.



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

# Infantryman sees progress through deployments

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

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq** – Since the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, thousands of Soldiers witnessed progress throughout their deployments to Iraq.

For Sgt. Kevin Chapman, a squad leader with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, being a part of the transition from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn shaped his career as a Soldier.

Chapman said he always wanted to serve in the armed forces, and enlisted in the Army in 2005.

“I joined the Army to try to make a difference for my country,” said the Conyers, Ga., native. “I knew it was something I could make a career out of and do for the rest of my life.”

Deploying from 2005 to 2007 with 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, from Friedberg, Germany, Chapman said he served as a gunner for the mortar platoon, but was later tasked as the radio and telephone operator in the fire direction center.

After the deployment, Chapman was reassigned to Fort Hood, Texas, where he currently serves.

After deploying twice during the middle and latter parts of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Chapman said his current tour in support of Operation New Dawn is different because of U.S. forces’ current role to advise Iraqi Security Forces.

“During my first deployment we did presence patrols and terrain denial,” said Chapman. “We would go out to show we



Army photo by Staff Sgt. Robert DeDeaux, 1st AATF PAO

**Sergeant Kevin Chapman, a native of Conyers, Ga., and an infantryman and squad leader assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, gears up after leaving the Emergency Services Unit headquarters in Kirkuk, Iraq, July 16, 2011.**

were there and we were a force. We were more aggressive during the (my first tour) and we didn’t work directly with the ISF.”

Chapman said he saw the transition in operations begin during his second deployment in 2008.

“In 2008 and 2009, I witnessed transition,” said Chapman. “After the agreements between the U.S. and Iraq, we had to have an ISF counterpart with us, and we worked closely with them, training them on how to shoot mortars.”

“Instead of being the dominant force and telling them what to do and how to do it, we

asked for suggestions and their opinions on the training we gave,” he said.

U.S. and Iraqi forces cooperated and combined strengths to develop training and mission schedules, while letting Iraqis take the lead, he added.

Specialist John Charles, one of Chapman’s squad members, said prior experiences definitely influence Chapman’s ability to be a great leader.

“He gets a lot of responsibility dumped on him, more than anybody else, and he handles it with a sense of humor and a pride about him that I’ve not seen from another Soldier,” said Charles, a native of Hous-

ton.

Chapman consistently performs above his current rank, Charles added.

Now, with the mission of an advise and assist task force, Chapman said it is important for U.S. forces to teach the ISF to maintain an active presence in their country.

“We want them to take the reins, step in and continue taking over everything we do,” said Chapman. “It’s important for us to teach and show them, and hopefully when we leave, they will be better able to utilize the training we’ve given them and it will continue making them better.”

1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div.



# Constant Vigilance: Every Soldier does their part

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – When a Soldier deploys, their routine changes greatly. As they make the transition from life in the U.S. to life in Iraq or Afghanistan, Soldiers learn a whole new set of rules and restrictions.

Soldiers of U.S. Division – North, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, are required to travel in groups and are told to maintain situational awareness, paying close attention to detail, both on and off U.S. installations.

These rules are put in place to keep Soldiers safe and guard against hostile activity, said Sgt. Maj. Jerry Eddin, 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division – North senior enlisted advisor for force protection.

“Every Soldier is responsible for force protection,” said Eddin, who hails from Houston. “It doesn’t matter where you are this deployment, on the base all day or outside the wire, you are still in Iraq and your attention to detail could save a Soldier’s life.”

Eddin said there is no more valuable tool to prevent a security breach than the Soldier, watchful and aware of his or her surroundings.

Soldiers tasked with the specific mission of protecting the service members and civilians deployed to bases throughout northern Iraq do an outstanding job of mitigating potential threats, said Master Sgt. James Meneley, vulnerability assessment NCOIC, 4th Inf. Div. and U.S. Division – North.

“We have improved our base security measures greatly over the past eight years or so,” said Meneley, who calls Colorado

Springs, Colo., home. “We have a great defense team, but that being said, our Soldiers should still sweat the little stuff.”

The fight against complacency starts with good leaders who pass on their experience and knowledge to their junior Soldiers, said Eddin.

“NCOs need to make sure their Soldiers are doing the right thing,” he said. “They need to make sure their Soldiers are squared away, always traveling in battle buddy teams, and always have their personal protective items. They should make sure their Soldiers are up to date on all of their battle drills, tactics and procedures so they know how to handle any situation.”

While vitally important, maintaining personal force protection measures does not need to be difficult, said Maj. Robert West, deputy force protection chief, 4th Inf. Div. and U.S. Division – North.

“The bottom line is that we are in a war zone and we need to keep each other safe,” said West. “Most force protection measures are not complicated. Simple things like having a battle buddy make a world of difference when it comes to keeping our Soldiers safe. Just remember that you are not at home, you are in Iraq, and stay in tune with the events going on around us.”

Eddin said he wants Soldiers to treat force protection measures as a part of their military routine.

“Don’t give force protection a day off,” said Eddin. “Treat it like physical training. You always have to push yourself, you can always get better and that could mean the difference between Soldiers living and dying.”

## “HOW CAN SOLDIERS OF U.S. DIVISION – NORTH PROTECT THE FORCE?”



**“Always be prepared, keep your head on the swivel, even when you’re just walking to chow.”**

—Specialist Carlos Hernandez, mechanic, 370th Transportation Company, 275th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, from Brownsville, Texas.

**“You have to stay vigilant, you never know what could happen. Be alert to your surroundings, if you see anything that could be wrong, tell someone.”**

—Private 1st Class Yadira Campbell, combat medic, Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, from Fresno, Calif.



**“Remember where you are. Even though we have many of the amenities a garrison environment would bring, never allow yourself to become complacent.”**

—Staff Sergeant Justin Deal, battle noncommissioned officer, Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, from Lytton, Iowa.



**“We use battle buddy teams and stay aware of our surroundings at all times, because we want ourselves and all of our team to make it home safe.”**

—Specialist Rebecca Seiler, imagery intelligence analyst, Company B, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, from Cibola, Texas.





# Troops jam out on COB Speicher



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

**Chaka Khan, a Grammy Award-winning recording artist whose platinum-selling albums span four decades, shares her vocal talents with service members and civilians deployed to Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 14, 2011. Khan and bluesman Carvin Jones visited COB Speicher during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation tour of Iraq for troops deployed in support of Operation New Dawn.**

Spc. Andrew Ingram  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Critically acclaimed recording artist Chaka Khan and bluesman Carvin Jones treated service members and civilians in U.S. Division – North to a night of high-energy music at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 14.

As Khan began to sing, audience crowded around the stage to get a better view of the singer. They whistled, danced and sang along as the diva belted out hits and got the crowd involved in the show, sharing the microphone with members of the audience.

The Grammy Award-winning singer also thanked the troops for their commitment to duty and wished them a safe return to their Families and loved ones.

“This is my wish for all of you,” said Khan. “I wish that all of you would return home safely to everlasting love.”

Sergeant Latasha Scott, a food service specialist with Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, said Khan put on one of the best shows to come through COB

Carvin Jones, a blues singer and guitarist from Lufkin, Texas, gets up-close and personal with U.S. Division – North service members and civilians during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation concert at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 14, 2011.

Speicher.

“She is a legend,” said Scott, a Savannah, Ga., native, who began listening to Khan as a young girl. “It is so great that she came out there to play for us. She made a lot of Soldiers’ day; I know she totally made mine.”

Before Khan hit the stage, Carvin Jones opened up the show with his own brand of the blues.

“I don’t know if you ever heard of us before tonight,” said Jones, moments before kicking off the show. “But we are all going

to jam out!”

Jones, who originally hails from Lufkin, Texas, spent the next hour dashing through classic blues and rock ‘n’ roll tracks. He stayed on stage for the vocals, but often waded through the crowd to give audience members an up-close and personal look at his musical chops during guitar solos.

“This is amazing,” said Spc. Thilo Finley, a food service specialist assigned to 89th Transportation Company, 275th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. “It is **See SHOW, Pg. 9**



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



# 'Long Knife' troops transfer responsibility of JSS IMN



U.S. Army photo

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – As Operation New Dawn continues, service members throughout Iraq now shift into security overwatch roles as they transition military bases to Iraqi control.

Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division,

oversaw the transfer of Joint Security Station Iraqi Media Network from U.S. control to the government of Iraq, July 15.

"This base transfer will help the Iraqi Security Forces, because it gives them an additional base to work out of and more area to house their soldiers in better conditions," said Lt. Col. Paul Reese, deputy commander, 4th AAB.

Since deploying last fall to U.S. Division – North, Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., stationed at JSS

Captain Warren Sears, left, commander, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks with Iraqi Army officers during the transfer of authority for Joint Security Station Iraqi Media Network, July 15, 2011. U.S. Soldiers assigned to 4th AAB transferred responsibility of the base and the surrounding area to Iraqi Security Forces in Ninewa province in support of Operation New Dawn.

IMN worked to support the neighboring patrol bases and checkpoints east of Mosul.

In addition to providing logistical support to nearby bases, U.S. Soldiers also advised and trained their Iraqi counterparts who resided on the base with them.

The transfer of JSS IMN is a symbol of the Iraqi Security Forces' ability to handle security in this section of eastern Mosul, said Reese.

"(It shows the Iraqi people that) U.S. forces are no longer

needed to train the ISF," said Reese, a native of St. Louis. "So U.S. forces are going to withdraw and turn one more piece of security over to the Iraqi forces."

During the past 10 months, 4th AAB Soldiers assisted in transferring multiple military bases and facilities to the Iraqi government in support of Operation New Dawn.

"The Soldiers at JSS IMN did a fantastic job training the ISF soldiers and providing logistical support to nearby bases," said Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Griffith, the senior enlisted advisor of the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.

"We have trained the ISF and transferred facilities over to the Iraqi government, and we will continue to assist them as we transition to an overwatch role while they conduct their security operations," said Griffith, a native of Washington, D.C.

## SHOW, Cont'd from Pg. 8

such a great honor to see these amazing, talented people come out and support us. The whole show was such a great experience."

During the show, Finley won the door prize – a brand new electric guitar, and a free concert for the 89th Transportation Company featuring Jones when the unit returns to Fort Eustis, Va.

"I don't play the guitar yet, but you can bet I am going to learn," said Finley, a Baltimore native. "This concert is probably one of the best I've had in three deployments."

Jones said he enjoyed playing for the deployed service members and looked forward to playing for them more in the future.

"The highlight for me is that the Soldiers are really enjoying the shows," said Jones. "I didn't know what to expect when I came out here to Iraq, but there has been a really fantastic response."

The bluesman said visiting with the service members throughout Iraq humbles him and makes him appreciate the many of the things he took for granted in the U.S.

"I have a lot more respect for the troops now that I've seen what they have to go through every day," said Jones. "The heat is unreal, and they are always working. It's impressive what those guys have to do."

Funk, jazz and rhythm and blues singer Chaka Khan holds out the microphone for Soldiers and civilians deployed in support of Operation New Dawn to sing along to one of her hits during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation concert for at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 14, 2011. Khan said she visited Iraq because she wanted to raise the spirits of troops separated from their families and loved ones while deployed in support of Operation New Dawn.



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



# Motor sergeant supports Fort Hood troops in Iraq

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Whether they are under the hood of a tactical vehicle conducting preventive maintenance checks and services or shipping personnel and goods, U.S. Army motor transport operators are a critical part of any unit's mission.

"We PMCS the vehicles, drive them and distribute supplies throughout the entire unit," said Sgt. Jackloid Carino, a motor transport operator assigned to Forward Support Company G, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

Currently on his second deployment to Iraq, Carino is a team leader in the distribution platoon, responsible for leading two other Soldiers in his section and overseeing distribution operations for the unit.

"It's a big responsibility to be a motor transport operator," said Carino, a native of Honolulu, Hawaii. "We do more than just drive. We assist in tracking and keeping accountability of ... supplies."

For the past four years, Carino served with the battalion's distribution platoon, ensuring that no matter where fellow Soldiers operated, they received supplies and equipment in a timely manner.

Carino recently earned recognition as



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

**Sergeant Jackloid Carino, a motor transport operator assigned to 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, secures a ladder onto an M1075 palletized load system truck at Contingency Operating Site Marez, Iraq, July 12, 2011.**

"Long Knife" Transition Soldier of the Week for superior performance serving as a team leader and supporting the brigade's ongoing mission in U.S. Division – North.

"Among all my Soldiers, Carino stands out as one of my 'go-to' guys, and it's great he was recognized for his hard work and

dedication," said Sgt. 1st Class Huong Brackens, the distribution platoon noncommissioned officer in charge.

In addition to his duties as a team leader for the platoon, Carino also maintains a palletized loading system for all types of distribution missions in the tactical environment.

The distribution platoon uses the loading equipment to provide rapid movement of combat-configured loads of ammunition and all classes of supply to the battalion's troops stationed in northern Iraq.

"He knows what it takes to accomplish the mission, and he gets the job done right the first time," said Brackens, a native of Teague, Texas. "Carino has done a lot within his (military occupational specialty) since enlisting. He's a great addition to the unit, and I'm positive he'll go on to do great things for the Army."

**Sergeant Jackloid Carino, a native of Honolulu, Hawaii, and motor transport operator assigned to Forward Support Company G, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducts preventive maintenance checks and services underneath an M1075 palletized load system truck at Contingency Operating Site Marez, Iraq, July 12, 2011.**



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



# Medics train Soldiers on life-saving techniques

Sgt. Quentin Johnson  
2nd AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq** – Soldiers of 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, completed a four-day combat lifesaver course at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 10-13.

Combat medics assigned to Company C, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd AAB, led the 40-hour course at various locations throughout the base for more than 25 Soldiers participating in the course.

The class is designed to teach Soldiers with no medical-related experience basic and advanced first aid techniques, said Spc. Tacy Caffey, a medic from Seminole, Texas, with Company C.

Soldiers learned a diverse curriculum that included lectures, hands-on demonstrations, lane training and a written exam, said Caffey.

Within the curriculum, Soldiers learned skill sets such as controlling bleeding, proper use of a tourniquet, applying a nasal pharyngeal airway, and performing needle chest compressions, she said.

Specialist Michael Olsen, a student in the course, said using the training properly will ensure wounded Soldiers have more time to be treated by medical personnel.

“(CLS) is about ... saving peoples’ lives,” said Olsen, an intelligence systems maintainer with Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd AAB.

Even though he is not a medic, Olsen said that basic knowledge of immediate medical care is vital, because a medical professional may not always be around.

“In case the medic goes



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Quentin Johnson, 2nd AAB PAO

**Specialist Michael Olsen, right, an intelligence systems maintainer assigned to Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, bandages a simulated casualty's face during a combat lifesaver course at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 13, 2011.**

down or you don't have one ... you know the basic steps to saving somebody's life,” said Olsen, a Boise, Idaho, native.

Caffey said, at times, a combat lifesaver might need to assist a medic or provide care to the medics themselves.

For that reason, Caffey stressed to each of her students the importance of paying attention to every detail, as well as understanding the most important factor with saving lives – controlling bleeding.

“The major hemorrhaging should be taken care of first,” added Caffey.

Paying attention is vital, Caffey explained, since the class changed in recent years.

Caffey said nasopharyngeal airways and chest decompressions recently became new topics in the CLS course.

Olsen said, although he knew some information about

how to apply tourniquets and bandages, the NPA and chest decompressions were a new idea to him.

Regardless of how new the concept, the CLS class can challenge Soldiers, regardless of their experience with previ-

ous techniques, said Caffey.

To ensure that all Soldiers who are CLS-certified maintain a fresh perspective on their techniques and keep up with current methods, instructors offer refresher courses for units upon request, explained Caffey.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Quentin Johnson, 2nd AAB PAO

**Soldiers from 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, carry a Soldier with simulated third-degree burns to a landing zone during combat lifesaver training at the Teal Medical Clinic on Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 13, 2011. More than 25 Soldiers completed the four-day CLS course.**





# Chaplain's Corner: —————

## Golf and the rhythm of life

Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Foreman  
Family Life Chaplain, USD-N

I am a good golfer. Let me rephrase that. I am good in the sense that I have probably hit more people on a course than anyone else I know. To date, I've hit six people.

Because of this, I gave up golf as a hobby, as it became too incriminating of a sport for me to continue. I grew tired of having to apologize for my game to the people being carried off the golf course in ambulances. It was embarrassing. Given this past proclivity, I suppose it's appropriate that I was born into a family with the last name of "Fore"man.

Before I gave up the game, I learned that to play golf well, one had to be able to depend on more than making a good shot by accident. In fact, it required two major things – you must do the right thing at the right time.

Golf not only requires the right alignment, grip and backswing – the right thing – but it must be done with the right rhythm – the right time.

So it is with life. We must not only do the right things, but we must learn to do them at the right times – in rhythm with God's divine plan. Or to quote golf guru Bagger Vance, "The rhythm of golf is like the rhythm of life."

One of the most common mistakes people make in golf is to swing at the ball too hard. There is a false sense that the harder you swing, the farther the ball will go. Nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, experts say the downward swing of the club must be slow and in tempo with the rest of the body. When this happens, the ball goes effortlessly down the fairway.

Most of us think if we just try harder, if we just increase the speed of our lives, and figure out how we can get more things done in a day, we will be content. We believe we will be happier and more productive and live longer lives.

This is not always true. Sometimes we need to try softer swings and live our lives in tempo and rhythm.

In golf, the swing you take repeatedly becomes a part of your muscle memory – your muscle performs the swing without conscious thought. The way we live each day forms daily habits that become either good or bad habits. The lives we live teach our children to establish either a good swing or a bad swing into their own muscle-memory approach to life.

And, as you well know, once muscle memory is established, it takes a lot of work and concentration to change it.

Once upon a time, when I played golf, I hit a killer drive. Unfortunately, the wind took it and it sailed over some houses and was lost. I thought, "Oh no, that is a two-stroke penalty."

I was relieved when my boss turned to me and said, "No, just take a mulligan." Informal golf rules allow you to take a "mulligan," a free repeat, with no penalty.

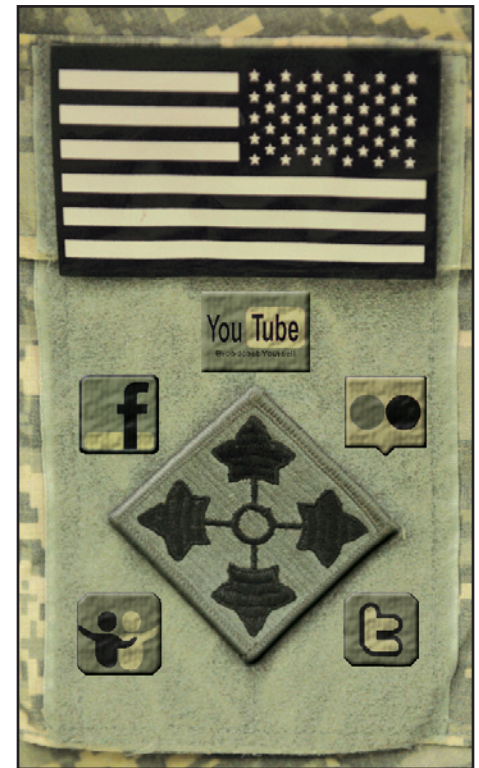
In the game of life, wouldn't it be nice if we could hear this at the end of the day? "Oh God, I don't even know what to say. I messed up so much today." And the Lord would smile and say, "Take a mulligan. Just do it over. Tomorrow you get another try, so get some rest."

In essence, this is what He does. I am not saying that we should minimize or deny our problems or mistakes. But each and every new day, God gives us another chance.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

So this week, let's remember that sometimes it's not about trying harder or moving faster, it's about learning how to live in better rhythm. It might mean learning how to slow down your hurried spirit or reflecting on what rhythms of muscle memory need to be strengthened or revised.

This way, we can be thankful that our Creator gives us a mulligan rule every 24 hours and we can start a new day in His



### USD-N Social Media

To read more stories and see the photos that go with them, as well as some videos, check out the links below. Read and share what you see and pass along the Soldiers' stories.

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

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

strength and rhythm.

And yes, if I ever play golf again, I apologize in advance for hitting one of you on the fairway.