

BAND OF BROTHERS

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101st takes control

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Major Harold Riggins, deputy G1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st Special Troops Battalion, enjoys a bike ride through headquarters on Halloween.



1,700 Soldiers down... You're next!

Come on down to building 2101 for your mandatory flu shot. The shots are given Mondays through Saturdays from 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Make sure to bring your ID card, yellow shot record (if you have it), and your 2766-C – the yellow medical record.



Once more, our nation calls us to duty. Once more it is time for the Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to face a "Rendezvous with Destiny." The Screaming Eagles have returned to Iraq, this time as Task Force Band of Brothers.

This is the first time a fully transformed, "plug and play" division has deployed for combat operations, making the 101st trailblazers for the new United States Army. Our successes here will serve as the prototype of how modular units should operate when abroad.

And our deployment will make history. Joining the division in TF Band of Brothers are two modular brigades from 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., the 18th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C. and the 555th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Fort Lewis, Wash., as well as many smaller units who make day-to-day operations of the U.S. reconstruction forces in north central Iraq possible, and, more importantly, successful.

Since our last mission in the Global War on Terrorism, you have trained hard to improve your skills. You have rebuilt teams and learned to work together again in the wake of transformation, and you are utilizing the most up-to-date technology and equipment available. The results of the many months of constant training have been excellent, and I am pleased with the progress our already formidable fighting force has made.

As this deployment continues, I am confident that the Soldiers of TF Band of Brothers will be successful. Remember, everything we do here is important, and everything we do makes a difference in the lives of our fellow Soldiers, and to the Iraqi people who we are here to help.

Make America proud.
AIR ASSAULT!!

Thomas R. Turner
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

EAGLES SENDS

BAND OF BROTHERS

TF Band of Brothers Commander
Major Gen. Thomas Turner

TF Band of Brothers CSM
Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe

TF Band of Brothers PAO

Lt. Col. Ed Loomis
Public Affairs NCOIC
Master Sgt. Terry Webster
Editor-in-Chief
Sgt. Dallas Walker
Copy Editor
Spc. Joshua Hutcheson
Contributors

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det.
1st BCT, 101st Abn. Div. PAO
3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. PAO
1st BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
3rd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
101st CAB, 101st Abn. Div. PAO

Cartoonist/Illustrator
Sgt. Albert Merrifield

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Fellow Warriors, the time is finally here and the 101st Airborne Division has assumed command and control of the Multi National Division –North Central. It is now time for we Screaming Eagles to be tested as individuals and as a Task Force.

The Soldiers of the 101st have spent months training for this deployment. The training has been tough and demanding, but also necessary and worth every minute spent. As always, we Screaming Eagles train as we fight, and fight we will.

Our destiny has brought us here as members of Task Force Band of Brothers and it is our destiny to put ourselves, our training, and our equipment to the test.

Our mission is to ensure the success of American foreign policy through force of arms and to bring peace and prosperity to the Iraqi people.

The combat leaders of our Task Force will be tested on their knowledge of their troops, their combat skills, and enforcement of division standards. Our young Soldiers will be tested on their ability to do their jobs professionally, with lethal precision and discipline.

As a Task Force we will be tested on our lethality in combat and our compassion in peace. We must stand together, strike hard and fast against those who threaten the stability and freedom of Iraq and the free world. We must train and sustain Iraqi patriots willing to step forward at great personal risk to serve in their country's security forces.

As we go about our daily business of conducting combat operations here in Iraq, safety procedures must be a constant concern of each individual Soldier. The United States Army has lost too many Soldiers due to accidents -- each of them important, each of them an integral well trained member of our team. WE cannot afford to lose Soldiers due to unsafe and careless acts.

When I observe the Soldiers of Task Force Band of Brothers, I am proud to see them acting safely and responsibly. Muzzle awareness must be foremost in everyone's mind. Negligent discharges need to be a thing of the past. This lack of military discipline and training threatens the safety and security of all our Band of Brothers.

Our Nation is providing us with armored vehicles that make us safer, but only when they are driven responsibly and we maintain situational awareness. Practice makes perfect, so we must always strive to perfect drills and techniques to ensure tactical victory and safety. Convoy briefings and rehearsals, risk assessments, pre combat checks, roll over drills to name a few, will ensure that, "We Stay Alert Stay alive."

Our division headquarters recently farewelled the 42nd Infantry Division along with the 278th Regimental Combat Team and the 116th Brigade Combat Team.

We welcome, and are lucky to be working with, the 1st and 3rd Brigades of the 3rd Infantry Division. Like us, they are transformed units and among the most advanced and lethal mechanized-armored teams in history.

I know the Soldiers of TF Band of Brothers are ready and eager to take on and overcome every challenge that surfaces during this combat deployment. Now is the time to show our families back home, the free world and the enemies of freedom, wherever they may lurk, what it means to be a Soldier in America's Army.

Hooah! Air Assault!!

**Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe
Division Command Sergeant Major
101st Airborne Division**

Blackhawk crews train, prepare for combat missions in desert environment

Spc. Michael Pfaff
133rd Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait -- It seems as if it's the whipping roar of rotors alone that creates the storm of dust below as helicopters land in the desert. With environmental factors like those found in the combat zone, training missions are doubling as environmental training for Blackhawk pilots from 4th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.

"Landing in the dust is scary for a lot of the guys that haven't flown in this environment before," said Spc. Eric 'Cpl. Biscuits' Downing, Company A, 4-101st. "And, the lack of terrain features makes it difficult to navigate."

Pilots had an opportunity to navigate and land in the desert as Soldiers from Co. A trained on new weapon systems at a Udairi range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The weapon systems on



the birds were recently upgraded to M240 machine guns from Vietnam-era M60 machine guns.

"These new weapons are similar to the M60s, but just built better overall," said 1st Lt. Robert Massey, the second flight platoon leader. "I wanted to get my guys comfortable on them."

Aerial gunners took turns getting a feel for the new weapons by firing on targets at the remote range.

"The training went pretty well," Massey said. "We were able to familiarize ourselves and put some rounds through the weapon."

After each gunner took their turn putting a few hundred rounds through the new machine guns, pilots had to land and pick up new gunners, which gave them practice at landing in the sandy terrain.

"The dust can create a 'brown-out,' and that reduces visibility," Downing said. "I teach them to use any part of the ground they can see as a reference."

Seeing the ground through the dust can be difficult when the

sun is out, Downing added. It can be even more difficult at night, so they train an hour during the day and an hour at night.

"That's what the 101st is known for," Massey said. "What we're good at is air assault, and we can do all that at night."

Visibility and navigation aren't the only problems the environment creates. The Blackhawks are suffering as well.

"Sand and dust eats our engines and tears up the blades," Downing said. "We're starting to combat that."

Now, filters are being put on the engines and erosion strips on the blades, Downing said. This helps keep the engine cleaner and the blades from deteriorating.

Massey said the Soldiers of Co. A will be providing battlefield circulation support in Iraq soon. Being able to perform well in the desert environment is going to be vital to mission success.

"We're getting used to flying out here," Massey said. "It certainly makes you proud to see these guys take to it so well."



A brighter horizon...

Iraqi government prepares for new future

"We should remember the sacrifices Americans made for Iraqis in liberating us from the worst government in the world."

Abdul Rahman Mustafa Feta-eh
Governor of the Kirkuk Province



photo by Spc. Jeanine Kinville

Major Gen. Thomas Turner, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, sits with Ra'ad Ra-sheed Hameed, governor of the Diyala Province, during a conference held at Forward Operating Base Danger, Oct. 23. Four Iraqi provincial governors came to the conference to meet with military officials and discuss the recent referendum vote and the future of Iraq.

Spc. Jeanine Kinville
101st Airborne Division
Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq -- Iraqi provincial governors gathered to meet U.S. military officials at Forward Operating Base Danger Oct. 23 to discuss the recent referendum vote held nationwide Oct. 15 and ongoing relations between Iraqis and coalition forces in north central Iraq.

Major Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander, 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty, welcomed the Iraqi leaders and introduced Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers, who took command of the region from Taluto and the 42nd during the transfer of authority Nov. 1. **(CON'T)**

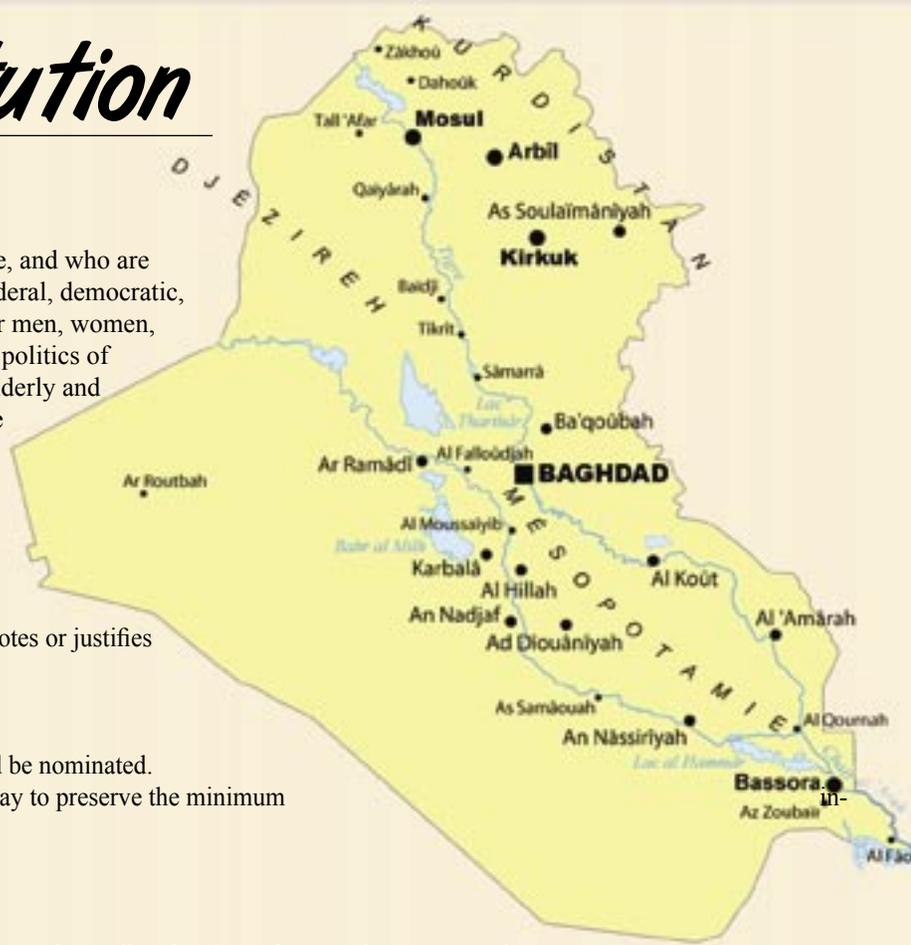
The Iraqi Constitution

Preamble

...We, the people of Iraq, who have just risen from our stumble, and who are looking with confidence to the future through a republican, federal, democratic, pluralistic system, have resolved with the determination of our men, women, the elderly and youth to respect the rules of law and reject the politics of aggression, pay attention to women and their rights, and the elderly and their concerns, and children and their affairs and spreading the culture of diversity and defusing terrorism.

Points of Interest

- ◆ Iraq is an independent state.
 - ◆ Religious rights are guaranteed.
 - ◆ Any entity or program that incites, facilitates, glorifies, promotes or justifies racism or terrorism will be prohibited.
 - ◆ The constitution is the supreme law.
 - ◆ All Iraqis are equal.
 - ◆ All citizens, male and female have the right to vote, elect and be nominated.
 - ◆ People with low incomes will be exempted from taxes in a way to preserve the minimum come required to live.
 - ◆ Every citizen has the right to health care.
 - ◆ Education is a right is provided by the state.
 - ◆ Liberty and dignity will be protected.
- The state guarantees, in a way that doesn't disturb public order and morality: freedom of expression, press, and freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration.



“The 101st is honored to be back in Iraq,” Turner said before introducing the governors to his brigade commanders, who will soon be working in their provinces. “We are anxious to begin work in helping you build a new Iraq, a nation at peace with its neighbors, with a government that respects all Iraqis, and one capable of preventing a safe haven for terrorists.”

The governors were optimistic for a positive, successful outcome since many Iraqis exercised their voice with the new democratic process.

“For the first time in the history of Iraq, all citizens were involved in adopting a constitution,” said Abdul Rahman Mustafa Feta-eh, governor, Kirkuk Province. “We have built a brand new Iraq and support for the government system after the dictator regime of Saddam Hussein. Whether the citizens voted yes or no, this is the freedom of democracy in voicing their opinion of yes or no.”

Taluto noted the referendum day proved to be safe because of the hard work of the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Joint Coordination Centers.

“We have been able to collectively participate as Iraqis through our readiness and preparation from our beliefs, history and the values of new Iraq to make the day of referendum flourishing for our future,” said Ra’ad Rasheed Hameed, governor, Diyala Province. “We utilized the abilities

of Iraqis in the area with the help of coalition to achieve great success of this day. We are proud of this day and are building on our new path.”

The referendum was more successful than the last election in January, resulting in a turnout of roughly 1.2 million more voters than the January elections and a ratified constitution.

The outcome will be even more powerful in the December vote for an elected government, Taluto said to the governors.

“By attending these periodic meetings, I am confident we will establish a partnership with fellow governors and provinces,” Hameed said. “We will achieve more than we hope for by applying all of our efforts in order to serve all provinces in all aspects of life.”

The leaders compared how the referendum vote was carried out in their provinces and how well the Iraqi Security Forces did in the elections by maintaining a secure environment for voters, showing they are ready to take on an increased responsibility and provide their own security.

“We should remember the sacrifices Americans made for Iraqis in liberating us from the worst government in the world,” Feta-eh said. “We want to thank you for all the things you have supported us with and all the guidance to build a brand new Iraq.”



**Pro Deo Et Patria,
Chaplain (Maj.)
Scott Hammond**

*But those who hope in the LORD will
renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
They will run and not grow weary,
They will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

As the Division engages in our next "Rendezvous with Destiny," we can find strength and support in our Faith -- the one foundation that remains solid even if it appears everything else is crumbling.

Just as those in the days of God's Holy Word, and those who served during the storied history of the 101st Airborne Division, we too can find strength in these words penned by the prophet Isaiah. Many in the 101st have even adopted this Scripture as their unit's representative verse.

As you and I wait upon the Lord, He will grant us strength to face the challenges in Iraq and strength for our loved ones at Fort Campbell and elsewhere -- even when it seems we have nothing left to give.

If we are feeling burdened and over-

whelmed, His Presence and Holy Spirit will lift and carry us into the nearness of His Presence.

The journey may seem long, but we will finish strong as the Lord walks alongside us. May you each sense the nearness of the Lord's Presence and the nearness of your loved ones as you remember that love and prayer knows no distance or boundary.

As the deputy division chaplain, I count it a privilege to bring church along with the Screaming Eagles on another deployment as we endeavor to help others enjoy the privileges we hold so dear.

I also count it a privilege to support our Soldier's loved ones as they make countless, and often unrecognized, sacrifices taking care of the home fronts while the Soldiers are deployed. May God bless each of you, the 101st, and God Bless America!

The Difference

*I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task;
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered "You didn't ask."*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled
on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "You
didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into God's presence; I tried all my
keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child you
didn't knock."*

*I woke up early this morning, and paused before
entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take the
time to pray.*

ANONYMOUS



Prayer



HEALTH & FITNESS

The Scoop on Creatine

Cpt. Reva Rogers, RD

101st Airborne Division Dietician

What is it?

Creatine is a naturally occurring compound found in foods such as beef and fish. In your body, it is primarily stored in your muscles as phosphocreatine, which can be broken down to release energy.

Does it work?

Creatine appears to help improve performance of repeated short-duration, high-intensity activities such as weight-lifting, football, basketball and sprinting. The average gain in strength and performance ranges from 10 to 15 percent, although some people may not respond at all to creatine supplementation.

Athletes who consume a diet low in creatine, such as vegetarians, typically see a greater increase in performance after supplementation as compared to athletes whose diet is naturally higher in creatine. Creatine has not been shown to benefit endurance exercise such as long-distance running or road-marching. Almost all studies have found creatine supplementation increases body mass. During the loading phase most people gain between two and four and a half pounds. Soldiers, who are close to their screening table weight and want to avoid getting taped, should avoid creatine.

Will it help me build muscle?

When taking creatine the rule of thumb is: it won't work if you don't work. Creatine is thought to improve performance by providing additional energy for high-intensity exercise. Creatine supplementation may also help speed recovery between bouts of strenuous activity enabling you to work harder longer. Creatine will not help you build muscle or lift more weight if you do not put the hours in at the gym.

Are there any side effects?

The only side effect of creatine supplementation consistently found in scientific research is weight gain. Although some people have reported experiencing stomach upset, muscle cramps or feeling dehydrated while taking creatine, studies have failed to show any link between creatine and adverse side effects such as heat injuries or muscle strains.

However, that does not mean if you are taking creatine you will not get muscle cramps or become dehydrated. When exercising for longer periods at higher intensity levels, you require additional fluid. Additionally, as your physical fitness improves, you will become more efficient at regulating your body temperature and will sweat more.

This makes it essential for you to monitor your hydration status while taking creatine. A good gauge of hydration status is urine color. Your urine should be light yellow. Dark urine can be an indication that you are not well hydrated. Your urine might also be dark if you are taking a lot of vitamin/mineral supplements. In this case monitor quantity and darkness of color.

Can I take creatine with other supplements or medications?

People taking medications that strain their kidneys, such as cyclosporine or gentamicin, should not use creatine. The side effects of taking creatine in combination with other dietary supplements have not been studied, but the combination of creatine, caffeine and ephedra is of concern. In general, people who consume multiple dietary supplements are at higher risk for experiencing adverse side effects than those who do not. As always, you should check with your doctor or

physician's assistant before starting any new supplement.

How much should I take and for how long?

The most effective way to take creatine is to start with a loading dose of five grams taken four times per day for three to five days. This amount and duration will saturate your muscles. Once your muscles are saturated you only need to consume three to five grams per day to maintain elevated creatine stores. Consuming creatine with a carbohydrate source, like a sports drink or juice, helps increase your creatine stores more rapidly than taking it alone.

Which is best: powder, liquid, or chews?

Creatine is very easy for your body to absorb, so there is no advantage to taking it in liquid, capsule or chewable form as compared to a powder. The only benefit of taking creatine in a form other than powder may be convenience, variety or taste preference. No matter which form of creatine you purchase, the label should state the product contains pure "creatine monohydrate" and should list the amount of creatine per dose or in the container.

Always purchase dietary supplements from a reputable dealer. An independent research company, ConsumerLab.com, analyzed several creatine products and discovered several were contaminated with creatinine, a waste-product formed by the breakdown of creatine. Creatinine has no physical performance benefit and makes your kidneys work harder. Although their listing of acceptable creatine supplements is by no means all inclusive, **ConsumerLab.com's** web site lists some products that were found to be pure.

Rakkasans move into Ad Dujayl, assist local government in obtaining independence

Staff Sgt. Jesse Riggin

3rd Brigade Combat Team

101st Airborne Division Public Affairs

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 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 128 from the Wisconsin National Guard and Troop K, 3rd Squadron from the 278th Regimental Combat Team out of the Tennessee National Guard 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 and just civil infrastructure.

Their success can be seen all around the city as their children run along side 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 128th to hand over the torch. The Red Knight Rakkasans of 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, will replace the 278th RCT and are wasting no time starting where they left off.

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

The Soldiers of 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 organizes 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 Iraqis take charge," Inman said, "but we will remain 100 percent committed to our role in this process."

Since the war began and Saddam was removed, the people of Ad Dujayl have begun to elect their own government. Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi Police are patrolling their streets apprehending insurgents, and Nov. 15, 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."



photo by Spc. Matthew Wrzesinski

Iraqi children peer from a window as Rakkasans from 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery patrol in Ad Dujayl.

Training doesn't stop in combat for Bastogne Soldiers



Spc. Barbara Ospina
1st Brigade Combat Team
101st Abn. Div. Public Affairs

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq -- For the better part of the 230 years the Army has been in existence, night operations have been difficult for Soldiers and their leaders.

It was hard to command and control Soldiers' movements on the battlefield before the introduction of illumination rounds early in the 20th century. There were very few examples of successful night operations prior to World War I.

Night vision equipment was first introduced during the Vietnam War era, but the equipment was cumbersome and not suitable for the average Soldier in everyday combat.

Today, nearly every Soldier in

a deployment environment is trained on and carries night vision goggles – making the battlefield that much easier to navigate through during night operations.

"You know what they say about the Army, we own the night," said Sgt. Richard Perez, a team leader for Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, after completing a night training exercise with his platoon in Iraq.

The platoon set out to gain experience in the green sea of imagery as the moon began to rise. The main focus of the training was to adapt to the combat environment in a night time setting.

"It helped guys get used to [using] their night optical devices [NODs]," Perez said. "A lot of these guys are fresh out of the

box, and this gets [them] used to night missions."

More importantly, Iraq offered the infantrymen a perfect training environment.

"Last night allowed us to train in the environment that we will be doing patrols in," said Sgt. Winston Weaver, team leader, Co. A. "There was no wood line, no mock cities -- it was the real deal."

The Soldiers hoofed through the desert in a wedge formation, practicing the use of hand and arms signals along with properly crossing a linear danger area.

"This training not only gave us terrain familiarization, but it's always good when you train as a team," said Sgt. Robert Kelly, team leader, Co. A.

Not only did the training familiarize Soldiers with walking while wearing NODs, Soldiers also had a chance to wear them behind the wheel of a tactical vehicle.

Throughout a 20-minute drive, each Soldier had the opportunity to practice driving on hard surface roads as well as the bumpy dirt and gravel roads of Iraq. Truck commanders were required to give orders to the gunner and driver, as well as conduct five and 25 meter checks from inside and outside the vehicle.

The night vision training conducted will prove to be crucial to the Soldiers of 1st Brigade Combat Team next time they set out on a night mission.

"Night driving was a definite plus," Perez said. "It allowed the Soldiers to get more comfortable [with NODs]."



photo by Spc. Barbara Ospina

Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, practice night operations with night vision goggles.

Back in Iraq...

101st takes command in north central Iraq for second OIF tour

Spc. Joshua Hutcheson
101st Airborne Division
Public Affairs

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

(CON'T)



photos by Spc. Jeanine Kinville

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 the Iraqi government, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander, 42nd ID and Task Force Liberty.

“Today’s ceremony has some additional symbolic 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,



(Above) Sheik Kawwan Al-Azzawee of Salah Addin speaks through interpreter Sam Youssef to Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, Task Force Band of Brothers, 101st Airborne Division, after the transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Danger Nov. 1. (Right) Lieutenant Gen. John Vines, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander, prepares to give the 101st Airborne Division flag and control of operations in north-central Iraq to Turner.

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 Diyala 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.”





Our Destiny...

Iraq's Freedom



(Clockwise from above) Major Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers, address the crowd during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at FOB Danger Nov. 1; The ceremony color guard, combined of Soldiers from the 42nd Inf. Div. and 101st Abn. Div., as well as a Soldier from the Iraqi Army, stands at attention; The command group salutes during the playing of the national anthem; An Iraqi Soldier stands with the Iraqi Army flag on the color guard; Unit guidon bearers stand at parade rest during the ceremony.

BOB ON THE FOB

by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

YEAH GUYS, I'D LOVE TO GO ON THAT CONVOY,
BUT UMMM, I'VE GOT TO... WORK ON THIS E-MAIL,
AND UMM... GET THIS POWERPOINT SLIDE READY...
AND A LOT OF...UMMM... OTHER STUFF... YOU KNOW
I'M ALWAYS READY TO GO OUT WITH YOU...

UH OH... LOOK BUSY... CLOSE THE SOLITAIRE
WINDOW... HIDE THE HOTMAIL AND GOOGLE
WINDOWS... HURRY UP AND LOAD POWERPOINT...
DANGIT, LOAD QUICKER!!



fobbit n. (fōb'it)

1. One who avoids travelling off the FOB at all costs. 2. One whose idea of going "outside the wire" is going outside the reach of their CAT-5 network wiring (*See also fobelope*)

Check your Brain Bucket

Recent surveys conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan show that as many as half the Soldiers serving there are not properly wearing the Advanced Combat Helmet. Soldiers whose helmets are fitted poorly or worn improperly face an increased risk of injury or death from ballistic threats and other head injuries. In response to this finding, the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command issued Safety of Use Message 05-006 outlining the proper wear and fit of the helmet.



- Top of head must touch the crown pad
- 1/2 inch space between head and helmet
- Helmet is level, front to back
- Crown pad must always be worn
- All seven pads are worn for high risk operations
- Portion of ear at or above ear canal is covered
- Minimum of five pads used (including crown pad)
(Soldier is at increased injury risk with less than seven pads)
- Hardware covered by pads for high-risk operations
- Check pads for tears and compressibility

- In cold, allow pads to warm to conform to the head
- Retention system nuts and bolts are tight
- No cut, frayed, or loose stitching or webbing
- Helmet inner hook disks are attached to helmet
- No cracked, worn or damaged hardware
- Helmet is level (side to side), not twisted or canted
- Front rim is not more than 1/2 inch above eyebrows
- Retention straps are evenly adjusted and snug
- Small chin strap is in front of chin and level
- Neck pad resting on nape of neck

If the ACH is too tight:

- Re-arrange side pads in a vertical, diagonal, or horizontal configuration
- Remove front or back pads and rearrange side pads
- Create space in the area that feels tight
- Try next smaller pad size
- Try next larger shell size

If the ACH is too loose:

- Re-arrange side pads in a vertical, diagonal, or horizontal configuration
- Tighten chin strap retention system
- Increase number of pads
- Try next larger pad size
- Try next smaller shell size

If the ACH is too high:

- Judge at brow and ear -- Soldier should see rim of helmet when looking up
- Portion of ear above canal should be covered
- Try next smaller size pad set
- Try next larger shell size

If the ACH is too low:

- Try next larger sized pad set.
- Try next smaller shell size.

Going beyond...

ARABIC LINGUIST AIDS IN SEARCHING IRAQI FEMALES

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

1st Brigade Combat Team
3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

FOB SPEICHER, Iraq -- In the spring of 2005, early on in their deployment, Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and based near Balad, were faced with an almost insurmountable obstacle -- they needed to search an Iraqi female who had been acting suspicious, and they were all male.

Culturally, it would have caused problems with the woman and her family if the infantrymen had searched her. Complicating the situation, she spoke only Arabic and they spoke only English.

For help, they turned to the 3rd Forward Support Battalion, 1st BCT, at nearby Logistic Support Area Anaconda, and the 3rd FSB turned to Sgt. Michelle Gragg. Gragg, who happens to be the only female Arabic linguist in the BCT, said she was glad to help.

"I'm a crypto-linguist, but I work as an intelligence analyst," Gragg said. As an intelligence analyst, Gragg said she was losing much of her language skills, and when asked to go out on a combat mission with the infantry to help search a female Iraqi, she jumped at the chance.

"It was the first opportunity to get outside of the wire and actually speak to some of the local nationals," Gragg said.

What started as a temporary fix to a seemingly temporary problem has evolved. The battalion quickly understood the importance of having female search teams that the infantry units could call upon during special circumstances.

After that initial mission, a military police Soldier was brought in and conducted training for over 25 3rd FSB female Soldiers who volunteered to help search Iraqi females.

"I love it," Gragg said. "Some of the other females were skeptical at first." Soon, though, they began to fully understand the significance of their mission, she added.

Since that first mission, Gragg has gone out on almost fifteen missions to support the infantry and cav scouts, and 3rd FSB has also begun to realize the significance of having a Soldier like her.

"Sergeant Gragg is a female Soldier that has expanded the boundaries by going out and becoming an asset to the infantrymen on the front lines," said Cpt. Casey Lewis, civil military affairs officer, 3rd FSB. "She has allowed the 3rd FSB to help the combat arms battalions in other ways that don't necessarily fall into a forward support battalion lane."

Gragg admits that she's an adrenaline junkie and was excited to be allowed to go on these missions. She also says that she doesn't like to sit on the LSA, letting her language skills rot.

"Not many females get the opportunity to go out on raids," she said.

The female search teams typically go out in pairs with an infantry platoon, one female Soldier searching while the other pulls security, Gragg said. The missions they go out on can vary, she

said, from all day long patrols during elections, to participating in cordon and searches.

"We've gone on raids to search the females set aside in the houses," Gragg said.

Her road to being a linguist for the Army was not a typical one. As a special education teacher at Arrowhead Elementary School in Glendale, Ariz., Gragg was looking for an opportunity to join a government agency. With that goal in mind, Gragg said she did some research and found that the best way to get a job was to be proficient in a foreign language and the best way to become proficient in a foreign language was to join the Army.

Army linguists don't necessarily get to choose the language they learn before going to school, but Gragg had hopes of learning Arabic and she got it.

(CON'T)

"Sergeant Gragg is a female Soldier that has expanded the boundaries by going out and becoming an asset to the infantrymen on the front lines."

Cpt. Casey Lewis

Civil Military Affairs Officer, 3rd FSB



Courtesy photo

Sergeant Michelle Gragg, an Arabic linguist with 3rd Forward Support Battalion, 128th Infantry, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, distributes school supplies to school children in Balad, Iraq.

“That was luck of the draw,” she said.

Unfortunately, the only experience Gragg had in a foreign language was the required two years of Spanish in her high school.

“The majority of people in the class had a proficiency in a language before the class,” Gragg said. “I wouldn’t say it was a struggle, but it was very intense.”

It took Gragg a lot of studying, practice and hard work to make it through the Arabic

language course.

That type of attitude is typical of Gragg, Lewis said.

“She never complains and she always puts mission first by actually volunteering for missions outside the wire,” he added. “She’s eager to make a difference by using the Arabic language she learned in [Advanced Individual Training].”

Lewis describes Gragg as a strong, motivated Soldier who always tries to do better. “She sets an example for our battalion and all Soldiers when

she goes out with the combat arms battalions without complaint.”

When asked about the danger of the missions she goes on Gragg simply shrugs and smiles. “I have no fear of anything, I’d go infantry if they’d let me.”



Safety and Etiquette on the FOB...

by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

- Clear your weapon properly!
- Muzzle awareness!
- Weapon on safe!
- Don’t pet the Iraqi critters!
- Wash your hands frequently and use a paper towel to turn off faucet!
- No bags or Camelbacks in chow hall or MWR buildings!
- Drink water!
- Use a ground guide when combat parking!
- Lock your vehicles!
- Shred sensitive documents!
- Don’t talk on the phone or e-mail any thing you might even think is in violation of OPSEC (i.e. unit locations, movement times) – the enemy is listening!
- Leave the bugs alone!
- Don’t try to charm the snakes!
- Drink more water!
- Wear sunscreen!
- Wear issued eye protection!
- Wear seat belts!
- TCs -- keep an eye out for what your driver cannot see!
- Stay in shape!
- Don’t forget to salute!
- Keep an eye out for suspicious activities!
- If you are having problems at home talk, to a chaplain!
- Keep all sensitive items secure!
- Don’t throw trash in the porta-potties!
- If you smoke, smoke only in designated areas!
- Look out for your buddy...always!
- And oh yeah...**CLEAR YOUR WEAPON! WEAPON ON SAFE! MUZZLE AWARENESS!**

Around the FOB...



Country singer Aaron Tippin will be performing at Forward Operating Base Speicher in November. Keep an eye out for date and time to be posted.



HUTCH'S TOP 10

Top 10 reasons Thanksgiving is better in Iraq

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

- ☞ There are no annoying relatives attacking your last nerve like Pauly Shore movies do.
- ☞ You don't have to worry about filling up on too much beer.
- ☞ Since turkeys tend to be scarce in the Middle East, you can be sure that you're most likely experimenting with new and exotic foods.
- ☞ The tryptophan in the meat will help you sleep blissfully through the abrasive noise of the "Big Voice."
- ☞ The life expectancy of leftovers is shorter than the attention span of an *American Idol* fan.
- ☞ You don't have to lift a finger to clean the ginormous amount of dishes that the thousands of sloppy Soldiers will leave behind.
- ☞ Gravy stains blend in surprisingly well with digital patterned uniforms.
- ☞ Sand and grit are an excellent source of the vitamins and minerals people need to stay healthy, and the occasional fly adds flavor that can't be duplicated in the kitchen.
- ☞ If your boss' face is stuffed with food, that's less time he or she is spending yelling at you for no explicable reason.
- ☞ And finally, it gives you more appreciation for Thanksgiving at home with your family.

**SAFETY
FIRST**

**DON'T LET THIS
HAPPEN TO YOU**



To date, five Soldiers have been killed by negligent discharges during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Clear your weapon carefully.
Know the proper clearing procedure.
Do it properly every time.**

? Excuse me...

What is your favorite thing to take outside the wire?



Staff Sgt. Jason Nicely
80th Div., 315th MiTT,
Team Richmond, Va.

"My M-203, Ole Betsy"

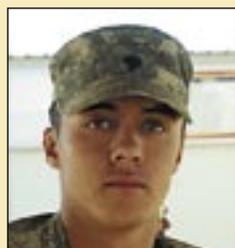
Staff Sgt. Amanda Lynch
457th Chemical Company,
Greenville, S.C.

"My Pelican flashlight"



1st Lt. Joshua Williamson
Co. B, 5-101st CAB,
Fort Campbell, Ky.

"E-mail"



Spc. Paul Everhart
Co.D, 6-101st CAB
Fort Campbell, Ky.

"My SAW"



Spc. Eric Pippin
141 FA, 1st BCT, 3rd ID
Fort Stewart, Ga.

*"Eye protection and
my 50 cal"*

Sgt. Kovalyn Harris
Co. B, 467th Eng. Bn.
Memphis, Tenn.

*"The Buffalo six-wheeled
vehicle used for finding and
detecting IEDs"*



Pvt. Michael Simpson
Co. E, 5-101st CAB
Fort Campbell, Ky.

*"The humvee because of its
all-terrain capabilities"*

Cpt. Brent Conner
761st EOD
Fort Sill, Okla.

*"Our Talon remote con-
trolled robot used to observe
and detonate possible IEDs"*



Leaving a mark

101st Soldier finds artistic haven in least expected place



photos by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

Sergeant Yvette Pino, first cook, Company A, 501st Special Troops Battalion, paints a mural for her battalion, the "Gladiators" at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. It is the second mural she has painted so far in this deployment. Since the 101st Airborne Division's last deployment to Iraq, Pino has designed and painted almost a dozen murals.

Spc. Joshua Hutcheson
101st Airborne Division
Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait

-- The first step is to find the dimensions of the surface that will be transformed into a mural. Then designs are made, sketches drawn and options sorted, until there is but one image left.

Next a grid is made on the mural surface and the sketch; this grid will make the design increase with the proper proportions when it is transferred from paper to stone.

A base coat of paint to create a tabula rasa is optional, but recommended. This is followed by a chalk outline of the design. If there is no chalk, markers work just as well. A rock has been known to work in a pinch.

Lastly, paint is used to go over the outline and fill everything in. This is how a mural is made.

Sergeant Yvette Pino, first cook, Company A, 501st Special Troops Battalion, has been following these rules for years. Being the unofficial 101st Airborne Division artist laureate for the past two deployments, she learned to adapt this technique to desert warfare.

She has painted murals while in Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear, her protective mask on her face, obscuring her vision, stifling her breathing and dropping sweat on her face. In those instances, she made sure to keep her weapon close and one eye on her surroundings. But her biggest enemy while painting murals is the oppressive heat of Iraq and Kuwait.

"The trick out here is keeping your paint wet, because the paint will dry on your brush before you reach the stone," she said.

Pino has painted almost a dozen murals for the 101st during

Operation Iraqi Freedom I and 05-07. She has done everything from Old Abe, to the famous Air Assault wings and the crests of most major units in the division, she said.

Her history of painting for the division began in March of 2003.

"We were in Kuwait at Camp New Jersey. Maj Fitzpatrick [Headquarters Commandant] asked if anyone could draw...I volunteered. He asked me if I could draw and paint, I said, 'yes.' He said pack your gear, we're going to [Camp] Doha," Pino said.

At Doha, she came up with three sketches. The one that was used was picked by the division commander, then Maj. Gen. David Petraeus. It featured the "Rendezvous with Destiny" motto and Soldiers emerging from a helicopter.

Pino finished it in less than three days. That was her first mural. **(CON'T)**



Working with little or no supplies makes you frustrated or creative. You learn to do things quickly and anticipate!

To complete the painting, all she had was a few colors and two paintbrushes. To add any detail to the mural she had to use cotton swabs.

"It was fairly easy, what made it difficult was the lack of resources," Pino said. "I think it came out pretty good."

Word spread in her unit of Pino's abilities with paint. After her return from Doha, her company had her paint stencils on the 100 humvees belonging to the division Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Pino said.

When she reached Mosul, Iraq, Pino was given the opportunity to paint the division logo and other unit designs at the main headquarters.

"I really, really liked those," she said. "They were the most rewarding because they were in front of the palace and with the flow of traffic, everybody saw them."

Her proudest moment came when her murals became the backdrop of every television interview given by leaders of the 101st, Pino said.

So far in this deployment, Pino has painted one mural for her company and is in the middle of another for her battalion.

During the year and a half between deployments, she has refined her skills and grown as an artist.

"I learned a lot of inventive techniques," she said. "Working with little or no supplies makes you frustrated or creative. You learn to do things quickly and anticipate."

Pino began painting when she was in kindergarten, and her parents nurtured and supported her hobby and talent. That was what made painting the murals so enriching for her.

"It's pretty cool because I get to do something that makes me feel good. I get to use my talent and express myself. I express a lot of stuff though painting, stuff people can't see. I don't know where it comes from or how I got it, but it's there and it's the most natural thing," she said. "It's the only thing I'm certain about myself – my art."

Pino has used her skills with the paintbrush and moved into another art form: culinary art. She decorates cakes and creates ice sculptures, she said.

As an artist in the Army, Pino hopes to be an example to other Soldiers who crave expressing themselves through an art form.

"Believe in your artwork. The military is straight-laced, so a creative mind is easily boxed and kept within the lines," she said. "But you have to color outside the lines."

Oh brother... Where art thou?

Maj. Tom Bryant

3rd Brigade Combat Team,
101st Airborne Division Public Affairs

FOB SUMMERALL, Iraq -- An infantry company is a family – Soldiers live, eat, train, fight, laugh, and survive together every day. The bond between men that's forged in battle is rock-hard.

For four Soldiers in Company A, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, that bond has been in place for over 20 years.

Sergeant Mitchell Burns and Cpl. Michael Burns, brothers originally from Tioga, La., are deployed to Iraq for the second time with the Rakkasans. For Sgt. Jason Milanowski and Pfc. Aaron Milanowski, from Grand Rapids, Mich., this marks their first deployment together as infantrymen with the Rakkasans.

According to Burns, having a family member with you in the same unit has its advantages and disadvantages.

"You tend to worry a lot more when you know your brother is out on a mission," Sgt. Burns said. "Then again, when he gets a package, I get a package."

Sergeant Milanowski, 27, a squad leader in 3rd platoon, agreed that having his brother here presents unique challenges.

"If I see his team leader doing something I don't necessarily agree with, it's hard for me not to go over and step in," Milanowski said.



Brothers Burns

All four brothers share the competitive spirit you would expect to find among siblings.

"We fought every day, a couple times a day, growing up," Cpl. Burns said. "We're much closer now – I can't remember the last time we fought."

Sergeant Burns was quick to add, "I always have to do better than my brother."

Pfc. Milanowski, a 20-year old assistant machine gunner in 1st Platoon, said his brother's service was definitely a factor in his decision to join the Army.

"After [the terrorist attacks on] 9/11, I had an opinion on the war and decided to do something about it," Milanowski said.

Though their parents are "nervous" about their sons' presence in Iraq, both the Burns and Milanowski brothers say their families are glad they can keep an eye on one another while deployed.

During their first tour in Iraq together, Sgt. Burns was involved in an IED attack. Cpl. Burns was serving in a different location at the time, and was unaware of his brother's situation.

"It took three days for me to find out he was okay," Cpl. Burns said. "That's nerve-wracking."

When asked about the greatest benefit of having your brother in the same company, Sgt. Burns summed it up best.

"After a long day, or when I'm a little down, I can walk 50 feet down the road and talk to my brother – and I'm home."



Brothers Milanowski

Retention NCO goes the distance

2Lt. Elizabeth Casebeer
101st Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

FOB SPEICHER, Iraq -- The typical image of a "tough" Army job may be that of an infantry grunt, a combat engineer, or military police. One may not think of the retention non-commissioned officer in the same manner.

According to Staff Sgt. Rebecca Norris, retention non-commissioned officer for 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, she may have one of the toughest jobs in the Army – keeping Soldier in.

In just the first week of deployment alone, Norris has re-enlisted more than 20 Soldiers in Kuwait. She estimates there will be several more re-enlistments during the first few months in Iraq.

Norris, who joined the Army as a chemical specialist, was hand-picked by the battalion command sergeant major in March to serve as the retention NCO.

"I was actually dead set on getting out [of the military], but this battalion honestly changed my mind," Norris said. "I think it changes a lot of minds [to stay in]."

"I like to talk to people a lot and the sergeant major noticed this and suggested I try my hand as a retention NCO," Norris said, who admits she figured the job would be easier than it actually is.

"I had been in the battalion four years and wanted the challenge," she said. "But at the same time, I wondered, 'How much work could you actually do to re-enlist somebody?'"

Norris said the research and paperwork alone is time consuming, but she doesn't mind. She tries to find different re-enlistment options to help Soldiers decide to stay in



Staff Sgt. Rebecca Norris, retention non-commissioned officer for the 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, discusses re-enlistment options with a Soldier. Norris re-enlisted more than 20 Soldiers in Kuwait while waiting to move into Iraq. She expects to re-enlist many more Soldiers in the coming months.

and may even call on them nights or weekends when she finds a good option.

One such call was to Spc. Jessica Padilla, a human resources specialist in 1st Bn. Norris offered her a schools option, which would allow Padilla to spend six months in nursing school once she returns from Iraq. Padilla re-enlisted that night for two years, using the option Norris suggested. Padilla said she might not have re-enlisted had it not been for Norris.

"If you stay in the Army, you might as well get as much as you can out of it," Norris said, who has been known in certain cases to tell Soldiers she thinks they would be better suited out of the Army.

"She's just an honest person," said Sgt. Ryan Helfrick, Headquarters and Headquarters Company armor and orderly room NCOIC, who

works with Norris in the same shop. "She sits and explains things and seems to care and not just want the credit for re-enlisting somebody."

"She's had calls in the middle of the night, and previous NCOs would not have done that. They would've told the Soldier to wait until the next day. Actually, sometimes I think she works a little too hard," Helfrick said with a laugh.

Padilla is happy Norris is the person who did her re-enlistment. "She is definitely a hard worker. She doesn't yank your chain, either. She is very straightforward and tries to talk to you [to figure out your specific needs]."

Norris enjoys her position as the retention NCO and hopes to continue in the field. "I work as hard for this battalion as I'd want them to work for me."

Mechanics wrench their way through successful deployment



Pfc. Joshua Ford
1st Brigade Combat Team,
3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

FOB SPEICHER, Iraq -- When it comes to repairing vehicles, mechanics with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have worked strenuously to maintain high standards of transportation.

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

The Soldiers in the shop strive to keep their vehicles in top-notch condition, allowing Soldiers to feel safer in them.

"[In] the 11 months we have been here, not one of our vehicles has broken down outside the wire," said Chief Warrant Officer Jay Bowen, battalion maintenance warrant officer, 1st BTB, 3rd ID.

"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," David said.

The QAQC program takes place every Friday. Mechanics from both 3rd BTB and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT inspect, clean and work on

each vehicle and generator within the motor pool to ensure everything works properly, David said.

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 Danger closure because at that time, we had to move everything from [FOB] Danger to [FOB] 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. There have been times when 1 BCT mechanics had to get up at 2 a.m. to fix vehicles or tow vehicles.

"The QAQC program has really limited the early wake up calls because our [equipment] is usually in good condition," Tomes said.

The mechanics' job is not limited 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



photo by Pfc. Joshua Ford

Specialist Scot Sheftz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, plugs a generator into a humvee.

to tag along on missions, such as patrols or logistic convoys," Tomes said. "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."

"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.

The Soldiers in the maintenance section look forward to redeploying to the states in a few months and reflecting back on the job they've done in Iraq.

"Overall, we have done an excellent job," Tomes said. "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."



101st Aviation assumes control of aerial operations

Sgt. Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

FOB SPEICHER, Iraq -- The 101st Combat Aviation Brigade took over aerial operations from the 42nd Infantry Division Aviation Brigade at Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 13 outside the two unit's Tactical Operations Center.

The 101st CAB, out of Fort Campbell, Ky., arrived in Iraq last month and has assumed control over aviation operations in the area to include providing convoy and route security, medical evacuations, and utilization of air assets in support of ground

forces in strengthening the Iraqi government and security forces.

The 42nd ID Avn. Bde., an Army National Guard brigade unit out of Patchogue, New York, had been in control of the aviation operations since January 2005. In a speech during the ceremony, Col. Mark Burke, brigade commander, acknowledged the hard work of his Soldiers in supporting the security of the political process in Iraq over the past year. He also expressed gratitude in a tearful remembrance of the brigade's two fallen Soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer Matt Lourey and Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Scott, reciting the division's motto, "Never forget."

Colonel Warren Phipps, commander of the 101st CAB, and

Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glide-well stepped in as commander and command sergeant major of the area of operations.

In his remarks following the uncasing of the new colors, Phipps said, "We, the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade and 42nd Aviation Brigade stand united in a great cause – to save the Iraqi people from the throes of tyranny and terrorism so that they can enjoy the freedoms of a self-determined representative government and the comfort of society governed by the rule of law."

Phipps pledged to the battalions of the 42nd ID Avn. Bde. that, "the Wings of Destiny will fly proudly over the Rainbow Soldiers, protecting them as you have done over the past year."



TASK FORCE
BAND of BROTHERS
IN MEMORIAM

*Once firmly grounded upon this earth,
these Screaming Eagles now soar in brighter skies.*



Spc. Dennis Ferderer Jr.

1st Battalion, 15th Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT
3rd Infantry Division
New Salem, N.D.

November 2, 2005

Spc. Darren Howe

1st Battalion, 15th Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT
3rd Infantry Division
Beatrice, Neb.

November 3, 2005

Capt. Joel Cahill

1st Battalion, 15th Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT
3rd Infantry Division
Norwood, Mass.

November 6, 2005

(These are the names that have been released as of Nov. 9)