



VANGUARD POINT

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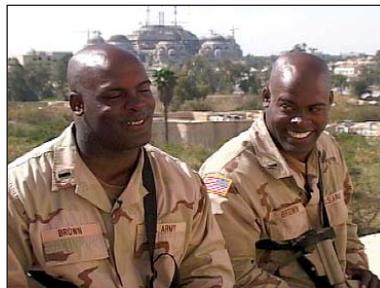
*Learning skills today that
could save lives tomorrow ...*



Inside



A new road connects farmers with the market, improving their economic way of life.



The Brown twins are used to being near each other and are serving together in the 3ID.



Coalition doctors performed a surgery that has given a baby a shot at life.



Sgt. Leigh Castle, a commo chief and sniper assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry coaches Iraqi Army Soldiers on how to properly enter and clear a room May 12 at Muthana Airfield. For story and photos by Pfc. Dan Balda, see Page 6.

To the Point: Voices and viewpoints from around the brigade

Celebrating the 4th BCT's first birthday

A year ago the 4th Brigade Combat Team was formed and celebrates it's first birthday May 26. Col. Edward Cardon talks about the journey in a letter to the Soldiers of the Vanguard Brigade. **Page 3**

A walk for the spirit

Walking can clear the mind and provides health benefits, but the spiritual walk with God is just as important. Chaplain (Maj.) Blake Bowers explains where ever we may walk God is with us. **Page 3**

Do you have a letter to the editor, photo or story to send in?
Send it to raymond.piper@us.army.mil.
Please include your full name and rank. If you send a photo, include what's going on in the photo, full names of people, rank, units and date.

Around the Point: Stories from around the Brigade

A road leading to the future

A new road for the Hamourabi village will provide an easier route to travel for farmers and workers. **Page 4**

Seeing double

The Brown twins are used to being around each other but were surprised to be serving in the same brigade. **Page 5**

Surgery aids Iraqi child

Coalition doctors performed a procedure on a child that saved his life. **Page 8**

Thinking about reenlisting?

The policy has changed and there are even more options for Soldiers to pick from when the choice to reenlist comes. **Page 10**

Connecting the brigade

The JNN team keeps the brigade talking. **Page 11**

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On the cover: Iraqi Army Soldiers rehearse how to properly enter and clear a room under the watchful eye of an American Soldier May 12 at Muthana Airfield.

VANGUARD 6 SENDS ...

Celebrating the first birthday of the newest brigade

To the Soldiers of the Vanguard Brigade:

On May 26, 2004, the 4th Brigade Combat Team was activated for duty as the Army's newest Unit of Action, the "Vanguard" brigade. We have come a long way since that memorable day and, we have achieved a great deal. As a result of the hard work, we are taking a day to reflect on the brigade's accomplishments since our activation one year ago with the "Vanguard" Birthday Celebration.

Although I will address everyone during the celebrations, I would like to take a moment to explain the significance of our one-year history. Since the unit's inception last May, we have undergone a remarkable transformation from an engineer brigade to a heavy-armor, maneuver brigade.

After months of reorganizing, we demonstrated our successful conversion and legitimacy as a brigade during Marne Focus and a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, our dress rehearsal for Iraq.

Now, more than three months into our deployment, we have set a very high standard for deployed forces of all nations. We are here at a critical time in Iraq's history performing a crucial

role in the country's transformation and its own fight for legitimacy as a democratic nation. Our efforts, and of those who have given their life, are lasting contributions to a noble cause – Operation Iraqi Freedom. As we have demonstrated over the past year, our commitment to excellence is firm and our determination to succeed remains constant. I thank each and every Vanguard Soldier for a job well done.

As the 4th BCT commander, I will preside over the celebrations at each FOB – Prosperity, Honor, and Falcon – and consider it a tremendous honor to celebrate the brigade's first birthday with all the Vanguard Soldiers in attendance. I look forward to visiting with the very Soldiers who made the brigade's mission such a success.

Enjoy the festivities ...Vanguard!

Col. Edward C. Cardon
4th BCT Commander



Chaplain's corner ...

Walking with God promotes good spiritual health

Chaplain (Maj.) Blake Bowers
4th BCT Chaplain

One of the most relaxing things I like to do is take a walk. It helps me to slow



down and think through difficult problems. Sometimes I walk to enjoy the finer things of life. A bee gathering nectar to make honey or listening to the sounds of nature that God has given us. Sometimes I walk to take in the beauty that surrounds us. Sometimes I walk with members of my family just to enjoy their company and talk sometimes about silly things and answer their questions or just to see what is on their mind.

Yet other times I use walking as a form of exercise and I think on spiritual things; I use it to commune with God and sometimes to even work out sermons in my head based on the scriptures I am going to use.

Why do you walk and whom do you walk with? The scriptures say a lot about our spiritual walk.

The Psalmist said "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me."

We will have hard and difficult times, but the Lord's presence is with us. Isaiah said "We shall walk and not be weary."

God's strength is boundless while our endurance is limited.

In Psalm 1 it says "A godly man walks not in the counsel of the ungodly."

Our spiritual walk is to be with the right people; people who also love God and holy things. Corruption and sin will wear down on the spirit after a while if our fellowship is not with the believers.

God even likes to walk. He walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. He wants to walk with us today. When we choose to walk with God we have a friend who listens to our problems and offers solutions. When we walk with God at the difficult moments of our life he is present when our enemies want to destroy us. When we feel like giving up and quitting he give us hope and restores our spirit and strength. When we walk with God we walk in the right company.

This deployment is the right time to walk with God. Together you and your family can make it to the end. Together you can handle the difficult issues. Your children or parents or other loved ones and friends can walk with you as you journey together with God and you encourage and support each other. I challenge you to take a walk with God and see what a difference it will make in your life. 



A road better paved is a road better traveled

Infrastructure continues to improve in Al-Rasheed

Maj. Alayne Conway
4BCT PAO

After spending a few months in Iraq, Soldiers soon forget the ease of being able to travel within the United States over more than two million miles of paved roads and streets. It is a little known fact that the first constructed roads date from about 4,000 B.C and were built in Ur, or modern-day Iraq.

Iraq today has plenty of roadways but for small neighborhoods like Radwaniya, a paved road goes a long way in improving transportation and the economy.

Iraqi leaders from the Radwaniya Neighborhood Advisory Council along with Coalition forces completed a road project that spans more than four kilometers and cost about \$565,000.

Radwaniya is a neighborhood located in the district of Al Rasheed.



Photos by Maj. Alayne Conway

One of the two water towers in Radwaniya that will provide water for more than 7,000 residents. Hamourabi Road runs alongside the water tower and canal.

“The paving of the Hamourabi village road is great for the community,” said Capt. Christian Neels, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment civil-military operations officer, and native of Muscatine, Iowa. “The completion of the road will offer a quicker means of allowing farmers and the local population to get to the market and in the long run, contribute to the economic progress of the area.”

Neels added that unemployment in the surrounding towns of Musafar and the Hey Al Askari area is high. With few jobs available in the community, the roadway will allow the population to get into Baghdad where employment opportunities are greater.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division initially proposed the project to provide easier access for farmers and the local population to get to the market and to operate their vehicles after rains. Prior to the paving of the roadway, civilian traffic was severely restricted by the mud roads and the adjacent canal.

After the transition of authority between 1st Cav. Div. and 3rd Inf. Div. in February 3/7 Inf. inherited the project and worked closely with Sheikh Ali Muttar, the Radwaniya NAC chairman, Neels said.

Sheikh Ali has overseen other infrastructure improvement projects in the Radwaniya neighborhood.

A 3,000 meter waterline that runs alongside the Hamourabi Road was built and works in conjunction with two water towers in the area, said Sheikh Ali.

“The two water towers in Hey Al Askari and Al Musafar have the potential of providing drinking water for at least 7,000 people,” he said.

He also said that before the water project can be accepted by the Municipality of Baghdad, the local contractor must make some modifications.

The NAC has also renovated a school for the area, led a campaign of removing trash and built two soccer fields.

Although the Radwaniya area now falls under the control of 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the Soldiers of 3/7 Inf. keep in touch with the progress of Sheikh Ali and his community and there is still much work to be done in other areas.

“Continuing roadway and water improvements and establishing long-term employment of the local population in our sector will continue to be our emphasis,” Neels said. 

Twins serve together in Iraq

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

It is not unusual for identical twins to play the same sports, go to the same college, or choose the same profession.

It is unusual, however, for those that choose the Army to be assigned to the same division, let alone the same brigade.

First Lieutenants Deeon and Reeon Brown, natives of Walterboro, S.C., are assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. Deeon is a platoon leader with A Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment. Reeon is assigned to A Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Infantry Regt.

and enrolled in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at South Carolina State University. They chose the same major (surprise, surprise), computer science.

“The only time I get to use my major in the Army is when I type up a memorandum,” said Deeon, the self described “talker” of the two.

While in school, they played the standard twin jokes, going to each other’s classes and taking each other’s tests.

While in ROTC they chose the same branch, infantry, but knew the realities of the military and readied themselves to be split up for the first time in their lives.

thought it was, you’ve got Soldiers that look to you when they don’t know what to do on the ground, it can be the difference between life and death, that’s a lot of responsibility,” Reeon said. “It’s scary sometimes.”

Their parents are a little wary of having their two sons so close to the action at the same time but they realize this is what their son’s have chosen to do with their lives and support them all the way.

Both men plan on staying in the Army until “we get kicked out.” They plan on attending as many schools as possible when they redeploy.

This is the longest the brothers have been apart in their lives. Even though the situation is very different for them, a lot of their experiences remain the same.

“It’s kind of nice to be in separate units for once just because we don’t get mixed up as much,” Deeon said. “But I’ll still be walking around and see one of his Soldiers and he will ask me something about their unit, and I have to tell them that I’m not who he thinks I am.”

Throughout their lives they have competed in everything possible. They wanted to see who was the fastest, the strongest, who could get the better grades and who was better looking. When I asked them who usually won they answered at the same time, “I did.” The competitive spirit has not changed since they arrived in Baghdad.

“We try to top each other,” they said. “Who has the worst sector, who’s doing the most things, it keeps us going.”

Both of their platoons spend ample time out on patrol.



“I’ll still be walking around and see one of his Soldiers and he will ask me something about their unit”

According to the twins there are some differences between them, although I had a hard time noticing some of said differences. Deeon says he is “more stout” than his brother and Reeon says he is taller. The only difference I could see between the two was the cadence and pitch of their voices and Reeon’s gold tooth.

During their sophomore year of high school they knew they wanted to join the Army. Initially they joined the Reserves,

“We didn’t even ask to be stationed at the same place, it just worked out that way,” Deeon said. “We found out while we were at (Officers Basic Course). We said hey alright, we’re going to Stewart, to 3rd ID. We both knew that 3rd ID is the most lethal mechanized unit that the Army has. I knew it was a high speed unit, and that I wanted to be there.”

Their experience in Iraq has not changed their perception.

“It’s everything and more than I

“Every time I go out on patrol I ask the (Iraqi) people if the situation is getting any better and they always say yes, they say we are you’re here,” Deeon said.

Reeon agreed with his brother but added one caveat.

“We work a lot with the Iraqi Army, going through the neighborhoods,” he said. “Those guys have been working hard, and the Iraqi people seem grateful to see their own Soldiers out on patrol with us.”



Photos by Pfc. Dan Balda

Members of the Iraqi Army practice squad based movements at Muthana Airfield May 12.

The future security of Iraq depends on the troops that American Soldiers are training. Every day the Soldiers work so they can become the ...

Defenders of their own destiny

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

The training could be found on any U.S. Army base anywhere in the world. Soldiers listened to their instructors with rapt attention; happy to receive any feedback, positive or negative, which helped them learn faster. They knew the faster they learned, the faster they could shed the watchful eye of their teacher and be able to defend the country they love; the county they have pledged their lives to.

But this was not an American military base with American Soldiers—it was a hot, dusty airfield near Baghdad and the ones paying close attention to the instructor were Iraqi men with their lives and their country's future at stake.

Some of these Iraqi Soldiers have already seen combat with Marines in Fallujah in 2004, others have only fired their weapons at the range. Regardless, everything they learn today could save their lives tomorrow.

Soldiers could not ask questions of their instructor directly, but had to ask an interpreter and have the question relayed to Sgt. Leigh Castle, a communications expert and scout sniper, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry.

"These guys know the things we are teaching them are going to save their lives," Castle said.

The Iraqi Soldiers need to know when they are doing something wrong so they can correct it, but too much negativity can have an adverse affect on the training, he added.

"It's hot, they are spending their day out here just like us in the same conditions, and sometimes you have to give them a little boost to bring them together. They have problems just like anyone else and I like to talk to them; to try to understand their issues, but I also have to tell them that we have a job to do and ask for a couple of hours of concentration," Castle said.

Two of the issues the American instructors find themselves dealing with are the language barrier, and the habits some of the Iraqi Soldiers have brought with them from their prior service in the military of the former regime, said Staff Sgt. Jason Stoko, a sniper section leader assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64 Armor Regiment.

Another issue Capt. Justin Reese, the commander of HHT 6-8 Cav., thinks the Soldiers have brought with them is the ineffective use of non-commissioned officers.

"(Under the former regime) the officers did all the work," Reese said. "We are trying to empower their noncommissioned officer corps. That is the greatest challenge: sergeants who are not used to getting up taking charge of an organization, are now expected to take the lead."

Regardless of how the Soldiers were taught before, they still maintain the intelligence to learn and apply their new skills.

"We know what to expect from them as far as training and accountability," Reese said. "We talk to each other about our various experiences and we both learn from each other."

Castle has found one way to hurdle the language gap.

"I can't wait to get out of the classroom to the range because it's a lot more hands-on and you can show them things; a lot of that language barrier goes away. I can grab a Soldier's rifle and show them how I want something done. Then they copy me. Soldiering is universal," Castle added.

1st Lt. Naim Lee, a platoon leader with C Troop, 6-8 Cav., and a native of Crestview, Fla., was surprised by the Iraqi Soldiers.

"I wasn't expecting them to be so willing to learn. They are very eager to learn and easy to teach. It makes you eager to learn if you know you are going to be out there getting shot at. Also, most of them want to make their country better," he said.

Lt. Col. Michael Harris, 6-8 Cav. commanders-peaking to a fellow Soldier about one of his favorite things he had seen during training, said, "All these Army guys have things in common, no matter what Army you're in. You suck up dirt, you get dirty, you get thirsty, but it's all worth it at the end of the day."

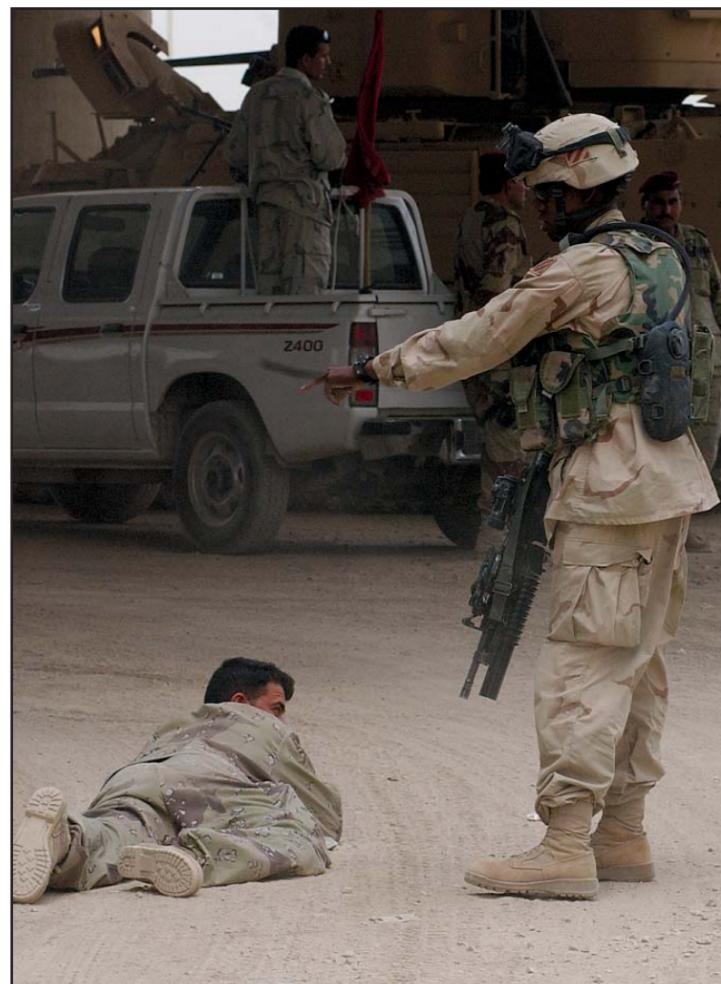
Even though Lee's Soldiers are fulfilling a different mission here in Iraq than the one they trained for at Fort Stewart, they are excited to be training the men who are going to take over for them.

Lee said, "We didn't know we were going to be training these guys, but my guys are doing a great job. Most of us get excited to come out here every day." 



Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

Pfc. Clifford Beard from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment and Cottage Grove, Minn., native, demonstrates to Iraqi Soldiers how to properly position their bodies and walk during reflexive fire training.



A U.S. Soldier teaches members of the Iraqi Army how to properly react to fire at Muthana Airfield, May 12.

Coalition doctors work to insert a drain tube into a 4-month-old baby that is suffering from Hydrocephalus, a brain disorder that causes fluid to build up in the brain.

Courtesy Photo



Surgery gives baby a shot at survival

Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper
4th BCT PA NCOIC

A coincidence has given a 4-month-old child a shot at living thanks to an operation that coalition doctors performed. The surgery reduced the pressure that was created by a fluid build up in the brain, a disorder known as hydrocephalus.

During a 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment medical assistance program on Haifa Street, the child's mother brought the child to the doctors and asked if there was anything they could for him. Local Iraqi doctors had told her that there was nothing that could be done and the child most likely would die within the next year.

The question was posed to Capt. Daniel Green, battalion surgeon for 4/64 Armor, by one of the battalion's company commanders, "Was there anything U.S. resources could do to help?"

Green said he went to see the child himself so he could evaluate the situation. He said, "The prognosis was dismal at best."

The child was born without one of the ducts that regulate the flow of cerebral spinal fluid, so with nowhere to go, the fluid built up and built up.

"This kid's head is about as big as a person's head can possibly get without dying," Green said.

Despite the prognosis, he went to coalition doctors and asked if there was anything that they could do. Green said, "Through my medical training I knew of a shunting procedure and have seen it done several times. Usually, it's done in the first two weeks of life, not in the first four months."

The neurosurgeons just happened to have the exact shunt, which is nothing more than a specially designed rubber tubing with a valve that opens and closes under the right amount of pressure.

"They had the right one – just a coincidence that they happened to have it by no deliberate undertaking by the Army. It just hap-

pened to be in the class VIII (medical supplies)," Green said.

Green's fellow doctors felt it was at least worth evaluating the child, so they scheduled a day for the mother and a couple of the relatives to come to the hospital with a translator and conducted a clinical evaluation of the child.

"We evaluated the child's motor skills, learning skills, functioning ... and did a CAT scan," Green said.

The child's brain damage on the CAT scan was extensive, he said.

"It was more severe than probably would ever be seen in the United States. Mainly because it had gone on much longer than a child in the United States would have gone before treatment," Green continued. "We even for a moment on the CAT scan were questioning whether or not we could identify certain structures of the brain to prove that the entire brain had developed. That would have been a major issue if it was obvious that large portions of the brain hadn't developed then even relieving pressure wasn't going to save the child in any way if the brain simply wasn't there."

Green continued, "Here we have a situation that is extreme pathology. There was so much fluid build up in the brain it compressed all of the brain tissue to a five millimeter thickness to the edge of the skull. It had pushed the bones and stretched the skin as far as they would possibly go."

After an extensive evaluation by one of the radiologists, it was felt that all the structures were indeed in the brain but they were compressed by the excessive fluid on the walls of the skull, causing the paralysis and severe mental retardation that was already exhibited in the child.

But at the same time the surgeons felt that there might be some benefit to helping the child. The direct benefit to the child is he's probably in a lot of pain.

Continued next page

"If he didn't live a day longer, at least whatever days he continued to live would be pain free."

Continued from previous page

"You can't ask the child if he is in pain, but it seemed quite evident to the mother and anybody who sort of looked at him. The pain is from the fluid compressing the brain tissue," Green said. "The sheer relief of pressure from the brain might drastically reduce the pain."

"If he didn't live a day longer, at least whatever days he continued to live would be pain free or would be with reduced pain," Green added.

There was an added benefit to attempting the procedure. If it was successful, it could continue to foster good relations with the Iraqi people and help instill trust that the Americans are here to help.

"Obviously that is not the reason to do surgery or risk a child's life but it was an added benefit to the pain reduction and therefore further encouraged us to offer the surgery to the family," Green said.

After the evaluation, the family had a very tough decision to make. If something went wrong on the table or the surgery wasn't successful, it could hasten the child's demise. Meaning that if the child was left untreated, he would live six months. There was an increased possibility that he might not have survived the surgery or something could happen after the surgery a week later.

"We tried to make this as clear as possible to the family. Through a number of

translators and conversations, we feel that the family did understand that this was a very risky undertaking. They understood the morbidity and mortality here that this may have been the child's last day because we started to intervene. The family was willing to do it ... even just for the pain control," Green said.

Pain control is the most likely benefit, Green said, but there is always the chance for a miracle. There is the possibility that this shunt will relieve so much pressure that he will actually begin to develop normally.

"However, he will never be a normal child as there will still be moderate to severe brain damage and lower extremity paralysis, but we might buy him six more months to a year of life so that further medical opportunities might become available so that we might prolong his life further. That's the long shot," Green said.

Two neurosurgeons operated on the child in unison. They inserted a drain that goes from the top of the head into the collection of fluid in the center of the brain and tunnels through the skin along the side into the stomach where the fluid drains into the stomach. The drainage is controlled by the precision manufacturing of the tube that opens and closes at certain pressures and modulates the pressure in the brain.

"After the surgery, it was wide open and draining but at some point it should shut off and operate normally," Green said.

There were a couple hairy moments during the surgery, which was to be expected. The child had other medical issues, not just the hydrocephalus but was severely malnourished through no fault of the mom.

"The child probably had no drive to feed so the mother was doing her best to get food in but the child simply wasn't interested in taking the food," Green said. "We had a severely malnourished child, which makes it extremely difficult to put the drain in the stomach."

The stomach and intestines were badly scarred down due to atrophy from the child not using the organs and a possible stomach infection, which made it very difficult to put the drain in the stomach.

Fortunately after the three surgeons, sat and looked, discussed and prodded, they finally found where they were going to put the drain, Green said. It was defi-



Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

The child's mother stands watch over her son after the surgery May 4.

nitely mechanical expertise and a lot of good dexterity. The doctors were calm and had a good attitude about it.

Under normal circumstances if this was a child in the United States at two weeks of life this would be a bread and butter surgery that was done three or four times a day in a 15 to 20 minute procedure.

"In this child you have taken a simple procedure and have taken it to the extreme of dangerous because the anatomy was so badly destroyed over the past four months by the destructive behavior of both his malnourishment and the Hydrocephalus that the complications were absolutely extreme," Green said.

He continued, "You would never see this large presentation of Hydrocephalus in the United States because it would have gotten treated in the first two weeks of life. This would never get this far in a country with immediate access to health care."

Despite the difficulties of the operation, the shunt was operating properly while the child was kept under observation after the surgery to watch for infection. He was released from the hospital, healthier than when he came in, and given a shot for a miracle. 



Courtesy photo

The sick child rests on a litter as doctors from 4th BCT examine him during a medical assistance program on Haifa Street April 2.

New re-enlistment policies expand Soldiers' options

Eric Cramer

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers have a new set of re-enlistment opportunities thanks to policy changes announced by the Army this month.

The changes impact when Soldiers are allowed to re-enlist and what re-enlistment options are available to them when they decide to stay in the military, said Sgt. Maj. Scott Kuhar, senior Army career counselor.

“There are four options for re-enlistment,” Kuhar said. “Regular Army re-enlistment, which means the Soldier can be assigned anywhere, based on the needs of the Army; current station stabilization, where the Soldier will be stabilized at his current location for at least 12 months; Army training, the Soldier re-enlists to get training, whether that’s airborne school or a new military occupational specialty; Overseas, the Soldier reenlists for an overseas assignment; and Continental United States station of choice.”

Kuhar said Soldiers’ eligibility for these enlistment options depend on when they choose to reenlist.

Under the new policy, Soldiers can choose to re-enlist up to 24 months before their enlistments would end. Soldiers re-enlisting more than 18 months before their Expiration, Term of Service, will be assigned only to the first

Reenlisting ...

- 24 months out -- Reassignment based on needs of the Army and reenlistment must exceed original ETS date by 12 months
- 18 to 3 months out -- Qualify for all reenlistment options; current station stabilization for 12 months, Army training for new MOS or skill modifier, or assignment of choice.
- 3 months out -- Reassignment based on the needs of the Army.

option – the needs of the Army. They also must re-enlist for a period that exceeds their ETS date by at least 12 months.

Soldiers who choose to re-enlist three to 18 months before their ETS date are eligible for all re-enlistment options. Those who re-enlist within three months of their ETS date are assigned based on the needs of the Army, Kuhar said.

He said the policy also means Soldiers can receive any incentive, such as re-enlistment bonuses, at the time they re-enlist.

“If there’s an incentive available, they are eligible for it at that time,” Kuhar said.

Soldiers who re-enlist more than a year before their ETS date must re-enlist for four years. Kuhar said Soldiers who want stabilization at a given duty station must

re-enlist at least six months before they ETS, return from overseas or their unit reaches its “end of lifecycle date” when it will either deploy or redeploy

Kuhar said one large change is that the Army now allows staff sergeants to remain on active duty for 22 years. Previously the “retention control point” for E-6 Soldiers required them to retire at 20 years. Kuhar said this change had already been made on a temporary basis for some MOSs, but is now permanent and covers all MOSs.

“We had a pool of people there who were doing a good job, and the question was ‘Why not let them stay?’” Kuhar said.

He said that currently there have been no changes to the retention control point for other enlisted ranks. 

JOINING FORCES TO PROVIDE MEDICAL AID

Iraqi Army and U.S. medics alongside Iraqi doctors join forces to help locals during a 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment medical assistance program in the al Rasheed District May 13.



Capt. Raymond Hill

The JNN: One Team, One Fight

You can talk about them but you can't talk without them ...

1st Lt. John Weissenborn

4-3 BTB

The Joint Network Node is the focal point for all of A Company, 4-3 Brigade Troops Battalion's operations. With the fielding of the new communications equipment in September came many problems, issues and short-comings.

Through the late nights at the motor pool configuring routers, to the rainy days at the Joint Readiness Training Center fixing satellite trailers, to the dust of Kuwait, the 4th Brigade JNN crew has evolved into a robust and dependable communications team.

The JNN team is led by two non-commissioned officers, Sgt. Samuel Smith and Sgt. Justin Hutchinson. Both received their technical training on the JNN last summer.

Specializing in the router and data side of the JNN, Pfc.

Derrick Abbott and Pfc. Issac Sims are the "go-to" personnel. Sgt. Steven Smith and Spc. James Wilcox are the senior operators for the JNN. Sgt. Sean Tappan, Spc. Michelle Hudon, Spc. Christopher

Jenkins, Pfc. Derrick Hall, and Pfc. Ryan Netto complete the team by operating the KU trailers.

Smith and Hutchinson are continually looking for ways to enhance the overall effectiveness of the team. Recently, the team chiefs devised a "hands on" training plan to increase the knowledge and skills for the soldiers that did not receive the proper training for the JNN.

On April 26, Brig. Gen. Mark O'Neil and Brig. Gen. Jeff Foley visited A Co. to see the newly restructured teams in action.

After receiving a brief from Maj. Daniel Kuntz, the Brigade S-6, and Capt. Jude Metoyer along with the generals talked with the actual soldiers operating and maintaining the equipment.

Several of the soldiers received division coins for their meritorious efforts thus far in supporting the 3rd Infantry Division's network.

With several months of operations successfully completed, the JNN team will continue to develop and grow together in support of the 4th Brigade's tactical network. 



Without the JNN team VOIP phones throughout the division would be silent and information wouldn't flow smoothly..

IZ soccer season heating up ...



Courtesy Photos

(Above) Players contend for the ball during the weekly soccer game held in the International Zone.

(Right) Players demonstrate some fancy foot work as the vie for control of the ball during the game. The U.S. team is made up of service-members from around the IZ and organized by 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment.





HARPSHOOTERS

Photos from around the brigade by the Soldiers of 4th BC7



Courtesy photos

Cpl. John Grayson, Elizabethton, Tenn., uses a whistle to help direct traffic during an explosive ordnance detachment escort mission May 1.



(Above) Sgt Chris Cartwright, Bristol, Tenn., pulls security from the gunner's position as Sgt. David Rapcan, Bristol, Tenn., and 2nd Lt. Jeff Loring-Clark, Dallas, Texas, organize local security for the EOD team on the Karradah Peninsula May 1.

(Below) Soldiers practice their close quarter marksmanship skills at Highlander Range.



Pile of captured munitions being prepared for detonation at purgatory range. 2nd Platoon F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry and the Vanguard EOD team.



An Iraqi doctor examines Maj. Gen. Faris, the 5th Iraqi Army Brigade Commander, during a medical program May 20.