

The **BLACK** **JACK**

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Black Jack 6 sends

We would like to send a BIG Texas howdy from Iraq to our Black Jack Family in the rear. This was a special month for the Black Jack Brigade – we celebrated our 94th birthday on August 29th. We gathered members of the Black Jack team at FOB Warhorse to celebrate our storied past and commit to upholding our proud legacy. After reflecting on the tremendous accomplishments of this brigade since it was first deployed patrolling the territory along the US-Mexican border at the turn of the 20th century, I had the oldest and youngest soldier in the Brigade help me cut our birthday cake in our dining facility. It was a CAV-tastic day indeed.

This was another hot and busy month for the Black Jack Brigade – we have already transitioned several bases over to the Iraqi government and moved some of our forces to other locations in Iraq. Although our government is continuing negotiations with the government of Iraq, until we hear differently, we are still on track to leave Iraq by December 31, 2011. Despite the uncertainty, we still have a clearly defined mission and we intend to focus on the things that we know rather than the things we don't. I can't say enough good things about our Soldiers and the way they handle their business every day.

Before I brag about the great things your Black Jack Soldiers did over the past month, I wanted to let you know the latest ways to get news about our brigade. We started a weekly interview with Central Texas's own U.S. 105 and a bi-monthly interview with Waco 100 country music radio stations. Every Thursday and Friday at 7:20 AM you can tune into U.S. 105 and WACO 100 every Wednesday at 9:30 AM to hear Black Jack Soldiers talk about their jobs in Iraq and how they support the Black Jack Brigade mission.

2nd STB – LTC Davey and CSM

Traylor are sure to increase their frequent flyer miles in the upcoming months. Split between several locations in Baqubah, Kirkuk, and Kuwait, the Spartans are making it happen throughout our area of operations. In addition to their normal mission requirements like route clearance and internal FOB security, LTC Davey and his team have taken on additional missions at FOB Warhorse to cover down on the loss of significant numbers of contractor support. They've also managed to enhance our image with the local populace through their work on the Septia canal, a canal that runs around the outer edge of Warhorse. After being interrupted for several years, water will finally flow through this canal again. Parts of the Spartan team have already headed north to Kirkuk to help run FOB Warrior while other Spartan Soldiers have headed south to Kuwait in order to prepare for follow-on elements of the brigade in the months to come.

1-8 CAV – Instead of fanning out like the Spartans, the Mustangs are in the process of consolidating their units for follow-on missions. They recently transitioned Kirkush Military Training Base (KMTB) over to their Iraqi counterparts, the first of several installations for the Black Jack Brigade, and brought CPT Harden and his A Company team back to FOB Warhorse after a fast-paced and successful tenure training over 1,500 soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 5th Division. Private Frank Corey, a mortarman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, earned Ironhorse Soldier of the Week honors for his performance during a three-day live-fire training event earlier in the month. While the Mustangs at FOB Warhorse are enjoying the operation of their new toy (a mammoth blimp that provides some "eyes in the sky"), the Soldiers of D Company are preparing to transition FOB Cruz Morris in the near future



and return to FOB Warhorse. The Mustangs also took tremendous pride in watching over their brothers in 4-9 CAV as they began moving from FOB Cobra to JBB.

4-9 CAV - Nobody has been busier this month than LTC Garcia, CSM Agueda, and the Dark Horse team. After successfully transferring all of the checkpoints in the contentious Combined Security Area to their Iraqi Army and Peshmerga counterparts, they began moving elements of the Squadron to JBB where they will conduct security operations with their Red Dragon teammates until further notice. They have also begun the initial stages of transferring FOB Cobra over to the government of Iraq and should be complete by early September. In the meantime, the Dark Horse team has conducted an aggressive patrolling schedule with their Iraqi Army and Peshmerga partners to increase the security within the CSA. While they were in the throes of transferring the FOB, CSM Maunakea and I had a chance to visit with the Dark Horse team and recognize some of the great Troopers for their hard work and dedication out at FOB Cobra.

3-82 FA – This was another fast-

paced month for LTC Cook, CSM Soto, and the Red Dragons. Prior to the end of August and the subsequent end of Ramadan, one of the holy months of Islam, the Red Dragon team hosted an Iftar dinner for their Iraqi Army and Police counterparts in southern Salah ad Din, including LTG Rashid and his staff from the Samarra Operations Command. Although this dinner enabled 3-82 FA to discuss important security issues with their Iraqi partners, the focus of this event was for both sides to sit down, relax, break bread together, and enjoy each other's company. Not surprisingly, LTG Rashid and his staff were big fans of our chow, and especially the ice cream! Additionally, if the people on JBB and the surrounding area didn't know the Red Dragons were here, they certainly do now after they test-fired their thunderous 155mm Paladins a few weeks ago. LTC Cook and his team also welcomed the first elements of the Dark Horse Squadron who will soon be calling JBB home.

1-5 CAV – LTC Daniels, CSM Lowery, and the Black Knights are still making the magic happen in northern Salah ad Din. The Black Knights continued their close-knit partnership with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police by conducting basic rifle marksmanship and close quarters marksmanship training with 50 members of the 4th Iraqi Army division's commando battalion. The Knights were gracious enough to host a Black Jack Commanders' Conference at FOB Speicher recently, and CSM Maunakea and I took the opportunity to recognize 15 Knights with the presti-

gious, highly-coveted, and rarely-awarded brigade coin. We were also proud to attend the change of command ceremony, replete with the battalion's M1A2 tanks as a backdrop, with newly-promoted MAJ David Niederauer handing over the reins to CPT Kyle Hatzinger. Finally, I don't know with the Knight 1000 is, but if it took Knight 6 over an hour to do complete it, I know it must hurt...in a good way of course.

15th BSB – Every time I eat a hot meal, take a hot shower, or walk up the steps of an MRAP vehicle, I know I have the Gamblers to thank for it. They continue to feed, arm, and maintain the brigade, and they do it with a great deal of pride and passion. The Gambler team has literally carried the brigade on its back, hauling hundreds of containers and rolling stock from transitioning bases. They have been working hand in hand with the Dark Horse team to ensure they complete their transition of FOB Cobra and successfully move to JBB. They have also been instrumental in the initial preparations for the Spartans, Mustangs, and Dealers to transition out of FOB Warhorse. Finally, the Gamblers were not to be denied their own transition and reposture activities – their Charlie Med Company just completed their transition out of FOB Warhorse and are expected to be fully functional in Kuwait by September.

HHC Brigade – Don't threaten the Dealers with a good time – CSM Maunakea and his PSD completed some "good action" when they dismounted from their vehicles and caught two insurgents while on patrol near FOB Warhorse. Black Jack

9 and his team displayed a great deal of tactical prowess and bravery in bringing these terrorists to justice. The Dealers have been busy ensuring the headquarters is on track to transition out of FOB Warhorse and ready to retrograde to JBB. Everyone has been working very hard to ensure that all our equipment is properly identified and turned in, buildings are cleaned and free of any sensitive information, and everything is packed in the proper containers as we all start moving different ways.

It is almost September - we are certainly deep in the saddle. Black Jack Soldiers are hammering away at the mission and keeping in good spirits. Our troopers continue to lean forward in the foxhole and get after it every day – I couldn't be prouder. I'm equally proud about the love and support we get from the Families back at home station and our Rear Detachment led by MAJ Marne Suttan. This deployment is a total team effort and I feel extremely lucky to be a part of the Black Jack Brigade. ARMY STRONG! CAV TOUGH!

BLACKJACK!

BLACKJACK 6



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US, ISF share goodwill



Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Cook, commander, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, gives a toy to a young girl in the village of Yethrib, Iraq, Aug. 31, 2011, in celebration of Eid al-Fitr.

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

Dozens of brightly clad girls and boys dressed in their holiday best stood in line, whispering and giggling back in forth as they waited their turn. One after another they were called forward into a schoolhouse, each walking out the other side with an armful of new toys, school supplies and gifts.

As part of the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, Soldiers with 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, "Black Jack," 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, and their Iraqi Security Force counterparts, shared goodwill and gifts with children from the village of Yethrib in Salah ad-Din province, Iraq, Aug. 31.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Mus-

A group of young girls from the village of Yethrib, Iraq, stand in line while they wait to receive gifts from U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces during an event celebrating Eid al-Fitr, Aug. 31, 2011.

lims generally celebrate the holiday with a special prayer service. The day is also often commemorated with feasts, social visits and gift-giving.

"We are celebrating Eid al-Fitr with some gift-giving to the local children," said Lt. Col. Nathan Cook, commander of 3rd Battalion, 82nd

Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd AAB, 1st Cav. Div. "These gifts are just a small token of our appreciation to the people of the Yethrib area."

This is our chance to show the people of this village and the surrounding area that we are here to help them and their children, said Iraqi Lt. Col. Radam Hassan Jawad, executive officer for the 4-17th Iraqi Army Battalion, which works closely with 3rd Bn., 82nd FA., in the area. "This shows them that we are here to serve them and help them."

These types of events give villagers something truly positive to remember U.S. forces by, and help the ISF build stronger relationships with the population of Yethrib, said Radam.

The event also shows the villagers that Americans have a deep respect for days that are especially important to them, like Eid al-Fitr.

U.S. Air Force and Army units from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, provided a majority of the gifts for the event.

Driving through the village on the way to the event, children stood on the side of the road waving, happy to see U.S. forces and the ISF, said Cook. "Seeing their smiles makes it all worth it."





'Black Jack' engineers secure canal, build international relations

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

For more than three years, no water has flowed through the Septia Canal, which once provided Iraqi citizens with irrigation for the farms surrounding Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.

By the end of September, water will once again pour through miles of the canal, in and around the cities of Septia and Al Raga, said Lt. Col. Mark Davey, commander of the 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North.

The project took one month to complete, and will provide more than 1,200 farms in the area with water, said Shawkat Kareem, the Septia Sheikh. Working with the Diyala Central Services and the U.S. Army, Kareem supervised the project from the beginning.

Engineers from Company C, 2nd STB, 2nd AAB, 1st Cav. Div., provided security for Kareem and the Iraqi nationals working on the canal.

Workers cleared the canals of debris, weeds and concertina wire, said 2nd Lt. John Gilmore, platoon leader with Company C.

A working canal provides water to the farms, which in turn, provides food and work for families in the local villages, explained Kareem.

"The canal will help improve the standard of living around (Septia)," he added, "and will raise the income and economy." Davey agreed with Kareem's expectations of



Soldiers from Company C., 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, removes excess concertina wire from the Septia Canal with a backhoe outside of Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Aug. 29, 2011.

the economy.

"This project will impact the economy of Diyala province in a very positive way," Davey said. "The project ensured good will between the USF, local governance and all people in Diyala."

Captain Louis-Philippe Hammond, com-

mander of Company C, said he was grateful for the opportunity to help Kareem, and was impressed with the progress being made.

"I am very proud to see the work that's been accomplished," explained Hammond, a native of Anchorage, Alaska. "It is all because of the Sheikh. His efforts have helped enhance the project."

Kareem was equally grateful for the efforts of the U.S. and the protection they provided his workers.

"(The Soldiers) have helped us and we are working in a safe environment," added Kareem. "I want to thank the American forces for their effort to open the canal, their friendship and partnership."

Captain Louis-Philippe Hammond, (left), commander of Company C, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, speaks to Shawkat Kareem, Sheikh of Septia, Iraq, about the canal project outside of Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Aug. 29, 2011. Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, U.S. Division – North, provided security during the month-long project.





'Dark Horse' troops transition base



Capt. Matthew Jung (right), commander, Troop B., 4th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, Iraq, prepares to hand over the keys to Iraqi officers from the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi army division, during the transfer of authority ceremony at a checkpoint in Northern Diyala province June 30.

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

For more than two years Contingency Operating Base Cobra has expanded and been a haven for Soldiers from throughout the Army.

Throughout the month of August 2011, the last of U.S. Soldiers on base have transitioned from Cobra, leaving the base and some property signed over to the Iraqi army, said Capt. James Ray, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

Soldiers from the, 4th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist), U.S. Division – North, spent weeks unloading containers, clearing buildings, packing, prepping and shipping material goods found on Cobra, said 1st Sgt. Michael Williams, first sergeant for HHT.

"It has been a long and tedious process of playing 'What's in the connex?'" added Williams.

With the base fully operational for more than two years, mass amounts of supplies have been accumulating on Cobra, explained Williams. They have equipment that is not normally seen on small forward operating bases.

Not all the equipment returned to rear echelon and other units, said Ray. Large amounts were kept on site for the IA and the Iraqi Security Forces, whose compound shares a portion of the base.

The battalion left behind items such as buildings, T-Walls, and other equipment that posed no threat to the U.S. Forces, said **Soldiers with 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, and local Iraqis load various commercial products and goods onto a truck at Contingency Operating Base Cobra, Iraq, July 2011.**

Williams.

"They are going to get a lot of great gyny equipment, fully functioning dining facility ... some of the things we left behind has provided so much to us," according to Ray.

Leaving behind equipment is only half of what took place during the transition, stated Ray. The Dark Horse battalion helped control multiple checkpoints within the Combined Security Area (CSA) throughout Northern Diyala province.

Throughout the month of July, companies from the battalion worked for weeks transitioning each checkpoint to the IA and Kurdish Peshmerga, he added.

Combined efforts like the checkpoints are lasting memories that many U.S. Soldiers will have joy of remembering how their hard work has paid off, said Williams. Training the IA and ISF played a part in transition as well.

"We (the battalion) have invested quite a bit of time in training the Iraqi army and getting them set up to be able to stand on their own," added Williams. "So it's gratifying to see and do that (training) and to be able to hand them a facility like this, they can use after we are gone to train future generations of the Iraqi army."

Ray agreed with Williams stating the transition was suc-

cessful. It afforded the battalion an opportunity to leave the IA with something that will help to improve the IA's training and security.

"It's a nice area for them (IA/ISF) to ... conduct training and continue to build up their security forces in support of their government," stated Ray.

Security was an issue associated with the transition, said Lt. Col. Paul Garcia, commander of the 4th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. There is always an added risk when troops maneuver from site to site.

"We were transitioning out of here and we were in a period of increased risk for all forces involved," said Garcia.

In light of the risks, Dark Horse Soldiers remained vigilant and kept an offensive posture within the last remaining days of closure, explained Garcia. His team added protection as ISF on the compound provided security as the last convoys of U.S. Soldiers left Cobra.

The Dark Horse Soldier pride was seen through their tireless efforts as they successfully transitioned Cobra to Iraqi control.

"In the end, this (transition) is extremely satisfying ... it's more than just another notch in the belt, it's a successful mission, something we can hang our hats on as we (Soldiers) move on," explained Ray.



Mustangs prepare to transition base, maintain force protection



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist), 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, load equipment during a routine patrol in support of Operation New Dawn at the Kirkush Military Training Base, Iraq, Aug. 11.

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. James McGregor

2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of Company A., 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, "Mustangs," continued to make forward progress in their mission to close the "Commando Base" of the Kirkush Military Training Base, Aug. 12.

In addition to loading containers, painting over walls, digging out burn-pits, manning guard towers, and conducting daily force-protection patrols, Mustang Soldiers also conducted a reaction-to-contact drill to ensure force protection was maintained.

This drill was a critical exercise to conduct during a time when Soldiers are forced to focus much of their efforts on drawing down and handing over control of their base, according to 1st Lt. Jonathan Coffield, fire support officer for Company A., 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

"We've had to paint over everything for obvious (operational security) reasons," explained Coffield. "We've had to ensure the base meets EPA regulations, like cleaning out the burn pits."

"We have to be accountable of everything we sign over to the Iraqis when they take control of the camp," Coffield continued. "They (Iraqi's) started taking away key things: refrigerator trailers, mobile kitchens and containers

full of gear and equipment."

"Force protection still remains our number one priority," he said.

The number of Soldiers available was an additional challenge to completing transition tasks, while simultaneously providing force protection, Coffield added.

The previous unit, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, had twice as many Soldiers available, when Commando Base was re-established 18 months ago.

"When they (1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt.) left they did not have any close-down plan in place because they were still training Iraqi Soldiers," said Coffield.

As manpower continued to decrease at a steady rate, Coffield expressed the importance of ensuring battle drills were rehearsed and everyone was on the same sheet of music.

"We take it very seriously, so we rehearse various contingency plans regularly," said Coffield.

"Sunday's drill was a rehearsal for a reaction to any sort of enemy contact to the base," he said.

"One thing we've planned for as we draw down is who should go first and who has to stay – those who stay need to be able to react to anything at a moment's notice," continued Coffield.

Captain Miguel Moran, physician's as-

sistant for 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., added to Coffield's statement, saying the medics on station need to be ready to treat whatever casualties could possibly come their way during the process of base closure.

He continued, for the company medics, the drill was a mass casualty training exercise.

"Units are always more vulnerable as the closing of a base occurs," explained Moran.

"Less Soldiers and resources make everyone more susceptible to attack; but we still have to be functional while everyone prepares to leave," said Moran.

"We want to make sure we're prepared for any attack on the camp and that the medics are ready and able to treat any casualty and prepare them to be moved to Balad for further treatment," he said.

Moran added that the goal of the company medical unit is to be able to provide adequate initial treatment and casualty evacuation, according to a "10-minute and Golden Hour" rule.

"We have to quickly stabilize the patient through (combat lifesaver) and buddy aid," said Moran. "Then we need to be able to get them to the next echelon of care – a surgeon – within an hour."

Efforts like these will continue with the compound until final closure and transition of the area is complete, explained Coffield.



Cavalry Scouts



*Photos and caption by Sgt. Quentin Johnson
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office*

Cavalry scouts from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, U.S. Division – North, conducted a “react to contact” exercise in the Northern Salah-a-Din province, Iraq, Aug. 12. During the exercise, the scouts conducted troop extraction methods using a UH - 60 Black Hawk helicopter, administering first aid to simulated casualties, and provided security for the extraction site. The exercise was the culmination of a two-week training event scouts performed in preparation for assuming duties as the “Blues” platoon. The platoon’s mission encompasses the security and recovery of downed aircraft personnel. Support for the exercise was provided by Soldiers from Company A., 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., who provided security for the exercise site and created a hasty landing strip for the helicopters.



Preventive medicine team maintains healthy environment



Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Alyson Randall
2/1 CAV (AAB) Public Affairs Office

While combat operations in Iraq have given way to the advise, train and assist mission, Soldiers still encounter many challenges while deployed, including threats of disease and other environmental hazards.

Specialists Amanda Rose and Eddy Luengas, both preventive medicine specialists with Company C, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, ensure deployed Soldiers work and live in a healthy environment at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse in support of Operation New Dawn.

Working at Teal Medical Clinic at COB Warhorse, Rose and Luengas mitigate health and environmental issues by conducting inspections around the COB.

“We do routine health inspections at the places Soldiers use on a daily basis, like the gym, barber shop, and dining facility,” said Rose, from Flint, Mich.

The team also inspects water sources on the COB, explained Luengas, adding that clean drinking water is vital to maintaining the force.



Specialists Amanda Rose (right), a Flint, Mich., native, and Eddy Luengas, a Santa Anna, Calif., native, conduct a routine inspection on an insect trap at Teal Medical Clinic on Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 29, 2011. Rose and Luengas serve as preventive medicine specialists with 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – North, in support of Operation New Dawn.

“We test the levels of minerals in the water, since too much hardness could cause kidney stones in humans,” said Luengas, a native of Santa Anna, Calif.

Additionally, the team goes to the source of the problem, regardless of what type of infection or disease it is, added Luengas. Animals and insects are two factors that commonly cause issues on the COB.

“For instance, an armadillo carries a strain of leprosy,” said Luengas, “or (service-members) might not realize how harmful a stray dog really can be.”

Most Soldiers do not realize how many diseases can be transferred from animals and insects, he added.

The most important part of the team’s job is to educate Soldiers by making them aware of the diseases and how to stop the spread of them, said Rose.

“We can educate everyone on such a wide range of topics that affect their health,” said Rose.

The preventive medicine team continues to work diligently so Soldiers can focus on the mission instead of threats to their health, said Rose.

We will never forget ...

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

Specialist Robin Williams was only nine years old when the World Trade Center was attacked.

Fourth grade had just begun and, as he sat waiting for a bus to take him to school, he remembers hearing the radio of a nearby car, listening as the DJ described the scene of the attack to his listeners.

At nine years old, you're not very aware of the world around you, and I didn't really understand what had happened until much later, Williams recalls.

Now, 10 years later, Williams is serving as an intelligence analyst in Iraq and, like other Soldiers his age, he has spent a large part of his life growing up in the shadow of 9/11.

"I never really knew what it was like before 9/11," said the Laguna Beach, Calif., native.

As I was growing up, the effects of 9/11 were everywhere; from the Global War on Terror to changes in airport security right here at home, it seems like 9/11 has always had an influence in my life, he said.

Unlike the previous generation of Soldiers that enlisted before the attacks, the younger Soldiers take the Oath of Enlistment knowing that the specter of deployments in support of counter-terrorism operations is ever present.

"Growing up after 9/11, I think my generation is keenly aware that there are people out there that want to kill us," said Williams. "I joined knowing I would be in harms way and I accepted

the risk, and I will give my life to prevent another tragedy like 9/11 from occurring on American soil."

Another Soldier from 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division - North, also joined the Army post 9/11.

Sergeant Jeremiah Creech was a junior in high school when the Twin Towers were hit.

"I walked into my first period English class and everyone had this grave look on their faces and (were) watching the TV," recalls Creech. "I saw smoke in one tower and a plane hit the other tower. I remember seeing people jump out of the tower, because they had to choose between burning alive or jumping."

I felt angry, and I knew this would change everything, he said.

Creech, a Garland, Texas, native, now serving as an infantryman, had already planned on joining the military, and 9/11 only served to reaffirm his commitment.

"I felt like me being an able-bodied young man, it wouldn't be right to sit stateside and not serve my country," said Creech.

Creech is currently serving on his second deployment to Iraq.

"There is not a doubt in my mind that we have made a tremendous difference in stopping attacks like 9/11 from happening again," said Creech. "It takes a lot of resources to carry out an attack like that, and with U.S. Soldiers being **Specialist Robin Williams, an intelligence analyst with 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division - North, talks on the phone at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Sept. 6, 2011. Williams, a 20-year-old from Laguna Beach, Calif., spent a large part of his life growing up with the memory of 9/11.**



Sergeant Jeremiah Creech, an infantryman with 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division - North, stands in front of his unit's crest at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Sept. 6, 2011. Although Creech, from Garland, Texas, had already planned on joining the military before 9/11, the attacks helped reaffirm his commitment to serve his country.

here and in Afghanistan, terrorists have to dedicate those resources to fighting us on their own turf."

Creech says that while people may not agree with the solutions that the government came up with after 9/11, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he's proud to be part of the solution that is in place.

For Soldiers, whether they are young or old, junior enlisted or general officer, the effects of 9/11 are always present.

"Our lives in the military post-9/11 are greatly influenced by that day," said Williams.

We are deployed, deploying or training for deployments so that we can continue to fight the kind of enemies that are willing to attack us like those who did on 9/11, he continued.

While the memory of 9/11 might not be as fresh as it once was, the influence remains a daily part of the lives of Soldiers who deploy in Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. New Soldiers join the Army having grown up in the shadow of 9/11, and with the knowledge that they may be asked to fight the same type of enemies that attacked their country on that day, 10 years ago.



... Remembering 9/11



"To me, the remembrance of 9/11 is a time when Americans should reflect on the need to protect the United States and the citizens within, from foreign and internal threats. Just like Pearl Harbor, this event symbolizes the ability for others to gravely impact American lives and the need to protect (our citizens)." - Maj. Julian Avent, civil affairs officer



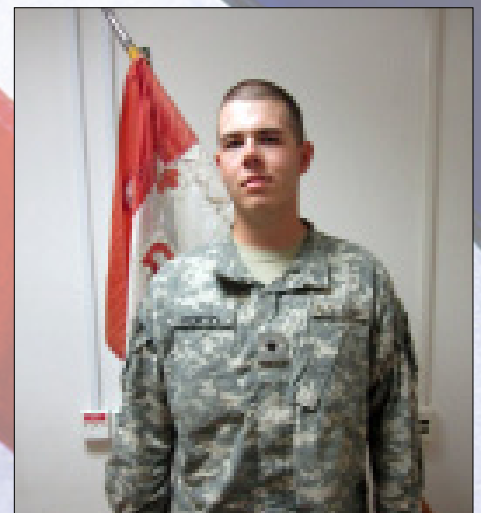
"The remembrance of 9/11, to me, is in honor of the men and women who lost their lives on this very tragic day in 2001. It is a celebration of the bravery shown that day. September the eleventh signifies the strength of the United States and its people. This day shows that even through the worst tragedy, the people of the U.S. will overcome any situation as long as we stand together." - Pfc. Keith Ephraim, chemical equipment repairman



"On this day, September 11, 2001, precisely ten years ago, I proudly provided medical aid and assistance while assigned to Bronx National Guard unit, 258th Field Artillery. As a proud New Yorker, it is with great privilege and pride to have aided and assisted my society in a time of temporary distress. As I reflect back on this day every year, there isn't any emotional displeasure. However, the feeling of a unified Nation fills my heart." - Staff Sgt. Charles Grant, central receiving and staging point noncommissioned officer-in-charge



"This day changed my life forever. I was two miles away from the blast when it happened. I was 21 years old, on my way home from school. I watched the towers crumbling from my rooftop. The city of New York will never be the same, it has impacted everything we do and everything we are. Joining the Army was my personal way of paying tribute to those we lost, and it is very important that we remember this day because we will never be the same." - Sgt. Jason Melendez, Chemical Equip. Repairer



"Their plan was to instill fear, but instead they brought us closer together. (We) rallied in unison, we wiped the tears from our eyes and stood tall. Taking up arms, to protect the ones we love (and) we moved forward. The world shook not from the fall of the towers, but from the roar of a nation." - Spc. David Fortin, computer detection system repairman

A Legal Perspective ...

CITIZENSHIP FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WHILE DEPLOYED by Capt. Angelia Champoux

Service Members may be eligible for naturalization through their military service under Section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. During a period of War, generally those Service Members who have served or are serving honorably in active duty status for any amount of time, even in just one day, are eligible for naturalization. Deployed Service Members may even apply for naturalization.

The general requirements and qualifications for any type of naturalization are a demonstration of good moral character, knowledge of the English language (you must be able to read write, and speak basic English), knowledge of U.S. government and civic history, demonstration of knowledge and attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution, and you must take the Oath of Allegiance. To be eligible for military naturalization you must have served honorably in active duty status and you must have been lawfully admitted as a permanent resident at any time after enlistment or induction or have been physically present in the U.S. at the time of enlistment or induction (this does not have to be permanent resi-

dency). If you meet the general and military requirements for naturalization, you can begin the application process.

To apply for citizenship you must complete Form N-400, (Application for Naturalization), Form N-426 (Request for Certification of Military Service – certified by S-1), and complete the Authorization for USCIS Usage of Military Fingerprints form located on the S-1 homepage on the share point. There is no application fee for Service Members. After you have completed your naturalization packet, but prior to submission, please see the Legal Assistance Attorney and Lieutenant (LT) Lori Montgomery in Brigade S-1, for assistance and review of your completed naturalization packet. LT Montgomery will certify your military service and the Legal Assistance Attorney will review your packet. After seeing both S-1 and Legal Assistance, submit the entire packet to:

The Nebraska Service Center
PO Box 87426
Lincoln, NE 68501-7426.

Currently, there is a military assistance team at the Nebraska Service Center (NSC) dedicated to processing all U.S. Service Members' Form N-400s. After

the military assistance team completes their processing of the N-400 packet, they transfer the file to the appropriate overseas or stateside USCIS office. That USCIS office will schedule an interview and the naturalization oath ceremony overseas or stateside if your application is approved. You should receive a receipt from NSC within 45 days of sending your application, if 90 days have passed and you have not received this receipt you should contact USCIS. If you are deployed, at any time after the NSC receives your application, you may contact the USCIS via phone or email to request overseas processing. Overseas processing allows for the proper interview and ensures the Oath is administered in the proper country.

For additional information you can visit www.uscis.gov/natzguide, contact the toll-free USCIS Military Help Line at 1-877-247-4645, or send an email to militaryinfo.nsc@dhs.gov.

For further assistance, please contact the Legal Assistance Office. We are here to help.



