



A bright future ahead for the Iraqi Highway Patrol

By Spc. Lynne Steely

BAGHDAD, Iraq--V Corps's 18th Military Police Brigade began its second tour in Iraq this month and immediately got down to business. Members of the 18th and 16th Military Police Brigades organized and led the second Iraqi Highway Patrol Conference December 21 at Adnaan Palace in Baghdad. The conference was held to update key Iraqi and U.S. leaders on the

status of the IHP. The primary mission of the IHP is the security of its nations highways making them a critical element of Iraq's security forces. Iraq's Prime Minister Alawi is fully committed to resourcing them for that reason. "Without a secure road network you have no economy and without an economy you have no free and democratic Iraq," 16th MP Brigade



Commander Col. David Quantock told IHP leaders.

While improvements are being made to existing stations, ground is breaking on three new stations in the Basrah and Dhi Qar area. "Our goal is to grow to 31 IHP stations all over Iraq. Today we have six. We have a long way to go," said Quantock.

"I dream of stations all over Iraq with their

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Brigade Briefs

◆ Happy Birthday this month to:

- 07- 1st Sgt. Michael Arbec
- 20- Maj. Michael Mathews
- 22- Sgt. Delonda Allen
- 28- Staff Sgt. William Chasteen
- 28- Spc. Idalia Ortiz
- 30- Pfc. Jasbleidick Chancay

◆ February Birthdays:

- 08- Spc. Joshua Klassen
- 19- Cpt. Whitney Jensen
- 24- 1st Lt. Francis Sperl
- 26- CSM Joseph Shelley

Please be sure to wish everyone a happy birthday and let them know they are in your thoughts on this special day!

◆ Help! We need your submissions for the Brigade Newsletter. Artists, writers, poets, photographers; please help us make this newsletter a success!

email submissions to:
lynne.steely@us.army.mil



Congratulations to Spc. Fisher from the S-1 office, and Spc. Ortiz and Spc. Klassen from the Communications Department on their promotion January 1. Keep up the good work!



Sgt. Blake and Pfc. Trevino take a pause from the days work to feed our new scaly friends. These fish will eat anything from chocolate cookies to potato chips. Careful guys, don't fall in!

VIGILANT TIMES

Produced by the 18th Military Police Brigade
Public Affairs Office, Baghdad, Iraq
Phone: DSN 302-242-0112

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Spc. Lynne Steely.....Photojournalist

COMMANDERS CORNER

By Col. James B. Brown

Dear families and friends of the 18th MP Brigade! What a great day for the Brigade January 11 has been!



We have sunny and COOL weather and the Brigade just welcomed a new SQUADRON to the team! We are now a fully joint force with the addition of the 732d Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron--this team is 380 strong and has brought active duty U.S. Air Force Security Police from 17 bases around the world to join our forces at Camp Bucca. Today we celebrated the unfurling of their colors and the commencement of the command of Lt. Col. Joe Romano and his right hand man, First Master Chief Chris Batta. Lt. Col. Romano joins us from the Pentagon and has 28 years experience behind him. His chief, Command Sgt. Batta, is an Army Ranger, pathfinder, airborne, air assault, hooah Security Policeman with a combat patch from the 5th U.S. Special Forces! Our newest teammates will feel right at home here and they bring a wealth of special skills from our sister service which serves to make us better every day. The 306th MP Bn from Uniondale, NY is here and completing its right seat ride while the 503d MP Bn from Ft. Bragg

has returned from OIF I to join us as well. We are very excited to see all our new teammates arriving and taking their place in line amongst the rest of us as we continue to fight and win the war on terror.

If you could see your loved ones as I do everyday, you would be so proud of them. Our MPs on the highways continue to do a fantastic job of detecting IEDs and ensuring that the roads are safe for the millions of tons of supplies that move over them. In our detention camps we continue to treat our detainees with the dignity and respect that has been one of the key attributes of Americans everywhere. I have done some specific checking and have seen that our detainees continue to gain weight, and they receive medical care that exceeds that which they previously had. As I was watching our medics change bandages on the wounds detainees suffered battling our forces I asked myself, "What other Army does this so well?" We defeat the enemy in detail when he fights us and then we restore enemy casualties to health while they live in our detention facilities. You should be proud to know that our Soldiers are representing the best values of our society to our detainees and they are truly changing the hearts of many who come in personal contact with our values and love of humanity. Regardless, our guards continue to be EVER VIGILANT and provide professional care, protection, and guarding of our detain-

ees until their eventual repatriation. The International Committee of the Red Cross has visited our facilities and has been very impressed with the personal commitment of our guards to do the right thing at all times.

We continue to make great strides with the Iraqi Highway Patrol throughout our sector of operations. We are training new members and resourcing them for success as they move to take positive control of the highways in Iraq. Many of our Soldiers have joined me personally in the effort. Maj. Andy Johnson, Capt. Steve Caruso and 2nd Lt. Shikith Russell lead this effort and they can frequently be found running around with a trailer full of guns and ammunition to be delivered to one of our stations! In addition, Capt. Michelle Merritt of our 343d Base Liaison Detachment is an engineer who is overseeing the plans to build a new, full-time academy for the Iraqi Highway Patrol.

As I write this, our soldiers continue to serve courageously and selflessly throughout Iraq. None of us could serve and represent our country without the tireless and loving support of our families. Thank you so much for all that you're doing to support freedom in Iraq and to help defend freedom everywhere as we fight alongside our Iraqi partners to win this war. May God bless you with a wonderful new year ahead.

EVER VIGILANT!

Col. Jim Brown, VIGILANT 6

(cont'd from page 1)
own control and power," said IHP Commissioner Maj. Gen. Ali Al Khazali. As the number of stations increase, so does the need for recruits. "Recruiting is your responsibility," Maj. Andrew Johnson, the 18th's Civil Affairs representative, told IHP leaders. "You know who would make the best recruits."

New recruits with prior police or military training attend a basic three-week course. Combating insurgents, rather than routine police work, is the primary focus of instruction. Combat skills, weapons qualification, physical training, patrolling and aggressive pursuit compromise the major elements of the curriculum with an emphasis on police ethics and respect for human rights.

Three classes of officers have already graduated from the temporary IHP academy located in Latifiyah which only houses 50 students at a time. A new, permanent structure is scheduled to be erected by January,

2005. The new academy will have the capacity to train 500 students at once.

IHP commanders voiced concerns that a three-week course would be insufficient. "This is just the foundation," Maj. Alan Kabakoff, the 16th

"We are ready to receive the baton and run with it."

*Col. James B. Brown
18th MP Brigade Commander*

MP Brigades' Civil Affairs representative assured them. "There will be much more training available." Kabakoff, the architect of the IHP and a Cincinnati police officer, emphasized that eight and 12 week traditional police curriculums are ready for training, but with an insurgency underway, the focus is on getting officers on patrol. "Leaders must continually train their subordinates. Training is not just the responsibility of the training academies," Kabakoff stated.

The IHP are already making strong contributions to the security of Iraq and towards their own independence by escorting oil convoys, sweeping the road for explosives and arresting hijackers.

rugged and reliable. The trucks will be armed with machine guns and armed officers with the training and necessary equipment to give them an upper hand on insurgents while securing Iraq's main highways.

Many additional improvements are in the planning stages and the future of the Iraqi Highway Patrol looks bright. "We will not let the enemy succeed," said Petraeus in a closing statement to IHP leaders.

Al Khazali said what a great and joyous day it was for him to be able to discuss issues of the IHP and the future of the organization.

Al Khazali thanked his friends from the 16th for their considerable help over the past year and said he was looking forward to working with the 18th MP Brigade in the year to come.

The 18th's Brigade Commander Col. James Brown accepted the mission with enthusiasm. "We are ready to receive the baton and run with it," he said.

"This is not the 16th or the 18th MP Brigade Highway Patrol," said Quantock. "This is the Iraqi Highway Patrol." As of January, 2005 Al Khazali will gain complete control over a \$25 million budget enabling the IHP to shape their own organization. Lt. Gen. Petraeus, Commanding General of MNSTC-I, authorized an additional \$1 million for station support as a "bridge" until January. Soon the IHP will receive 90 Chevy pickups and 400 King-Cab Dodge Ram 4X4 3/4 ton pickup trucks which are both

Christmas



Who said Deputy Commanders don't know how to have a good time?



Company Commander Capt. Ludwig and Sgt. 1st Class Graybill pass out stockings and Christmas cards made by our very own Family Readiness Group.

in the desert



Merry Christmas 18th MP Brigade!



Sir... A lump of coal? Hwww... I never would have guessed...



Maj. Andrew Johnson, with the 18th's Civil Affairs department, visits with some Iraqi children during a joint Civil Military Medical Operation December 18 at the Shatt Al Arab school in Baghdad. Soldiers from the Brigade handed out new school supplies, first-aid kits, hygiene items and over 200 new soccer balls to the children.

Iraqi children, ranging in ages from six to 12, waiting in line to be seen by an Army physician. The children were given a physical examination and treated for minor ailments.



A young Iraqi girl smiles through the torn screen of her school while Soldiers passed out candy, school supplies, toys, hygiene items and first-aid kits to the children.

Soldiers Speak...

What's your New Years' resolution?



Spc. Lacey Wuthrich-

"I want to learn Spanish."



Pfc. Danelle Cavin-

"I want to lose weight and get in shape."



Sgt. Donnis Swayzer-

"I want to become more computer literate."



Master Sgt. Tim Gilmore-

"I want to gain more knowledge of the Bible."

NEW YEAR'S PROMISES

By Lt. Col. Thomas Evans

If you made New Year's Resolutions this year, the next few weeks will be decisive for you. Promises that last two weeks -- are too weak.

Promises that last three, four or more weeks have a good chance of making real, permanent changes.

God is the Master of everything and that is true of promises also.

"God is not a human being and he will not lie.

He is not a human and he does not change his mind.

What he says he will do, he does.

What he promises, he makes come true."

Numbers 23:19 (New Century Version)

Promises are powerful tools. They let people have confidence that something is going to happen. Possibly, there is no greater gift than a helpful promise.

A relationship with God is also "Promise-Based", but the good news is, God makes the promises.

With all the best intentions, people have made promises to God, but often they promise more than they can deliver.

Have you ever tried this?

God, I will go to church at least once a week!

God, I will always listen to my children's ideas!

God, I will never do *that* again!

What ever happened to those promises? How long were you successful? People can and should make "human sized" promises (resolutions). Those are the ones that you can actually succeed with.

God-sized promises cover areas that are beyond our grasp. Read some of His promises.

Do you ever need help?

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

Have you done wrong:

God says, "I, I am the one who forgives all your sins, for my sake; I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:25 (NCV)

What about your future?

"I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

Do you enjoy looking through catalogs? God's Word is like a Gift Catalog of Supernatural Promises.

God promises us His Love, His Presence, His Hope and His Future. In fact, His future is so phenomenal, that "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." I

Corinthians 2:9

Those are God-sized promises that you can count on.

There is no greater gift than what God has already

promised you. Have a great today, with God, and an even greater tomorrow.

Happy New Year, God is at work.

Iraq Mission Officially Begins

By Spc. Lynne Steely

BAGHDAD, Iraq-The mission of the 18th Military Police Brigade officially began December 26 as the brigade colors were unfurled at their new headquarters on Camp Victory in Baghdad during a Transfer of Authority ceremony. The 18th MP Brigade accepted authority over its latest mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from the 16th Military Police Brigade. The 16th has been in Iraq since January of this year and redeployed to their home station at Fort Bragg, N.C. last month.

This is the place the 18th will call home for the next year and, for some of its Soldiers, it's not the first time. Based out of Mannheim, Germany, the brigade was deployed to Southwest Asia in support of OIF I from February 2003 until February 2004.

During the deployment the brigade conducted over 24,000 combat patrols covering over five million miles, processed over 3,600 enemy prisoners of war, apprehended over 2,400 criminals, confiscated 7,500 illegal weapons, re-established over 100 police stations, jails, and other police facilities and trained over 10,000 Iraqi police officers.

This time around the brigade will be training and mentoring officers of the Iraqi Highway Patrol, teaching them the skills necessary to combat insurgents while securing its nations highways. A secure road network is vital to the economy of Iraq which makes the IHP an integral part of the country's security forces.

The brigade will also carry out detention facility

operations at two main prisons in Iraq; Camp Bucca located in southern Iraq, and Baghdad Central Con-

finement Facility better known as Abu Ghraib. Detainees and EPW's are processed here while maintaining the highest security standards. Area security operations and maneuver and mobility support operations will be conducted as well as coordinating and synchronizing military police operations with adjacent units to defeat insurgent

forces, and stabilize and deter aggression within Iraq.

The mission of the 18th is an important part of the ultimate goal which is to establish peace and create a free and democratic society for the people of Iraq. Maj. Gen. Walt J. Natynczyk, Deputy Commanding General of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, addressed 18th MP Commander, Col. James Brown and his Command team saying that he is confident they are trained, equipped and prepared for the complex challenges that lie ahead. "We wish you a safe and very successful tour of duty," said Natynczyk.

"You have performed as professional and courageous Soldiers in a tough fight," Natynczyk told Soldiers of the 16th MP Brigade as he bid them farewell and a safe journey home.

The 18th Military Police Brigade was first constituted on March 23, 1966 and is the most highly decorated Military Police Brigade in the total Army force structure.



The 18th's acting Command Sgt. Maj. Lonnie Durand unfurls the Brigade Colors at their new headquarters at Camp Victory, Iraq. (Photo by Spc. Jonathan Springer)

TIDBITS

Financial Insider

Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004-

Signed into law on October 4 by President Bush, this new tax relief act may be beneficial to thousands of servicemembers. Normally, the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit are dependant on taxable-income figures. However, income earned in combat zones is not taxed. This issue has left many servicemembers at a disadvantage. With the new act, servicemembers can take advantage of both credits without their combat pay being subject to tax. This change is not retroactive.

Military Spouse Scholarship Program-

The National Military Family Association's Spouse Scholarships are awarded annually for up to four academic years to spouses of Uniformed Services members to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school for an academic year. For more information, go to: www.nmfa.org

Websites

Give blood, save lives

Log on to the Armed Service Blood Program website and find out how you can be a donor. www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo

Helping military families

www.fisherhouse.org
www.militarychild.org

Legal Tips

You Should Know...

General order number 1A prohibits:

- ✓ possession of privately owned firearms, ammunition or explosives;
- ✓ entrance into a Mosque unless directed to do so by military authorities;
- ✓ introduction, possession, sale, transfer, manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage or any controlled substances or drug paraphernalia;
- ✓ pornographic or sexually explicit material;
- ✓ gambling;
- ✓ taking or retaining individual souvenirs or trophies.



Any violation of General order 1A is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Contact your JAG office for more information.

Thanks to legal NCOIC SFC Graybill for these submissions.

Connecting families

The Freedom Calls Foundation keeps the troops in Iraq in touch with their families through internet phone, instant messaging, and video conferencing. See how you can help:

www.freedomcalls.org

Tough times?

Get help making the mortgage payment or putting a downpayment on a new house. Go to:

www.militaryhousingassistancefund.com

