



RAIDERS DOWN RANGE



Volume 1 Issue 15

Diary of the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team

November 1, 2005

Authority transferred to Screaming Eagles

Pfc. Joshua Hutcheson
101st ABN DIV PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq – The 101st Airborne Division is back in Iraq and ready for a new mission.

The Screaming Eagles took control of north central Iraq in a transfer of authority ceremony Tuesday at Forward Operating Base Danger, marking the beginning of their second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 101st will be leading Task Force Band of Brothers and replaced the 42nd Infantry Division, a National Guard unit from New York, at the helm of Task Force Liberty.

The division was part of the initial ground war in 2003 that toppled the Saddam Hussein regime. Since then, the 101st has become the first division in the Army to completely transform to a plug-and-play modular design. The transformation included the addition of a fourth infantry brigade – the newly reactivated 506th Infantry Regiment – and the reshuffling of Soldiers and units to maximize the fighting capabilities of the division.

The task force is also made up of the 1st and 3rd brigade combat teams, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.; 18th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and 555th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash. The 3rd ID units are scheduled to rotate out in the new year, and will be replaced by other units not yet confirmed.

While in Iraq, Task Force Liberty was able to train and work with Soldiers from the Iraqi Army and security forces. The training was so successful that the 42nd was able to hand over control of the As Sulayminayah Province and 10 forward operating bases, including FOB Danger, to Iraqi police and Soldiers, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander, 42nd ID and Task Force Liberty.

"Today's ceremony has some additional symbolic



Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), accepts the Division Colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq. The 101st ABN took authority of Multi-National Division – North Central from the 42nd ID. For more photos see page 6.

meaning. It marks the last time that coalition forces will host an event on these palace grounds," Taluto said. "Soon, this place that was for only an elite few will be the place for the Iraqi people. Instead of representing how one man used Iraq's wealth, it now represents how Iraq's wealth can serve the people."

Taluto is confident that his task force has achieved its goals, and proud of the Soldiers under his command.

"We accomplished what we were directed to do. We have met our objectives and most importantly, we have advanced the cause of freedom here in Iraq. The collective effort of each Task Force Liberty Soldier has added up to measurable achievement in all lines of operation," he said during the ceremony. "I am equally proud of the way the members of the task force came together to make it happen. I have often stated that Task Force Liberty's strength was in

its diverse make up...as a person that cherishes team accomplishments, I could not be more fulfilled."

The leaders of the 101st, and its attached units, hope to continue the progress toward a free and democratic country, made by the previous task force. Military liaisons between the ISF and Coalition Forces have been established to further train Iraqi Soldiers and police in techniques to defend and protect the country from insurgents and terrorists.

"We look forward to working with the security forces of Iraq; the Iraqi army and Maj. Gen. Ahmed, commanding general of the Iraqi 5th Division in Dyalah Province, and Lt. Gen. Aziz, commanding general of the 4th Iraqi Army in Sad, Kirkuk and Sulayminayah Province," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers. "The Soldiers that these gentlemen command are in the fight everyday, risking not only their lives, but those of their families as they attempt to destroy the insurgency and provide the secure environment that will allow this democracy to flourish."

An important aspect to achieving a secure environment is communication with governors in north central Iraq. The 101st will work closely with both Iraqi leaders and ISF to help the country stand on its own.

"We are ready to work with the provincial councils and police chiefs...to establish domestic order with their police forces," Turner said. "[Iraq will have] qualified and trained policemen, serving the Iraqi people with honor and integrity, serving a people that respect the rule of Iraqi law."

Four Governors from North Central meet in Tikrit

Pfc. Joshua R. Ford
MNC-1 PAO

Tikrit, Iraq – Governors from the four Iraqi provinces in Multi-National Division – North Central area of operations met with Coalition Forces commanders, Oct. 23.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division commander, and Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Turner, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division commander, met the governors at the Provincial Joint Coordinating Center in Tikrit, Iraq to discuss the outcome of the Oct. 15 referendum elections and the preparations for the upcoming elections in December.

The governors, Dana Ahmed Majid, Abdul Rahman Mustafa, Hamed Hamood Shukti, and Ra'ad Rashid Hamod hailed from

Sulaimaniya, Atameen, Salahadin and Dyalah provinces respectively.

"These discussions take place (every other month) to give an idea to the commanding general and his staff what the province governors feel is important in their areas at that time," said Maj. Christopher Diccio, brigade civil military officer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty.

Since the meetings began Coalition Forces have noticed the four provinces working together more, Diccio said.

"For example, the Salah Ad Din province transported thousands of copies of the constitution to the Kirkuk province," Diccio added.

In February of 2005 Taluto encouraged the Iraqi governors to attend meetings and discuss different issues in each province, within the TF Liberty area of operation, and then discuss solutions.



Pfc. Joshua R. Ford

Governors Hamed Hamood Shukti, Dana Ahmed Majid, Abdul Rahman Mustafa and Ra'ad Rashid Hamod answer questions at a press conference during the last Governors Conference. The conference allowed the four governors to discuss issues affecting their provinces including the upcoming December elections.

Voices and Viewpoints

Marne Six talks mission, 1 BCT future

Maj. Gen. William Webster
Commanding General, 3 ID

Our Marne Warriors are heroically taking the fight to the enemy every day while helping the Iraqi security forces become more proficient securing Baghdad while the people embrace their new-found freedom.

Make no mistake, we are winning and we are doing what is right!

The Marne Division performed magnificently during the recent success of Iraq's vote on their Constitutional Referendum.

It was more than historic; it showed the international community that Iraqi security forces are up to the task and that the people are serious about taking hold of democracy.

I am extremely proud of our Soldiers' courageous sacrifice and for the extraordinary support we receive from our families back home in this noble cause.

Other challenges lie ahead for the Division. The Army as a whole must be prepared for contingencies that may arise in support of the Global War on Terror.

I am fully aware that much has been said unofficially, and through the rumor mill about what is in store for the Division upon our return home. I want you to hear this from me, NO decision has been made on future missions the Division may be required to execute, although all units must plan to be ready.

No unit in the Army ever remains inactive for an extended period after a deployment. Every unit must receive new personnel into its ranks, send officers and NCOs to schools, restore physical fitness, account for and maintain equipment, and train new teams for upcoming missions and possible deployment.

Coupled with permanent change of station moves in, as well as out, per-

sonnel turnover across the Division is expected to be significant.

Long before 9-11, the Army's units always had a mission to be ready to accomplish at a moment's notice. Our current mission is to successfully complete this deployment and build a lead Brigade Combat Team capable of being deployed if necessary.

Currently, the Division's requirement is to build a BCT by December 2006.

Once we return from Iraq, 1 BCT will be the first of 3ID's four Brigade Combat Teams to refit and reorganize in preparation for future operations. Keep in mind, as the Army weighs its force requirements, the urgency to rebuild the 1 BCT may change.

All four BCTs will refit and reset to combat ready status in sequence. That is what we do.

Since 1 BCT deployed first, they will be the first brigade to redeploy and take a well-deserved block leave

prior to beginning the process of achieving full readiness and assumption of a Division Ready Brigade status - - by December 2006, or later, if changed.

All other brigades to include the Division Headquarters, Aviation Brigade, and the Support Brigade will follow in sequence to restore readiness for future potential missions worldwide.

More information on block leave and reset will be provided to you.

The entire Marne Team has been successful because of the unflinching support of our families who have helped us accomplish the mission, to bring stability and democracy to Iraq, one step closer for the Iraqi people.

We need your continued help in keeping the rumors down as we finish our current mission.

Mission.....Soldiers.....
Teamwork.....
"ROCK OF THE MARNE!"

Forward Support Battalion Soldiers deliver

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
1st BCT PAO

You may not notice them, but just about everything you use when you go outside the wire on a mission comes from them.

They're the Soldiers from the Forward Support Battalions.

The Soldiers from the FSBs are some of the hardest workers out there and for good reason. They keep us supplied with the goods and services we need to keep fighting this war.

The next couple of editions of Raiders Down Range are dedicated to those troops. They've given a lot, including lives, to their mission here in Iraq and they deserve to have some recognition for their efforts.

It's not too surprising that most people don't understand the importance of the FSB Soldiers. They are behind the scenes for the most part. The most visible reminder that they are here are the almost constant combat logistics patrols that travel Main Supply Route Tampa from Kuwait to the border of Turkey.

Those long trains of vehicles are loaded down with every conceivable type of supplies, from "Hesco baskets"

to medical supplies.

But what a lot of Soldiers here in theater don't realize for one reason or another is that much of what the FSB delivers is stuff that they, the FSB, has created.

Many of those things are either put together or repaired by the FSB shops themselves. Up-armeded vehicles, radio parts, electronic sights, and even repaired weapons are delivered to the "front lines," to the Soldiers in the combat arms battalions.

Not that the FSB Soldiers don't see combat themselves.

They travel some of the most dangerous roads in Iraq to deliver their goods; and their days aren't short.

I recently went along with Company A, 3rd FSB on a CLP. We travelled the entire Salah Ad Din province, from Balad up to Baiji and back down.

The day started at 4:00 am with a vehicle line up and PCC/PCIs. But the actual CLP started the day before.

The entire day before the FSB Soldiers were readying their vehicles and loads, cleaning, repairing and generally preparing for what amounted to a combat mission.



Then late on that day everyone gathered for a mission brief.

Having gone on all sorts of missions here in Iraq I was pleasantly surprised to find that their premission rehearsals and briefings were basically the same as if they were a combat arms

unit going on a house to house raid in downtown Samarra.

After going over the sand table, and studying the latest intelligence, the Soldiers were briefed on safety and sent on their way for final preparations.

That next morning, at 4:00 am, the FSB Soldiers were again briefed on what was expected of them, safety and the route ahead before performing last minute radio checks and rolling out.

Then it was one of the longest days of my life filled with every conceivable type of weather, discovered roadside bombs, and errant dust storms.

All of it was handled with professional aplomb by the Soldiers of the FSB.

My point is pretty obvious, I guess. There is always a lot of talk about the Fobbits versus the "real" Soldiers,

the non-combat arms Soldiers versus the Soldiers who go actively searching for insurgents on a daily basis.

Neither side of this made up contest is a loser, or somehow weaker than the other. Each side is as important as the other.

The Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, who fight daily in the city of Samarra wouldn't be able to do so without the unerring support of the 3rd FSB.

Wounded troops wouldn't be treated with medical supplies brought in by the FSB, our FOBs wouldn't have the barriers and t-walls that keep us safe.

We wouldn't be here without the FSB's support.

The other day Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the outgoing Commanding General for Multi-National Division - North Central, said that the only thing holding the Iraqi Army back right now is a lack of logistics. The IA, right now, doesn't have an FSB to take care of them.

We do, and it's what makes us the greatest Army in the world. We should all recognize that fact and pat the next FSB Soldier we see on the back and thank him or her for what the FSB does for us here in Iraq.

Do you like to write?

Contact the 1st BCT PAO for guidelines:
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Pfc. Joshua R. Ford

Turnin' Wrenches...

Pfc. Curtis Lindula, Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanic, HHC, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, raises a Humvee with a jack pump. See story on page 6.

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3ID Commander
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1st Bde. Commander
Col. Mark E. McKnight

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Maj. Rich Bartoszuk

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Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

CDR, CSM get Bronze Star Medals for service

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
1st BCT PAO

The 1st Brigade Combat Team commander and command sergeant major were awarded Bronze Star Medals in a ceremony October 25.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division commander was on hand to present the medals to Col. Mark E. McKnight, 1st BCT commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gallagher, 1st BCT command sgt. maj.

The ceremony was held on the front steps of the 1st BCT headquarters building on Forward Operating Base Speicher.

The medals were awarded to the 1st BCT commander and command sgt. maj. for their service while the brigade was attached to the 42nd ID during OIF III.

The 1st BCT presided over several milestones in Salah Ad Din province not the least of which was the recent Constitutional Referendum.



Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson

Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division commander, pins the Bronze Star Medal on the chest of Col. Mark E. McKnight, 1st Brigade Combat Team commander while Command Sergeant Major Robert Gallagher, 1st BCT command sgt. maj., waits for his to be pinned. The 1st BCT commander and command sergeant major were awarded the Bronze Star Medals for their service during OIF III.

A look at our home in Iraq



Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Nordstrom

A rainbow arcs over the 1st Brigade Combat Team Headquarters, FOB Speicher.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kelley

The personal security detachment for Command Sergeant Major Robert Gallagher, 1st Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major, relax for a moment on Forward Operating Base Remagen near Tikrit.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

An Iraqi child leans against an archway near Baiji. Situated at a crossroad, Baiji is best known for its oil refinery and massive powerplant complex.



photos by Pfc. Joshua R. Ford

Spc. Ernesto Almazan, B Company, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, welds a piece of armor to a vehicle's frame at Logistic Support Area Anaconda near Balad. The 3rd FSB machinists and welders work mainly on US trucks, but up-armor Iraqi army trucks as well.

Metal workers up-armor Iraqi Army trucks

Pfc. Joshua R. Ford
MNC-I PAO

BALAD, Iraq -- Since the Company B, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, Service and Recovery metal workers and machinists have been in Iraq they have worked on everything from basic Humvees to M-1 Abrams tanks.

When the order came down that they would be armoring the Iraqi army's vehicles the S&R Soldiers, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, had no problem with it.

"We can fix, weld and tow anything so we were up for the challenge," said Sgt. Shawn Landeen, auto shop foreman for the S&R section.

For the past six months the S&R Soldiers have been helping the Iraqi forces up-armor their vehicles.

"The purpose of up armoring these vehicles is to give the Iraqis added protection while conducting operations throughout Iraq," said Maj. Phillip E. Graham, Military Training Team officer-in-charge, 3-69 Armor Battalion, 1st BCT, 3rd ID.

"The Iraqi army needed assistance up-armor-ing their trucks so they send the trucks here and

we armor them," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Nicholson, S&R section non-commissioned-officer-in-charge.

The motor pool's support operations shop has been pushing the S&R Soldiers to get these vehicles armored so Iraqi forces can conduct operations on their own, Nicholson said.

There are no instructions on how to up-armor the vehicles used by the IA so the Soldiers had to come up with their own blueprints and start from scratch, said Spc. Ernesto Almazan, metal worker with the S&R section.

Some of the trucks the 3rd FSB metal workers and machinists have armored are Russian five-ton trucks, civilian pick-up trucks and what the S&R Soldiers call civilian long bed "Bongo" trucks, Nicholson added.

These trucks primarily serve as troop carriers for the IA.

The mechanics have to look at the structural design for each of these vehicles before armoring them.

"After we look at the structural design we take measurements on the vehicle," Almazan said. "We take measurements of the gas tank, the bed of the truck, the cab and the sides."

The mechanics then cut the metal to the precise measurement taken.

"The floor bed is the hardest

part to armor on the trucks because we have to pull the whole thing out, armor it, and then put it back in," said Almazan.

They also have to check if the vehicle is structurally sound.

"We have to make sure that the truck won't roll over easily after the armor has been put on," said Almazan.

"Once we look at that we will put an armor plate anywhere we can," said Landeen.

The S&R section works on three to four trucks at a time and each truck takes anywhere from three to four days to complete, added Landeen.

"This is really giving us the chance to do something challenging and different. It's a good change of pace," said Landeen.

The shop has received numerous coins and awards for the outstanding job done on armoring the IA's vehicles.

"This is just part of our mission here. To assist the Iraqi army by up-armor-ing their vehicles so they can conduct independent operations and that brings the U.S. one step closer to pulling out of Iraq," said Landeen.

As long as the Iraqis keep bringing trucks to be up-armored the 3rd FSB is there to get the job done.

"So far these guys have done an outstanding job and the Iraqi's seem to think so as well," said Nicholson.



Iraqi Army Soldiers drive away from forward operating base Speicher with their newly armored Russian five ton truck.

Use the five C's to secure an IED site.

- Confirm : the device**
- Clear : the area**
- Call : EOD**
- Cordon : the perimeter**
- Control : site access**

STAY ALIVE

0035 IEDs KILL

Raiders Down Range is looking for your photos, commentaries and stories. Send submissions to the 1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office via email (richard.bartoszuk@us.army.mil, thomas.mills@us.army.mil) or call us at 670-5127



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jesse C. Riggan

Soldiers with 3-320 FA, 1-128 INF and the Iraqi Army salute the flag during a transfer of authority ceremony on FOB O'Ryan October 30.

Red Knight Rakkasans replace Task Force Eagle at FOB O'Ryan

Staff Sgt. Jesse C. Riggan
3 BCT/101 ABN PAO

FOB O'RYAN, Iraq - The Red Knight Rakkasans replaced Task Force 1-128 from the Wisconsin National Guard October 30 at Forward Operating Base O'Ryan.

The move was made official by the ceremony held on the 30th but the process began a month ago when 3 Battalion 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne, arrived at FOB O'Ryan.

Once the Rakkasans were organized on the ground they began signing for vehicles and refitting their units to suit the missions that lie ahead of them. The next step was to get familiar with the area and begin operations.

With nearly a year of operational experience in the area and countless

success stories, Task Force 1-128 helped get the Red Knights headed in the right direction.

Key leaders and Soldiers began ride-along missions with TF 1-128 soon after their arrival. This let them get a feel for the area and begin a smooth transition before running their own missions. After a couple weeks the rolls were reversed as 3-320th began planning and executing operations based on their own commander's guidance and the insight they received from TF 1-128.

The Red Knights were eager to run their own patrols.

"I have Soldiers literally begging for missions," said 2nd Lt. Brian Adkins, Battery B 2nd Platoon Leader. "We are ready to take over."

Missions in the area consist primarily of route clearance for improvised explosive devices, intelligence gather-

ing and capturing individuals suspected of supporting terrorist activities. These are missions typically carried out by infantry units, but the Soldiers of 3-320th FA have risen to the occasion.

3-320th FA spent the last year training on infantry tasks at Fort Campbell, KY in preparation for this deployment.

"With strong leaders, you can accomplish any task," explains Adkins. "Our Soldiers are smart and willing to adapt."

Lt. Col. James Inman addressed Col. Mark McKnight, 1st BCT, 3 ID commander who 3-320th will fall under while at FOB O'Ryan.

"The Soldiers of the Red Knight Battalion are trained and prepared for this transfer of authority," said Inman. "You can count on us to accomplish the mission and be a valuable and contributing member of the Team."



The colors are passed from 1-128 INF to 3-320 FA during the ceremony.

3-320 FA to become integral part of Ad Dujayl

Staff Sgt. Jesse C. Riggan
3 BCT/101 ABN PAO

FOB O'RYAN, Iraq - It has been just over four years since 9 - 11 and the War on Terrorism began. Today Saddam Hussein stands trial in Baghdad for crimes-against-humanity namely those that occurred in Ad Dujayl, Iraq.

Between the years of 1982 and 1983 Ad Dujayl was the site of a massacre that left uncountable widows whose husbands died at the hands of Saddam's regime. Part of the town was leveled and the people were forbidden to rebuild there.

Almost thirteen years later the people of Ad Dujayl are hopeful for the future of their community. They are working hard with Coalition Forces to rebuild their city and create a safe and secure environment for their children to grow up in.

Task Force 1-128 from the Wisconsin National Guard and K Troop 3rd Squadron from the 278th Regimental Combat Team out of the Tennessee NG spent the last year working in the area to reduce the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices along the main road-ways, train the local Iraqi Police and National Guard and aid the government in building a productive civil infrastructure.

Their success can be seen all around the city as their children run alongside Humvees giving the universal sign of coalition support "Thumbs Up." The local Government has been working diligently with the task

force to meet the needs of the people and provide them with the freedom and security they deserve.

Now the time has come for the 1-128th to hand over the torch. The Red Knight Rakkasans of 3rd Battalion 320th Field Artillery Regiment 187th Infantry Regiment will replace the 278th RCT and are wasting no time starting where they left off.

"We are here to form a partnership," Lt. Col James Inman, 3-320th FA commander, explains to the Mayor of Ad Dujayl in a Security Council meeting 27 Oct.

3-320th will be an integral part of Ad Dujayl and the surrounding areas moving toward a sovereign government.

They will continue leading military operations in the area as the Iraqi Army organize their forces. The IA currently conducts local patrols and military operations independent of Coalition Forces in Ad Dujayl. However, they still report to 3-320th and rely on them for training and higher echelon planning.

"Iraq will be a sovereign nation after the elections. We will begin to disengage as Iraq take charge," said Inman, "but we will remain one hundred percent committed to our role in this process."

Since the war began and Saddam was removed, the



Staff Sgt. Jesse C. Riggan

An Iraqi boy pauses on his bike across a canal from a 3-320 FA Humvee near Ad Dujayl, Iraq during a recent combat patrol.

people of Ad Dujayl have begun to elect their own government. Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police are patrolling their streets apprehending insurgents, and on November 15th they will hold an election for their city council.

"The people here are peaceful," said Sheikh Jassim, Sheikh of Kazragi the largest tribe in Ad Dujayl, "they live simple lives and look forward to the elections and the day we can govern ourselves independently."

BTB Mechanics wrench their way to success

Pfc. Joshua R. Ford
MNC-1 PAO

When it comes to fixing and working on vehicles, mechanics with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have worked strenuously to maintain the high standards of 1st BCT's transportation.

"We do oil changes, drop engines and replace parts. Whatever a vehicle needs to be done to it we do it," said Staff Sgt. Richard W. David, Company A motor sergeant, 3rd Infantry Division 1st Brigade Troops Battalion.

"Most of the time we work on Humvees but we also work on Bradleys, generators and large motorized transport vehicles," David said.

"The 11 months we have been here not one of our vehicles has broken down outside the wire," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jay Bowen, battalion maintenance warrant officer, 1-3 BTB.

"Our quality assurance and quality control program has prevented a lot of major problems including vehicles breaking down outside the forward operating bases in the Salah Ad Din province," said David.

The QAQC program takes place every Friday. On Friday mechanics from both 3rd BTB and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team inspect, clean and work on each vehicle and generator within the motor pool to ensure everything works properly, said David.

The purpose of QAQC is to locate problems on vehicles, generators and other equipment and fix those problems before they escalate into something catastrophic, Bowen added.

"The program also helped us during the Forward Operating Base Dagger closure because at that time we had to Spc. Scott S. Sheftz, generator mechanic, headquarters and headquarters move everything from Dagger to company, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion, (Forward Operating Base) installs a generator into a humvee. Speicher so it was essential that every piece of equipment was operational," said 1st Lt. Timothy Tomes, motor pool executive officer, Co. A.

QAQC isn't the only time the mechanics fix equipment.

"When something breaks we fix it. It doesn't matter what time of the day it is. We have to fix it and put the equipment back into an operational status," said Tomes.

There have been times when 1 BCT mechanics had to get up at 2:00 A.M. to fix vehicles or tow vehicles.

"The QAQC program has really limited us from reacting to the early wake up calls because our stuff is usually in good condition," said Tomes.

The mechanics jobs do not limit them to working on vehicles and generators all day. They are occasionally required to go on missions outside the wire.

"Our week varies as far as mission requirements go. Sometimes the command needs our Soldiers to tag along on missions, such as patrols



Spc. Joshua R. Ford



or logistic convoys but for the most part there is a set schedule," said Tomes.

"We get up every morning and do physical training, conduct personal hygiene and then have a meeting on what we need to work on that day and we get that work done," David added. The work the mechanics do here is tough, said David, and if it weren't for the team work of all the troops in the maintenance shop the mission would not be accomplished.

"The mission here is being accomplished, there is nothing we go out to do that we can't accomplish and the morale of the men is high," said Tomes.

"All of the missions we have set out to do have gone very well because our equipment is good to go and the motor pool Soldiers know what they are doing," Tomes added.

"Overall we have done an excellent job and when we redeploy I believe we will have fulfilled our mission to a higher standard because of the hard working Soldiers in the shop and the way they have taken care of 1st Brigade's transportation so they could get their job done," said Tomes.

42 ID transfers authority to 101st ABN Div.



The 101st Airborne Division's (Air Assault) Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe accepts the Division's Colors.



Photos by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

The New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division's Color Guard stands ready moments before a transfer of authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq.



The New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division's Colors are replaced by the 101st Airborne Division's (Air Assault) Colors representing the transfer of authority between units.



The 42nd Infantry Division's Color Guard stands at attention during the playing of the United States National Anthem.



The 101st Airborne Division's (Air Assault) Colors fly in place of the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Colors.