

# The Freedom Post

Published for Task Force Freedom Soldiers Serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom III

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Volume 1: Issue 11

## New General takes Reins of TFF

Brig. Gen. Rodriguez new to Task Force Freedom, but not to OIF mission

Story and Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas



**Brig. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, Commander, Task Force Freedom talks with Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner, Deputy Commander, TFF and Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Pring, Command Sergeant Major, TFF after a Transfer of Authority at FOB Diamondback**

With the changing of the seasons bringing warmer times ahead, Task Force Freedom welcomes its new commander, Brig. Gen. David M. Rodriguez. While he is a newcomer to the Task Force Freedom team, the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission is familiar to the new commander.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner takes his preplanned position as Deputy Commander, while Rodriguez steps up to the challenges of the Ninawa Province by leading TFF to defend from terrorist actions while rebuilding the infrastructure in the area.

“Here, I have the opportunity to lead Soldiers who are out there sacrificing and serving so selflessly,” said Rodriguez. “Just being a part of that is a tremendous honor. I am glad to just be a part of the team. There are a bunch of heroes out here who are fighting for the Iraqi people’s freedoms. Their capa-

bility to transition between fighting the terrorists and helping the Iraqi people is unequalled. There is nobody greater than the American Soldier.”

“This purpose, [of Operation Iraqi Freedom], is to continue to build the stability by working on maintaining a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Iraq,” said Rodriguez. “We are here to build the Iraqi Security Force’s capabilities, including the Iraqi Police, Army, and Border Patrol. We want to help them gain the capability to defend themselves. They will then perform operations to stop the terrorists that are preventing the Iraqi people from enjoying the safe and secure environment they deserve.”

During his command here at Task Force Freedom, Rodriguez will continue to rebuild the Iraqi Forces so they can take a larger role in the War on Terror in their own country.

*continued on page 2*

**continued from page 1**

“We will be partnering with the Iraqi Security Forces so they can become the force needed to defend their country. Additionally, we will defeat the terrorists who are fighting against the Iraqi people and keeping them from the freedom they desire,” he said.

Some operations include training of Soldiers for the Iraqi Security Forces, ongoing civil affairs building and education projects, and joint operations to better prepare the Iraqi Forces to protect the innocent citizens in the Ninawa Province.

“We should be able to make some significant progress during our time here. By building the Iraqi Security Forces and increasing the effectiveness of the attacks against terrorists, we will be able to hand more of that fight over to the Iraqi people,” said Rodriguez. “Decreasing the effectiveness of the terrorists and increasing the effectiveness of the Iraqi Security Forces is a step in the right direction.”

Rodriguez’s career started as a Rifle Platoon Leader for A Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Polk, La. He served as a scout platoon leader in the same battalion when he was promoted to first lieutenant in 1978. On Aug 1, 1980, he was promoted to captain. In July of 1981, his first unit command was in Germany with B Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 1st Armored Division, United States Army Europe and 7th Army.

In July 1984, he served with the 75th Ranger Regiment stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., and later became the Battalion Liaison Officer for 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. In 1987, he became the commander of B Company of the same ranger regiment.

He went to Fort Bragg, N.C. as a major in 1990, where he became the Executive Officer for the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and

served a tour in Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

In March of 1992, he served as an executive officer in Korea as a lieutenant colonel with the United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command United States Forces Korea.

At Fort Benning, then Col. Rodriguez, took up the assignment as the Deputy Commanding General and Assistant Commandant at the United States Army Infantry Center from October 2000 to June of 2002. Shortly before the end of his assignment, he was promoted to brigadier general on March 1, 2002. In June of the same year, he was the Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver), 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, Tx., where he deployed with them to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon his return from Iraq, Rodriguez moved to Washington, D.C. and became the Deputy Director of Regional Operations as part of the Joint Staff.

“Like many officers, I have served many years in the Army all over the world,” said Rodriguez. “I have served in Germany, Korea and in several combat operations including Operations Just Cause in ’89, Desert Storm and Desert Shield in ’90 and ’91, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Now I am back to serve in OIF III with Task Force Freedom.”

Rodriguez has earned the Legion of Merit (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal (with an Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Ranger Tab.

Brig. Gen. Rodriguez has been selected for Maj. Gen..

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# Security is Through the Roof with the 59th Military Police Company

*Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Michele Uitermarkt*

FOB DIAMONDBACK - Sgt. 1st Class Michael Paz-Torres, Platoon Sergeant of the 3rd Platoon, 59th Military Police Company, was explaining the mission of the following day on the patio outside his living quarters when a loud explosion caught his attention. Small arms fire followed. "That was close," he said calmly, "it sounded like a [Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device]."

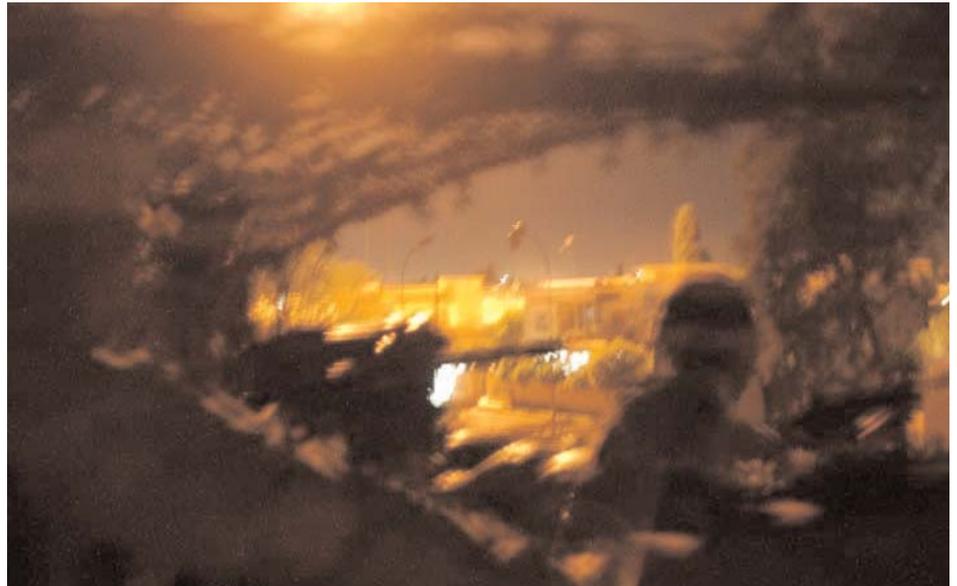
The Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 59th MP Co. from Ft. Riley, Kan., went from ending another long day by showering, listening to music, or talking with comrades to performing their mission. The mission of protecting the forward operating base (FOB) in full body armor carrying an arsenal of weapons onto the roof of their quarters.

The FOB was taking fire from a nearby mosque. Third Platoon knew exactly what to do. "To the roof," echoed down the stairwell as Soldiers grabbed their weapons, radios and gear.

All of them positioned themselves like snipers on the roof; they locked and loaded their M4 and M16 A2 Rifles, Mark 19, and M249 Squad Automatic Weapons.

As sporadic gunfire continued; every bullet, tracer, local national walking outside, and every vehicle in the area was methodically observed and reported to the towers and company headquarters.

A series of tracers flew by and the unphased MPs reported them. The Soldiers' voices were



***Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 59th Military Police Company scan their sectors as an illumination flare lights up the city on the other side of Forward Operating Base Diamondback's wall.***

steady; their sectors were covered, as if this happens every day.

"That was the first time [we've been attacked]," said Sgt. Jason Davis, Military Police Officer, "The unit that was here before us got attacked from across the street, so when we got here, we had to re-fortify that whole roof."

The 59th MPs were ready for the fight. Armed with an M4 rifle and night vision goggles, "Come on, do something stupid," challenged one Soldier under his breath.

Nothing.

Illumination flares were set off over the city. The insurgents responded with more small arms fire punctuated by tracers. Several flew overhead in a poorly aimed attempt at breaching the security at FOB Diamondback.

"They didn't like that," said one Soldier.

As time passed without

contact, the radio traffic died down. Some Soldiers lit cigarettes as they continued to watch over the city.

Sgt. 1st Class Paz-Torres relieved the Soldiers one by one to return to their "down time". After several hours, the guard tower was left to watch the sector once again.

There were only flares fired. There were no injuries and there was no breach of security. The insurgent attack was futile.

Soldiers of the 59th Military Police Company responded to an attack on FOB Diamondback with professionalism. Prepared for a fight, they kept their cool and communicated. It was back to briefing on the next day's mission for Paz-Torres, but not after he apologized, "Sorry it wasn't more exciting, you guys."

\* \* \*

# Vehicle safety showing improvement in Iraq

Story by Sgt. Michael J. Carden, Army News Service

Final Part of Vehicle Safety continued from last week

*Last week Sgt. Carden explained how roll over drills can save Soldiers lives and how many Soldiers fall prey to vehicle accidents.*

A factor that troops may not be aware of is the significant increase in the weight an up-armored Humvee gains with the addition of protective armor. During investigations of past accidents, Martin and his team have found that the up-armored Humvees are considerably heavier than the soft-skinned Humvees Soldiers were accustomed to driving in garrison. Humvees become top-heavy. "When the armor is added, the Humvee's balance and characteristics are changed dramatically," Martin said. "Soldiers have to take the added weight into consideration."

Because of the weight, up-armored vehicle drivers are more likely to lose control and roll the vehicle. Speed also plays a major role in maintaining control.

"In a convoy, if a vehicle falls behind the vehicle in front of it, the driver tends to increase his speed to catch up," Martin said. "He may find himself too close to the vehicle and possibly jerk the wheel too hard. This may cause him to swerve off of the road and roll."

"Do you want to drive 50 mph down a two lane road with heavy traffic and have the vehicles in the convoy constantly trying to catch up, or do you want to slow down to 40 or 45 mph so the convoy can stay together?" Martin asked. "If you keep the speed to a minimum, you can safely negotiate the situation."

On roads with many pot-holes, Humvee drivers may have to maneuver around them. They must be cautious of their speed. They may also encounter narrow roads or be attacked, which could cause them to lose control of their vehicle, according to Marine Cpl. Chris Pearo.

Pearo is an up-armored Humvee driver for the Multi-National Corps - Iraq resource and sustainment operations security team. He participates in several

convoys each week. Every morning Pearo conducts a standard safety check of his Humvee, making sure his fire extinguishers, safety belts, and doors are all working properly.

Before each mission, his convoy commander gives a thorough convoy brief, explaining the terrain, route, and what the Soldiers should do in unsafe situations, he said.

"Safety is paramount," Pearo said. "Before every convoy, we discuss safety procedures, making us more aware, and prepared. Every time we go out, we're alert to the possibilities of a rollover and what may cause an accident."

"You've always got to be cautious when driving a Humvee," Pearo said. "It's not like driving your car. It's top-heavy. It's worse than a [sport utility vehicle]. If you jerk the wheel too hard, all you have to be going is 35 or 40 mph to flip the vehicle."

Pearo said his main concern while driving is the safety of his passengers. They are his motivation to always maintain a safety-conscious attitude.

"As a driver, you have to remember that you're not the only person in the vehicle," Pearo said. "If something happens, you'll have to live with that mistake for the rest of your life."

"Every time we lose a Soldier to an accident it depletes our combat readiness," Martin said. "We need every Soldier to successfully complete our mission here. It's our responsibility to protect our force and maintain our combat power."

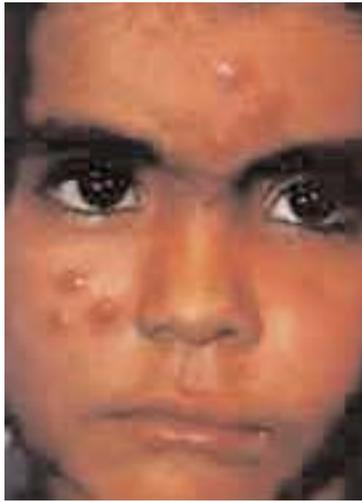
Although units and Soldiers practice vehicle safety and rehearse situational drills, that may not be enough. Martin added that Soldiers must use their own common sense and know-how to maintain vehicle safety and awareness.

"Safety is all about using common sense. We have the guidelines, rules, policies, and procedures in place," Martin said. "We understand those things, but you still have to apply common sense. That can be the difference in having an accident or safely completing the mission."

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**Top Right:** The sand fly carries the Leishmaniasis parasite. **Top Left:** The face of a child infected with Leishmaniasis. **Bottom Left:** A lesion caused by Leishmaniasis is usually accompanied by a fever, sweats, flushing, abdominal pain and severe and abrupt weight loss. These symptoms will occur anywhere from weeks to several months after exposure to the parasite.



# Dr. T's Medical Matters

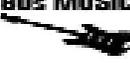
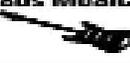
## LEISHMANIASIS

Leishmaniasis is one of the words you do not want to see in your medical record. It is also something that you don't want to "bring home" with you when you leave Iraq. In this edition of Dr. T's Medical Matters we will discuss this disease. If you are in Task Force Freedom, and more importantly, station or visit Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sykes, you need to know about leishmaniasis. Last year, 80% of all cases diagnosed in US Soldiers came from the FOB Sykes area. The Sand Fly is the carrier of a parasite that causes this disease. Preventive Medicine and KBR have worked hard to control the Sand Fly population at Sykes. The best treatment is prevention. Personal prevention starts with Permethrin treated uniforms and regular use of insect repellent. Leishmaniasis is caused by a parasite (leishmania) when infected sand flies bite you. You could be at an increased risk of getting this disease if you have been deployed to certain parts of Iraq.



# 107.3 THE STALLION

Check out our website at [www.tffpao.org](http://www.tffpao.org)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 pm-3 pm-	<b>OLDIES</b> <i>With The</i> <b>OLDIES</b> <i>Aunt Jill &amp; Uncle Bob</i>	<b>WILDCARD RADIO SHOW</b> 	<b>BEATLES &amp; OLDIES</b> <i>With</i> <b>HAPPY &amp; BOB</b>	<b>Red Hot COUNTRY</b> <i>With</i> <b>Tango &amp; Red</b>	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>Songs of PRAISE</i> <i>With</i> <b>LANCE</b>
6 pm-7 pm-	<b>SPORTS N' SHOOTIN' GUITARS</b> <i>With</i> <b>HAWKEYE</b>	<b>Flashback</b> 80s MUSIC 	<b>Classic ROCK</b>	<b>Rhythm &amp; BLUES</b> <i>With</i> <b>DAWN</b>	SENIOR PANZON'S LATINO NITE 	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<b>Classic Southern ROCK &amp; COUNTRY</b> <i>With</i> <b>KAPPY</b>
7 pm-8 pm-	<b>JOE'S GARAGE</b> <i>With</i> <b>Joe Villines</b>	<b>Flashback</b> 80s MUSIC 	<b>Classic ROCK</b>	<b>Rhythm &amp; BLUES</b> <i>With</i> <b>DAWN</b>	SENIOR PANZON'S LATINO NITE 	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<b>Classic Southern ROCK &amp; COUNTRY</b> <i>With</i> <b>KAPPY</b>
8 pm-9 pm-	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>Songs of PRAISE</i> <i>With</i> <b>LANCE</b>	<b>90's &amp; NEW ROCK</b> <i>With</i> <b>JANUARY FRANKLIN</b>	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<b>Classical &amp; Celtic</b> <i>With</i> <b>Shelaine</b>

**MUSIC AND NEWS 24 HOURS A DAYS 7 DAYS A WEEK**

- ✓ NEWS EVERY DAY AT NOON AND 6:00 pm
- ✓ TASK FORCE NEWS / HOST NATION INTERPRETATION at 6:45pm
- ✓ CHAPLAINS CORNER and SURGEONS SECTION FOLLOWING THE NEWS
- ✓ REGULAR PROGRAMING OR PRERECORDED MUSIC WILL SUBSTITUTE FOR SCHEDULED SHOWS WHEN THE HOST IS NOT AVAILABLE

*Rocking you from the Tigris to the Euphrates.*

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# Mosul Chief of Police visits Police Stations

## Reunites with Family *Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Dana Scott*

On the morning of April 8, 2005, the Ninawa Province Chief of Police, Brig. Gen. Kahlaf Mohamad Al-Joubouri, rolled out of Forward Operating Base Endurance with members of the 2nd Brigade, 8th Battalion Field Artillery Command and 102nd Iraqi Army (IA) Battalion leadership to visit local Iraqi police stations, and his family outside of Mosul.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner, Task Force Freedom (TFF) Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. Ali, 102nd IA Battalion Commander, Col. Joseph Rooney, TFF Iraqi Security Forces Chief, and Lt. Col. Bradley Becker, 2-8 FA Battalion Commander, first stopped in Al Qayyarah to meet with police chief, Brig. Gen. Aziz, and his police force. The focus of the visit was to encourage the Iraqi Police Force (IPF) and Iraqi Army to work as one team toward the common goal of security.

After the meeting with the Al Qayyarah police, Al-Joubouri perused the market before heading south towards Haj Ali where he met with Bergner and police chief, Lt. Col. Saleh Kahlifa Zedan.

Capt. Ryan Gist, 2-8 FA, Bravo Company Commander and officer in charge of Qayyarah and Haj Ali, spoke with Rooney about the differences between the IPF and the IA. "The IPF are a greater challenge to teach, mentor, and council than the IA," said Gist. "Furthermore, tribal affiliation presents a great challenge in dealing with the IPF. If a police station is dominated by one single tribe, each conflict



*Brig. Gen. Al-Joubouri tours city with colleagues.*

will not be treated equally."

Another reason for the visit was to assess training, financial, and equipment needs of the Iraqi police.

"The Provincial and Assessment teams will visit police stations and assess aspects from their facilities to their financial situation, maintenance, and training operations," said Rooney.

Arriving in his hometown early that afternoon, the village greeted Brig. Gen. Al-Joubouri with the traditional slaughtering of several sheep and a large feast feeding over 200 villagers, Iraqi Army, and Coalition Forces. Al-Joubouri, having been away from his family for several months in Mosul, was very happy to reunite with them, even for just the afternoon.

One of the highlights of the day was a second reunion with Al-Joubouri and his brother, Abu Khalaf. Abu Khalaf Al-Joubouri was discovered by the 102nd IA Battalion in the trunk of an Anti-Iraqi Forces vehicle at a checkpoint two months ago. He was on his way to being killed by Anti-Iraqi Forces when he was found and brought back to his village by 102nd IA. The incident was paramount to fostering a unite purpose between the IPF and the IA. The citizens and Soldiers were very excited about the reunion.

Al-Joubouri, Ali, and Bergner are making great strides in connecting the IPF, the IA, and Coalition Forces to working as one strong and honest team in the fight against terror.



*From left to right, Maj. Darius Gallegos, Kahlaf Mohamad Al-Joubouri with family members and Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner pause after their meeting.*

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for Mosul

Forecast Conditions	High/Low °F	Precip. Chance
<b>Sun</b> Apr 24  Partly Cloudy	89°/63°	10%
<b>Mon</b> Apr 25  Mostly Cloudy	87°/60°	20%
<b>Tue</b> Apr 26  Rain / Thunder	83°/60°	60%
<b>Wed</b> Apr 27  T-Storms	82°/61°	60%
<b>Thu</b> Apr 28  T-Storms	86°/62°	60%
<b>Fri</b> Apr 29  Showers	88°/62°	30%
<b>Sat</b> Apr 30  Partly Cloudy	90°/62°	10%



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CHAPEL FOR  
FOB FREEDOM RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

Catholic Mass 1100 Saturday  
Latter-Day Saint 0830 Sunday  
Protestant 1100 Sunday  
2000 Sunday  
1930 Wednesday  
Gospel 1300 Sunday

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# WHAT DO YA THINK?

# Headlines From the Other Side of the World

Whats the most interesting part of being in Iraq?



Staff Sgt. Chester Shaw  
4th plt / Plt SGT  
445th Trans Co

“The convoys.”



Capt. William Ruehl  
Assistant S3  
17th CSB

“The diversity of the people.”



Sgt. Jose Villasmil  
2nd Trans 2nd Plt

“Riding around with my gunner.”



Staff Sgt. Laine C Stahr  
2nd Trans Co  
2nd Plt  
FOB Speicher

“The weather”

## Man Sues Over X-Ray That Led To Cannibalism Allegation

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The Newark man who was mistakenly accused of cannibalism is suing a doctor and the Newark and Parsippany police departments. Victor Salazar and his wife said they suffered embarrassment and needed counseling after an X-ray at Immediate Medical Care Center in Parsippany last year raised questions about his diet.

## Gran has gnome security

By John Coles

Battling grandma, Jean Collop, nabbed a burglar... by laying him out with a garden gnome. Widow Jean, 69, woke at 5 a.m. to find an intruder clambering on her roof. She spotted him heading for a window and decided on a spot of elf defense. Jean yelled at the man, then picked up a gnome and hurled it at him. It bounced off his head, leaving him lying dazed on the roof. Jean dashed to fetch her rolling pin and a camera - then took flash photos of the burglar as neighbors called the police.

"When it hit him he laid down for a while. I got my rolling pin just in case. I didn't want to break another gnome." Neighbor Liz Owen said, "Once Jean gets riled, she goes like a good 'un."

## Nurses in nighties stage pajama protest

### South African health workers want more money for uniforms

JOHANNESBURG - South African nurses are wearing pajamas and nighties to work to demand a higher uniform allowance, drawing criticism from health officials who say they are confusing patients and turning hospitals into bedrooms.

## Unlikely tail of the rather excited whale

A sea monster that was spotted off the coast of Greenland in the 18th century may have been an excited whale, historians revealed today. Researchers at St. Andrews University examined four accounts of the “most dreadful” serpent-like monster - sighted in 1734 - and tried to link it with known animals in the North Atlantic. But the team of experts now believes the seafarers actually spotted one of the last remaining Atlantic grey whales - and caught it in an excited state. Research Chief Charles Paxton said, “We think they saw a whale which was for some reason feeling very happy. It reared out of the water, fell on to its back and they saw this thing that they assumed was a tail.” But he added, “You wouldn’t expect to see a whale in this state on his own.”

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