

The BLACK



JACK

ROUND UP



Infantrymen from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, drive their M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle off of Memorial Range after zeroing the 25mm main gun and M240B machine gun during a live fire exercise in support of Operation New Dawn near Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 29, 2011. *See full story on page 8 ...*

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Black Jack 6 sends

Asalaamu alaikum and hello from sunny (and hot) Iraq! The Black Jack Brigade continues to execute our mission set in Diyala and Salah ad Din provinces for the Iraqi Security Forces and the people of Iraq. It has been an extremely busy time for everyone in the brigade since we took over the mission; however, the morale is high and our Black Jack Soldiers are certainly up to the task. Although we continue to advise, train, and assist the Iraqi Security Forces on a daily basis, we have started transitioning bases over to the Iraqi government and preparing for our eventual reposture. As I'm sure you've been following in the news, US forces are making preparations to leave Iraq by December 31st in accordance with the Security Agreement between our two countries. We are not yet certain what our future mission will entail. Until we get our orders, we will continue to focus on what we know. Let me take a moment to brag about the great things our Black Jack Soldiers are doing:

15th BSB—The Gamblers have the monumental task of sustaining the entire Brigade across two provinces and in multiple locations. Whether it is beans or bullets, maintenance or medical care, every Black Jack Soldier can count on the Gamblers to be on time and on target. The Gamblers may be based on Joint Base Balad, but they see more of the battlefield than any other Black Jack unit. Charlie Med (C/15th BSB) is conducting their change of command this week as CPT Andrew Chatman relinquishes the guidon to CPT Jamie Culbreath. While there was a change in command, there will be no change in the quality medical care Charlie Med puts out—as everyone knows, LTC Reudi, CSM Reed, and the Gamblers don't rebuild...they simply reload.

1-5 CAV—The Black Knights are embracing their multiple missions up at FOB Speicher and doing great

things in northern Salah ad Din. Charging' Charlie Troop is happily conducting their operations away from the flagpole at the Bayji Oil Refinery and learning more about hydrocrackers and benzene than they ever thought they'd know. The Knights are continuously securing the lines of communication, protecting FOB Speicher, and training the 4th Iraqi Army Division and the Iraqi Police. The Black Knights also recently received their "heavies" and I was pumped to wake up to the sound of a 120mm main gun test firing from a Knight tank while I was at Speicher. SPC Patrick Taylor earned Iron Horse Soldier of the Week Honors for performing cool under fire during a recent engagement and taking it to the enemy. LTC Daniels, CSM Lowery, and the Knights are getting after it in Tikrit and the surrounding areas, and Knight 6 has become somewhat of a local celebrity on Salah ad Din TV.

3-82 FA—LTC Cook, CSM Soto, and their Red Dragons, operating out of Joint Base Balad with the Gamblers, are accomplishing great things in southern Salah ad Din. In addition to terrific advising, training, and assisting their Iraqi Security Forces in this area, the Red Dragons are winning the hearts and minds of the local children through their participation in Kids' Day. This monthly event brings the children from the local area onto JBB for a little fun and relaxation—in fact, I'm not sure who is having more fun at these special events, the kids or our Red Dragons? Like their Black Knight teammates up north, the Red Dragons are chomping at the bit to test-fire their recently acquired Paladins. I was also recently able to see the tremendous accomplishments CPT Williams and his team are doing up in FOB Kaufman and the Samarra Operations Command.

4-9 CAV—Just when our Dark Horse elements have gotten settled into their comfy confines at FOB



Cobra, they are now busily preparing to transition the base over to our Iraqi counterparts. LTC Garcia, CSM Agueda, and the Dark Horse team have done a tremendous amount of work in recent weeks as they are preparing for their follow-on mission elsewhere in the Black Jack area of operations. We are also happy to report that the troopers successfully transferred all of the checkpoints in the contentious Combined Security Area over to their Arab-Kurd counterparts. Their efforts have directly contributed to Arab-Kurd peace and cooperation in the area, no small task indeed. Also, if Knight 6 is the undisputed star of Salah ad Din TV, Dark Horse 6 is likewise the David Hasselhoff of Jalula TV.

STB—The mighty Spartans literally run all of the Black Jack Soldiers operating out of FOB Warhorse, home of the STB, 1-8 CAV, the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and a sizeable contractor fleet. From the basic life-support services like laundry and the Dining Facility to base defense, flying our UAV's, and intelligence operations, LTC Davey, CSM Traylor, and the Spartans do it all. SPC Ledesma and SGT Cody

Stevens have both been recognized as the Iron Horse Soldier of the Week, the latter for his efforts in improving base defense by clearing brush in and around FOB Warhorse with his flame thrower...as if it wasn't hot enough already! In between their route clearance operations and building new checkpoints around FOB Warhorse, the Spartans even found time to conduct Derecho change of command ceremony between CPT Patrick Stevens and CPT Louis Hammond.

1-8 CAV—The mighty Mustangs may be based at FOB Warhorse, but they are always on the move around our battle space in Diyala. Like their Dark Horse teammates, the Mustangs are also preparing to transition Kirkush Military Training Base and FOB Cruz Morris to Iraqi Security Forces. The good people of Diyala certainly know that LTC Sicoli, CSM Wood, and the Mustangs are in town as they conduct operations day and night in their area of operations. PV2 Corey Frank of the mortar platoon earned Iron Horse Soldier of the Week Honors after his platoon recently registered their mortar systems. The Mustangs are also responsible for training the 5th Iraqi Army Division and Iraqi Police and assisting in security in and around FOB Warhorse. Finally, BG Bailey awarded SGT Stephen Carter the Purple Heart for his

actions on the battlefield with all of his Mustang teammates in attendance, a well deserved award indeed.

HHC Brigade—The Dealers continue to make the magic happen and keep the Brigade running at full steam. As usual, CPT Phillips, 1SG Allen, and the Dealer Soldiers have their hands full keeping me and CSM Maunakea in check, and the Brigade Staff is burning the candle at both ends to support our battalions throughout two provinces. We said goodbye to long-time member of the team MAJ (P) Warren Sponsler and his wife Loretta as they move on to his new job with the Air Force, but we are happy to see another terrific Black Jack team replace them in MAJ Grant Fawcett and his wife MAJ Marne Suttin, our Rear Detachment commander who is doing great things back at Fort Hood. Whatever the mission we're given, I find myself consistently amazed at how much we can do when we work as a team and execute the Black Jack three C's—cooperating, collaborating, and coordinating.

I can assure you our Black Jack Soldiers are working hard and accomplishing the mission in the highest manner and fashion. The hard-earned and well-known Black Jack legacy is certainly in good hands here as our troopers make their mark each and every day. However, we all know

the “real” work is being done by our families back home that have to drive on while we're deployed. Your unconditional love and support enables us to focus on the mission and the task at hand over here, and we can't thank you enough.

ARMY STRONG! CAV TOUGH!
BLACKJACK!
BLACKJACK 6



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'Mustang' mortarmen display operational readiness

Story and photo by Sgt. Quentin Johnson
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office

Soldiers assigned to 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted mortar training operations on and near Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 23.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd AAB, conducted the training to certify mortar crews and company support personnel deployed in support of Operation New Dawn.

Soldiers conducted the two-day event in three phases: palm grove clearing, mortar registration and mortar firing, said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Spears, from Kingsport, Tenn.

Clearing the groves was a partnered effort between U.S. forces and Iraqi Security Forces, said 1st Lt. Adam Coste, mortar platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., accompanied soldiers from 1st Bde., 19th Iraqi Army Div., as the units conducted a patrol to clear a 500-square meter area of palm groves to ensure safety of the local population.

Mortar registration, the second phase, provided an opportunity to ensure that all the mortar-supporting computer systems were working, and the mortar itself is aligned and operational, explained Coste, who hails from Ocean City, N.J.

Phase three consisted of firing large numbers of 120mm high-explosive mortar rounds into the palm groves in timed intervals, said Coste.

Spears said firing the rounds shows the capabilities of the mortar teams and U.S. forces.

Those capabilities are dependent



Specialist Cristian Coury, right, a mortarman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist), 1st Cavalry Division, prepares to fire a 120mm high-explosive mortar round during a mortar operations exercise at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 23.

on the ability of each mortarman checking the mortar systems, and coordination between the forward observers and higher echelon, added Coste.

"If (mortars) have to be used, we will be proficient," Coste explained.

Spears, a section sergeant with HHC, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., spoke about proficiency being the pride of mortarman.

"We pride ourselves on hitting the target with the first round," said Spears.

Being proficient comes with training, said Coste.

In addition to being an excellent training opportunity for 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., the battalion and brigade fires cells added significantly to the realism, Coste said.

The operation had the added ben-

efit of a significant disruption effect on local violent extremists through a show of force, he added.

The mortar firing exercise provided Soldiers an opportunity to recertify in their positions, which must be done every six months, explained Coste.

"It was excellent," said Pvt. Frank Corey, a mortar crewman from Geneva, Ohio, about the exercise.

Deployed for the first time, Corey said he is grateful for the opportunity to use his skills, show the accuracy of a mortar and provide security for Soldiers and civilians in the area.

Corey recertified successfully while keeping his position as gunner with HHC – a position he takes seriously, regardless if he is training or conducting combat operations.

"Train as you fight," said Corey of the exercise. "I love it."

Soldiers offer tips for board success



Sergeant Elianna Montemayor, left, a La Porte, Texas, native and training room noncommissioned officer, and SPC. Frank Warner, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Tampa, Fla., both with Company B, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, read through new promotion regulations at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 23, 2011. Both Soldiers are recent winners of quarterly NCO or Soldier competitions, respectively, and both said it is important to stay current on current military regulations.

*Story and photo by Sgt. Justin Naylor
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office*

Going to a Soldier of the Month board can be a nerve-racking experience for a young Soldier, but with adequate preparation and a little advice from someone who has been to one before, it can be much easier.

Sergeant Elianna Montemayor, a native of La Porte, Texas, and training room noncommissioned officer, and SPC. Frank Warner, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Tampa, Fla., both with Company B, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division,

have their fair share of board experiences and a few tips on how to win.

Both Soldiers recently won NCO or Soldier of the Month competitions and the brigade's quarterly NCO and Soldier competitions, respectively.

The boards are an assessment of a Soldier's knowledge of key military subjects, explained Warner.

During the board, a group of senior NCOs tests Soldiers.

"They ask questions and you answer them to the best of your ability," he continued.

During the Soldier of the Month board, Soldiers compete against fellow junior enlisted troops.

Both Montemayor and Warner agree, the first thing a Soldier should do before going to the board is intensive studying.

"I spent countless hours studying before I went," said Montemayor.

Warner's advice is to study alone and then have a friend help review the material. If possible, he said, have it be someone who has already gone to a board who can tell you about the experience.

Warner even developed a special study system that worked well for him.

He studied one subject repetitively, and then moved on to the next subjects. Finally, he would put all the subjects together and have a

buddy ask questions about them.

"That way you're not overloading your head with every subject at once," he said.

Montemayor said Soldiers typically just rely on study guides when they are preparing for the board. "Study guides don't always go over everything," she warned, and went on to explain that it is also a good idea to look into the regulations behind them.

After thoroughly studying, Montemayor and Warner recommend holding mock Soldier of the Month boards.

During the mock board, peers and supervisors quiz participants on everything learned, and throw in some questions about current events, chain of command, and anything else that might be asked about during the real board, said Warner.

Such events are chances to assess everything learned before going to the real competition, he continued.

Besides simple studying, Warner also said one of the most important elements to winning is being confident.

"At first you might be a little nervous, maybe even a little shaky, but be confident in what you say," he explained.

When Warner lost his first Soldier of the Month competition, he said his nervousness was a contributing factor. If you lose at the board, study even harder and then go back and try

See BOARD, pg. 7

Combat medics train Soldiers on life-saving techniques

Story and photos by Sgt. Quentin Johnson
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office

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 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



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 combat lifesaver course.

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 has 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 previous 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.

Specialist Michael Olsen, right, a native of Boise, Idaho, and intelligence systems maintainer with Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, bandages a simulated casualty's face during training for the combat lifesaver course at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 13, 2011.





Sergeant. Elliott Omanson, a team chief with 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, "Red Dragons," 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist), 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, examines a possible indirect fire launcher during an operation outside Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 19.

Soldiers help keep base safe

*Story and photo by Sgt. Justin Naylor
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office*

In an effort to protect service members and residents of Joint Base Balad, Iraq, from indirect fire (IDF), such as mortar and rocket attacks, Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, "Red Dragons," conducted counter-IDF operations around the base July 19.

"The intent behind counter-IDF patrols is to search the area for any signs of enemy IDF activity and deny the enemy the opportunity to use that terrain to fire IDF," said 2nd Lt. James Williams, a Powell, Ohio, native and a platoon leader with 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt. "This is a protective measure."

Terrorists commonly use IDF attacks to attempt to disrupt operations on U.S. military bases, explained Maj. Thomas Wilson, the operations officer for 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist), 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North.

Even though a security agreement is in place, United States Forces still have the inherit right to self-defense, said Williams. These counter-IDF patrols are in addition to ISF lead patrols in the area with

the same purpose.

This is our chance to go out and show the enemy that we are still around and still have a presence here, besides just on U.S. bases, explained Pvt. 1st Class Alan Johnson from Parker, Kan. and a driver with the Red Dragons.

"This lets the terrorists know that we are out there and watching," he continued.

For residents of the base, many of whom are non-military, the patrols are a welcome asset.

Knowing Soldiers are out conducting these patrols provides a sense of comfort, said Eva Ruden from Houston and a Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator on the base.

"I'm on this base and I want to be safe and I want everyone else on this base to be safe as well," she continued.

It makes me feel a lot safer knowing they are out there trying to prevent IDF attacks from happening in the future, she explained.

The safety of Soldiers and civilians around JBB and Iraq is a priority and will improve as Soldiers continue to use and enforce force protection measures throughout their area of operations.

BOARD, cont'd from pg. 5

again, he added.

"Always be resilient and strive to be better. I was more confident the second time," explained Warner, who won the second board he attended.

For senior leaders running the board, there are often a few key things they look for in the Soldiers competing.

"I am looking for the total Soldier package," said Sgt. 1st Class Clem Strait, a Wichita Falls, Texas, native, who has served on multiple Soldier of the Month boards.

"Before a Soldier even walks

into the board, I'm going to be looking at their physical fitness test scores, their weapons qualification card, their education level, and reading about what they've accomplished and what they are doing to help their fellow Soldiers," he continued.

"Anyone can study," he said. "You have to be able to implement what you've learned. The information should be part of you. Take it to heart."

Although not all Soldiers will win every board, the preparation can be a reward in itself.

"You learn a lot," said Montemayor.

Studying all the information needed for the board is going to help progress Soldiers' careers and help them develop as professionals, she continued.

Preparing for and competing at a board helps a Soldier excel, and it shows peers that those Soldiers are not content to simply meet the minimum requirements, said Strait.

Once you win, you're not just a mechanic, or a clerk, or whatever your job is, you're also a Soldier of the Month winner, he continued.

"It's a good feeling to win," said Montemayor. "That's when you know all your hard work, all the time you spent studying, has paid off."

Military working dogs train for the mission



*Story and photos by Sgt. Justin Naylor
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office*

Traversing over mounds of dirt and broken rocks as easily as most people walk down a paved road, nose to the ground and ears alert, the large, sleek dog easily found what he was looking for - a box of explosives.

The dog's handler, not a terrorist network, planted the explosives for training purposes, and to send a message - it's hard to hide from a military working dog's nose.

To help keep themselves and their dogs proficient, Sgt. Stanley Daniels, a military working dog handler with 385th Military Police Battalion out of Fort Stewart, Ga., and Spc. David Collett, a military working dog handler with 91st MP Detachment out of Fort Polk, La., both attached to 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted aggression and explosives detection training at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 7.

"It's very important that we keep the dogs up on their training," said Collett, a Douglasville, Ga., native and the handler for Gijs, a Belgian Malinois. "That way, when we get out in the real world, we can do our job effectively."

During the aggression training, one Soldier handled a dog while the other, wearing a thick armguard for protection, played the role of a potential terrorist.

After brief questioning, the role player fled. The dog chased him down, bit and held the armguard until the handler gave the dog the release command.

This training ensures the dogs can effec-

tively slow down subjects that might attempt to flee the scene while being questioned by Soldiers, explained Daniels, a Chicago native and the handler for Bbentley, also a Malinois.

Following the aggression training, Daniels walked Bbentley to a large field where a box of explosives lay hidden. As Daniels walked, Bbentley searched in a circular pattern until he eventually came to the location of the box, and then sat down to inform Daniels he found it.

"We can search fields, open areas, buildings or vehicles," explained Daniels.

The dogs fit in smaller spaces than Soldiers can, allowing them to search places a human might not be able to, he added.

"(Explosive) detection is very, very important," said Collett.

When a unit requests assistance, it is often to help track down explosives and weapons caches, so handlers have to keep the dogs extremely proficient at these skills, he continued.

Daniels and Collett train with their dogs as frequently as their mission in support of Operation New Dawn allows.

If the dogs do not train on a subject for a while, they might not be as accurate and at-

Sergeant Stanley Daniels, a military working dog handler from Chicago serving with the 385th Military Police Battalion out of Fort Stewart, Ga., attached to 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, rewards Bbentley, his military working dog, with a chew toy for finding a box of explosives during training at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 7, 2011.

Specialist David Collett, a Douglasville, Ga., native, and military working dog handler with the 91st Military Police Detachment out of Fort Polk, La., attached to 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, attempts to flee from Bbentley, a military working dog, during training at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 7, 2011.

tentive as handlers need them to be, explained Daniels.

"While we're on deployment, we need the dogs as sharp as possible," he continued.

If the dogs and handlers are not trained proficiently, anyone on the mission, including the dogs, could be hurt, Daniels explained. Training ensures that our teams are mission capable whenever we are called upon, he added.

For Soldiers who have worked with the canine counterparts, the benefits of military working dogs and their handlers are clear.

Between searching for explosives and halting fleeing suspects, the life of a working dog can be quite dangerous, making proper training for the dogs and their handlers all the more important.

During his last deployment, Maj. Ian Palmer, executive officer for 2nd AAB, said his unit requested assistance from military working dog teams several times per week. He said Soldiers used dogs to find weapons caches, hidden personnel and narcotics.

"They serve a lot of different purposes," said Palmer. "Commanders want to have those capabilities."



'Black Knight' troops deliver accuracy on range

Cavalry tanks, Bradleys prepare for patrols



A pair of M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles shoot 25mm tracer rounds at a stationary target 1200 meters away during a live-fire exercise on Memorial Range near Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 29, 2011. Bradley crews from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, zeroed their 25mm main guns and M240C machine guns during the exercise in support of Operation New Dawn.

Story and photo by Sgt. Quentin Johnson
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, completed live-fire exercises with newly acquired vehicles at Memorial Range near Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 27-30.

"Black Jack" Brigade troops conducted a live fire accuracy screening test using the M1A2 Abrams main battle tank, zeroed M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle weapon systems and conducted transition fire from Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicles.

Soldiers of Company D, 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., kicked off the four-day exercise by conducting transition fire, a method of weapons training where Soldiers switch between a crew-served weapon, such

as the M240B machine gun, and their personal weapon within a matter of seconds, said 2nd Lt. Jake Donaldson, Company D intelligence support team officer in charge.

Donaldson said transition fire is important for Soldiers who assume the role of gunner on an MRAP when on patrol or as part of a convoy. This type of training is essential to current U.S. force protection measures, as increased threats against patrols and convoys remain present, he added.

Gunners learn to switch from a distant threat to close-quarter threat – such as an individual attempting to attack a patrol by walking up on it – simply by transitioning from a crew-served to personal weapon, explained Donaldson from Gettysburg, Pa.

"(Personal weapons) go where crew-served weapons cannot," he said. Another important fire element for a

cavalry Soldier is the main gun aboard a tank or a Bradley, Donaldson added.

Company D troops spent weeks preparing for the exercise after acquiring the equipment from 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., said Donaldson.

Preparation included conducting routine maintenance, adjusting the main guns' bore sights and ensuring proper configuration of the tanks' computer systems.

Essentially, anytime equipment is received, new or used, or moved to a new environment, it must be maintained and the weapons checked, Donaldson explained.

"In a brand new environment, the equipment's system data must be checked to ensure it works," added Sgt. John Martinez a tanker from San Antonio with Company D.

The Bradley Fighting Vehicle also spent a

week undergoing the same process of maintenance and zeroing of their weapons as the tanks did, said 1st Lt. Cameron Arndt, executive officer for Company B, who calls Madison, Wis., home.

Crews tested both vehicle types at the range, with each of the teams taking turns zeroing their main guns using stationary targets.

Each process, although very similar, had differences, said Donaldson. Unlike a Bradley, the tank systems need to be adjusted to the current environment, he added.

"(A tank) takes longer to zero than a Bradley because of the parameters of the targeting system," he said.

Besides zeroing weapons systems, the range afforded training for the crews and ensured the vehicles are operationally ready, said Donaldson.

See RANGE pg. 10—

'Dark Horse' troops provide humanitarian aid



U.S. Army photo

Story by 2nd Lt. Randy Warren
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office

In anticipation of the Ramadan holiday, U.S. Soldiers provided Iraqis in Northeastern Diyala province with humanitarian aid products throughout July 2011.

Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, "Dark Horse," 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division - North, assisted in providing products to Iraqis living in villages surrounding Contingency Operating Base Cobra, Iraq.

Dark Horse Soldiers spent weeks preparing and sorting more than 3,000 items for distribution, including dried foods, shoes, clothing and soccer

balls, said Capt. William Hoover, civil affairs officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

"Countless hours of preparation, and a partnership between the Provincial Reconstruction Team, Dark Horse Squadron, and local Iraqi city council members, went in to coordinating the aid project," said Hoover.

On several occasions, all parties involved met on COS Cobra to discuss product transportation, distribution timelines and security measures.

All products were thoroughly inspected to ensure they were edible or in serviceable condition before being sent to local distribution points, Hoover explained. The process guar-

Soldiers with 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, and local Iraqi civilians load various commercial products and goods onto a truck at Contingency Operating Base Cobra, Iraq, July 2011. The supplies were part of a combined humanitarian aid project to support local families in the villages surrounding COS Cobra in support of Operation New Dawn.

anteed every product available was used and no supplies were wasted.

U.S. Soldiers and local Iraqis loaded the products onto trucks on COS Cobra. The products were then sent to distribution points in the communities and made available for local residents.

The Iraqi army provided security from COS Cobra to the distribution points, explained Hoover.

The success of the aid project not only helped local Iraqi families in need, but allowed U.S. Soldiers to interact and make a difference within the local populace, said Sgt. Joshua Schuettenhelm, chaplain's assistant for Darkhorse.

All of the Soldiers involved enjoyed the opportunity to do humanitarian work, and see their actions make a difference in the surrounding communities, said Schuettenhelm.

"This was a great opportunity to leave a positive impression on the people of Iraq," he said.

RANGE, cont'd from pg. 9 — Specialist Troy Pressley, currently on his second deployment, said as a Bradley crew gunner for Company B, the exercise was a success.

Pressley said he has been to the Bradley range three times since last year and works with the vehicles on a regular basis. He said that gives him the confidence he needs to patrol the area with the Bradley the mission requires it.

He added that using the Bradley

would increase security for Soldiers and civilians in and around COB Speicher by adding an extra line of defense.

"I am confident it will do some good," he said.

A M1A2 Abrams tank maneuvers to its firing position on Memorial Range near Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 27, 2011. Tank crews from Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, zeroed their 120mm main guns and machine guns during the exercise in support of Operation New Dawn.



A Legal Perspective ...

MANDATORY INTERIM SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS FOR DEPLOYED SOLDIER

by Capt. Angelia Champoux

During deployment, you must take care of dependents left behind. In fact, Army Regulation (AR) 608-99, paragraph 2-1, **REQUIRES** all married Soldiers to provide at least Non-Locality BAH (interim support) when geographically separated (this includes deployment).

AR 608-99 applies in the following situations, 1) if you are married and geographically separated/deployed, 2) pending divorce, or 3) separated (legally or not). Regardless of which situation applies to you, pursuant to the AR this is a **REQUIRED** obligation with few exceptions. The primary exception – you are not obligated to provide interim support while residing in base housing.

However, the moment your spouse vacates base housing, you immediately become obligated to provide the required interim support. This support must be provided even if you have not cleared housing. For additional exceptions to AR 608-99, contact the legal assistance attorney.

The amount of support is deter-

mined by your rank, in absence of a divorce decree or separation agreement. It can be satisfied through a joint bank account, monthly deposits or monthly allotments. If you are married and geographically separated (including deployment), you must pay your spouse the required interim support. If you are separated, but have not filed for legal separation or divorce is pending, you must pay the interim support required by the AR. If you are legally separated and the separation agreement states a support amount, this amount trumps the amount mandated by the AR. In these circumstances it does not matter whether the separation agreement states an amount more or less than the interim support required by the AR. The Army requires you to pay and will enforce the amount designated by the separation agreement. Remember, the Army does not recognize separation agreements regarding Soldiers; however, the Army does enforce separation agreements from the spouse against Soldiers. This means that if you have a separation agreement and the spouse seeks payment for support, you, as the Soldier, will be required to pay.

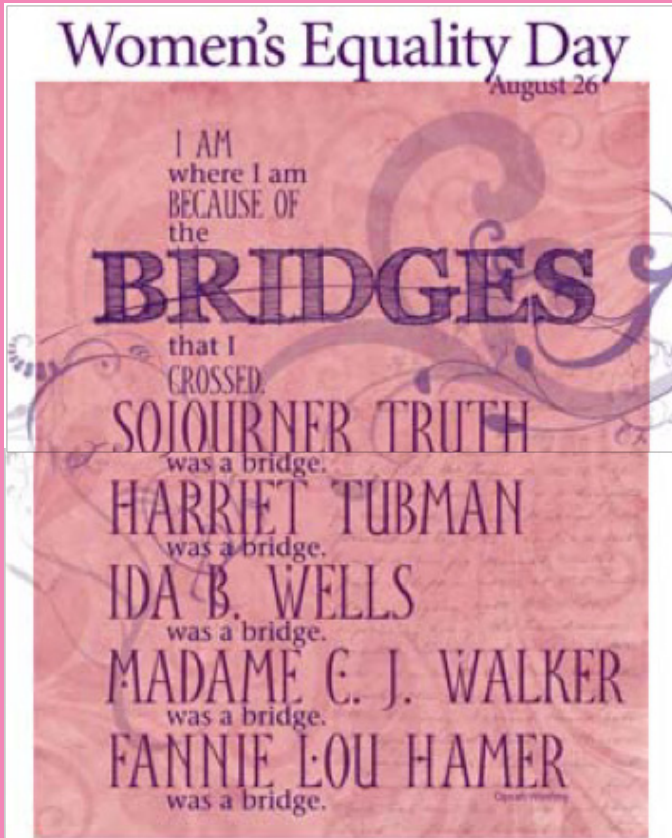
The Army enforces the requirement to pay support by making non-payment punitive. The order of enforcement is 1) Court ordered, 2) written or verbal agreement, and 3) in absence of either, the rank based interim support required by the AR. If you fail to pay support, you may be **PUNISHED** under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The maximum punishment for non-payment is two years confinement and a Bad Conduct Discharge. If legally separated, the Court can not only order payment but also fine you. Furthermore, if support is not paid, the dependent/spouse can request an involuntary allotment through the courts and the support is directly taken from your paycheck. This request is sent to DFAS and DFAS generates a letter to your commander, requiring a written counseling statement.

Avoid potential punitive UCMJ action, negative counseling statements, or involuntary allotments. Pay the proper support to your dependent while you are separated, whether you are married, pending divorce or separated. Below lists the interim support amounts by rank:

2011 Non-Locality BAH (Interim Support) Rate

Officer		Warrant Officer		Enlisted	
O-7 – O-10	\$ 1,728.90	W-5	\$ 1,277.10	E-9	\$ 1,123.20
O-6	\$ 1,556.40	W-4	\$ 1,170.60	E-8	\$ 1,036.20
O-5	\$ 1,500.30	W-3	\$ 1,073.10	E-7	\$ 961.80
O-4	\$ 1,322.40	W-2	\$ 985.80	E-6	\$ 888.60
O-3	\$ 1,094.40	W-1	\$ 853.20	E-5	\$ 799.20
O-2	\$ 933.60			E-4	\$ 694.80
O-1	\$ 835.80			E-3	\$ 646.20
O3E	\$ 1,176.00			E-1 – E-2	\$ 615.90
O2E	\$ 1,061.10				
O1E	\$ 981.00				

Celebrate with us!



What is Women's Equality Day?

At the request of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities.

Joint Resolution of Congress, 1971
Designating August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights: and

WHEREAS, the women of United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26th of each year is designated as Women's Equality Day, and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place.

2/1 CAV celebrates Women's Equality Day by recognizing the outstanding contributions that women have had not only to our great nation, but also to the success and great history of the Brigade. 2/1 CAV honors, salute, and welcome all contribution of the great women within our ranks.

