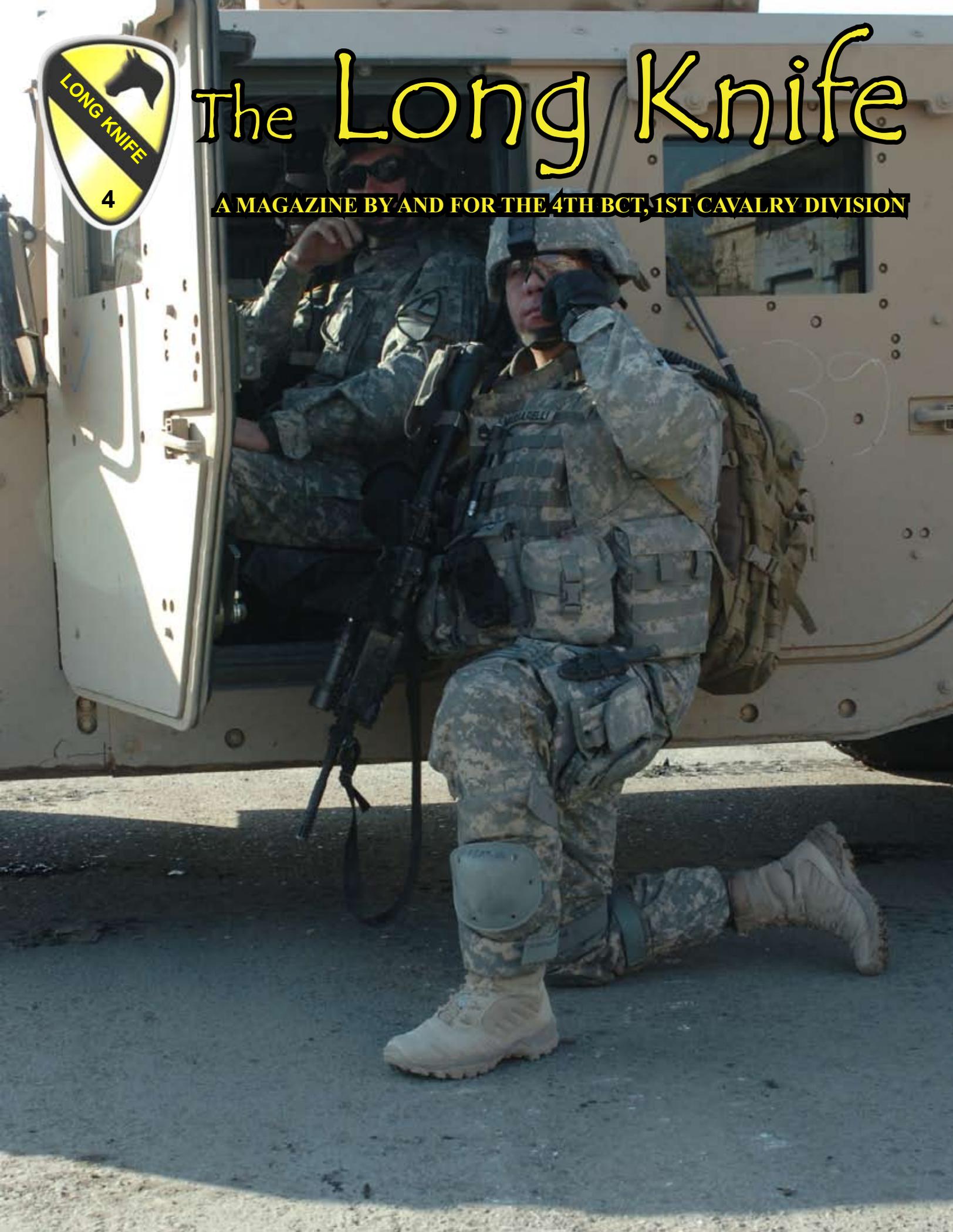




The Long Knife

A MAGAZINE BY AND FOR THE 4TH BCT, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



The Long Knife

PUBLICATION STAFF:

Col. Stephen Twitty
Commander, 4th BCT

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan
Frennier,
CSM, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

Maj. Roderick Cunningham
4th BCT Public Affairs Officer
Editor-in-Chief
The Long Knife

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp
4th BCT Public Affairs NCOIC
Senior Editor, The Long Knife

Sgt. Paula Taylor
4th BCT Public Affairs-
Print Journalist
Editor, The Long Knife

BN PA REPRESENTATIVE:

2nd Lt. Richard Hutton
1-9 Cavalry Regiment

2nd Lt. John Ames
2-7 Cavalry Regiment

1st Lt. Michael Daschel
2-12 Cavalry Regiment

2nd Lt. Bennett Freeman
5-82 Field Artillery Regiment

1st Lt. Bridgette Bell
4th Special Troops Battalion

Capt. Kenneth McGraw
27th Brigade Support Battalion

Maj. Jerry Sheppard
Commander, 4th BCT, Rear
Detachment

PURPOSE: The intent of *The Long Knife* publication is to provide information to the Soldiers and family members of the brigade in regards to our deployment in Iraq.

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Command Sgt. Maj. David Null, top enlisted member, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, hangs his battalion flag on their flagpole after his unit's Transfer of Authority ceremony Dec. 5.

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COVER PHOTO: Sgt. 1st Class Michael Massarelli, platoon sergeant, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, uses a portable radio to communicate with his unit during Operation Samson Dec. 14. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)

BACK COVER PHOTO: Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. takes a short break between missions. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)



A message from Long Knife 6

December brought many new challenges for the Long Knife Brigade, beginning with the brigade Transfer of Authority ceremony that was held Dec. 8 on Forward Operating Base Marez.

The unit we have replaced, the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division made great strides toward helping to build effective and combat ready Iraqi

security forces. We will continue to lead the people of Iraq in the right direction. I am confident, after having had several meetings and interactions with the local forces, that they will be prepared for any type of mission their country requires them to do before we head home to our loved ones.

Shortly after taking over our AO, we lost one of our brave brothers, Sgt. Brent Dunkleburger, Abrams tank crewmember, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, who was attached to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, when a rocket-propelled grenade impacted his vehicle.

A memorial service was held in his honor at the Diamondback Theater Dec. 16. I would like to express our deepest sympathy's to all of Sgt. Dunkleburger's family members and friends. Please keep them in your prayers and him in your hearts.

The troops of the Long Knife Brigade have been continuously working diligently preparing our Iraqi brothers-in-arms. They have conducted numerous combat patrols, cordon and search/cordon and knock missions, improvised explosive device lane clearing, assisted with raids and helped with maintaining traffic control points.

We will continue to remain vigilant in our mission throughout the coming months and look forward to beginning a great new year. Happy holidays everyone!



A message from Long Knife 9

It's amazing to see the versatility of our Soldiers and leaders. On any given day, a patrol can go out from training Iraqi security forces; to reinforcing police stations; to killing and capturing terrorists, then on the way home, take time to pass out candy to the Iraqi children.

The morale of our Soldiers is very high and they take pride in their accomplishment of the mission. The Soldiers performing security and detail missions on the forward operating base are doing this task with confidence. Every time we roll through an entry control point, or walk through a security check point, the Soldiers on duty have a great

attitude and are always in the proper uniform. In addition, I would like to point out a group of true heroes that simply amaze me—the route clearance teams and explosive ordinance disposal teams that go out every day to find and clear improvised explosive devices. The courage that these Soldiers display is second-to-none, and their effort is saving numerous lives every day.

Soldiers do their job for love of country and each other. We couldn't do our jobs without the support of our families back home. I hope that all the families enjoy a great holiday season and although we are not there physically, we will always be there in spirit.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fallen Soldier remembered at memorial *Cavalry troops mourn loss of tank crewman, fellow friend*

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN SIPP
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



A fellow Soldier pays his final respects to Sgt. Brent Dunkleberger, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, during a memorial service Dec. 16 at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq – Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, and across the 4th Brigade Combat Team, assembled in the Diamondback Theater on FOB Marez, near Mosul, Iraq, to pay their final respects to a fallen Garryowen trooper during a memorial ceremony Dec. 16.

Sgt. Brent William Dunkleberger, a 29-year-old M1

Abrams tank crewman from New Bloomfield, Penn., was assigned to C Co., 2-7 Cavalry and attached to the 1-9 Cavalry, when he was killed after his vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade while on a security mission in Mosul, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Eric Welsh, commander, 2-7 Cavalry, was the first to speak to the assembled Soldiers and friends at the ceremony, and remembered his first impression of Dunkleberger. “It was 18 months ago when I showed up (to the 4th BCT). We had no money, no equipment, and little support in place, but right off the bat, there was Sgt. Dunkleberger, making things happen. In a [non-commissioned officer] run battalion, he epitomized what an NCO should be.”

Sgt. Brent Dunkleberger entered the Army on Feb. 20, 2003, attending One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky. He graduated as an armor crewman (MOS 19K) and served as a driver and loader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment in Fort Hood, Texas. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II before his current assignment and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV.

Capt. Brian Lambert, commander, C Co., 2-7 Cavalry, remembers Dunkleberger for his dedication and professionalism. “He was an exceptional mentor who loved his Soldiers. He always gave 100 percent to anything he

did. I will always remember him for the smile he always wore, and the effort he put into every task.”

“He lived life to the fullest and always had a smile,” agreed Pfc. Nicholas Johnson, C Co., 2-7 Cavalry, and one of Sgt. Dunkleberger’s Soldiers and close personal friends. “His work ethic was amazing and he loved his family. No matter how long or hard we worked, he always made time for his family. They were the most important thing to him.”

“I would like to say that the enemy may have taken his life, but they can never take his memory,” said Welsh. As long as we stay resolute in our labors, and steadfast in our love, his memory will stay alive, he added.

“I will always carry him in my heart, and I will never forget him,” added Johnson.

Dunkleberger’s awards include the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, and the Basic Marksman Qualification Badge.

Dunkleberger was married to the former Lisa Weyant of Mechanicsburg, Penn., and they have three daughters: Belinda, Kelli, and Zoe.

NINEWA VICE GOVERNOR OFFERS OPTIMISM



Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command (center) speaks with Khasro Goran, Ninewa Provincial vice governor (right) in Mosul Nov. 30. The meeting was the first stop for Fallon on his visit to the Ninewa Province.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN SIPP
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

MOSUL, Iraq – Mosul, the largest city in the Ninewa Province, and the second largest city in Iraq, has been referred to by many as the “head of Iraq.”

This title denotes the representation present of every major ethnic, religious, and political group in the city, as well as its geographic location, near the top of the country.

The symbolism was evident when the Ninewa Provincial Vice Governor, Khasro Goran, sat down to speak with the visiting Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, in an early morning

meeting Nov. 30.

Fallon greeted the vice governor by recalling an earlier visit and an impression of the area that has stayed with him throughout his career. “I first saw your country 15 years ago [after the 1991 Gulf War]. This area is blessed with beautiful, fertile lands, and abundant resources. You have [here] all the tools necessary to succeed.”

Goran agreed and offered his own assessment of the changing times. “We work as one team in this process to make the political process succeed. The Iraqi people appreciate the sacrifices by the Americans, and have themselves taken long strides. Despite [violent] events, the Iraqi people have learned the foundations

of a democratic system.”

The vice governor also tendered a call for patience and a note of caution. “Transformation cannot occur overnight. Countries are not built in days or months. The Iraqi mentality must switch, after 40 years; public to private [services and enterprises] will take time. Infrastructure is still in need of repair. It is hard to rebuild a country destroyed by multiple wars dating back 25 years. Any development made toward progress in Iraq tends to threaten neighboring regimes.”

The discussion then turned to specific security, political, and economic concerns that Goran has had to deal with. “Electricity is always a concern for us,” replied

SEE GOVERNOR, PAGE 8



(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

RUMSFELD GIVES FINAL FAREWELL TO LONG KNIFE TROOPS

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld surprised the Multi-National Division North and Long Knife Soldiers with an early morning visit to the Community Activities Center at Forward Operating Base, Marez, Dec. 10.

The 'town hall' style meeting was his final stop during a two-day tour in Iraq before returning to Washington. This was Rumsfeld's 16th trip to Iraq since 2003.

The purpose of the visit was to meet the troops and express his thanks for the sacrifices being made, according to his delegation spokesman. He opened the meeting with several minutes of prepared remarks, but reserved the bulk of his allotted time answering questions from the audience of troops.

The meeting closed with Rumsfeld individually greeting the troops and spending his remaining time shaking hands, posing for photographs and signing autographs.

4TH BCT TROOPS TAKE OVER PROPERTY IN BAGHDAD

STORY BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—Several Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division returned from a trip to Baghdad Nov. 27, after receiving their mission essential equipment from other brigades.



(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Carlos Garcia, supply sergeant, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, inspects the basic issue items from the up-armored vehicles he received in Baghdad.

Selected to attend the trip into the Green Zone were supply representatives and company executive officers from each of the battalion's five companies.

“We signed for our items from the 172nd Stryker Brigade and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in the Green Zone,” said Sgt. Carlos Garcia, supply sergeant, A Company. “We

opened local [theater-provided equipment] accounts in Baghdad to speed up the process. The 172nd was finally going back to the states. A lateral transfer of equipment had to be done quickly so they could clear their accounts and go home.”

“We signed for equipment from the 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. because they had excess,” said 1st Lt. Grace Richards, B Co. executive officer. “We needed it because normally when you are replacing a unit in country, it's because they are leaving. The unit we are replacing in Mosul is not leaving Iraq, so we had to get the equipment from somewhere else. The 2nd brigade had excess for us.”

Garcia said his company received seven gun trucks, 200 ESapi plates, 200 deltoid armored protective systems, one up-armored light medium tactical vehicle and several weapons.

The acquisition was necessary for B Co. because it

was lacking much needed signal supplies. “We're not fully mission capable without that equipment,” said Richards. “We didn't have enough shelters, generators, and protective plates and we didn't have any up-armored vehicles.”

Once the equipment was signed for, it was loaded onto trucks and hauled up to FOB Marez by contractors.

“Kellogg, Brown and Root drove it all up here,” said Richards. “They left the same night we signed for it. It only took them a couple of days to get it here.”

Garcia said he enjoyed the trip and realizes the importance of having to sign for all of the gear.

“We do not want our Soldiers in soft-skinned vehicles outside the wire,” he said. “They need the best protection and up-armored vehicles with all the proper radio equipment and protective gear we can get for them. As a supply sergeant, I have a stressful job. I don't know if a lot of people know just how much we do and what all our responsibilities are, so it was nice to get away from the unit for awhile. I enjoyed the free time between coordination with inventories. I enjoyed the different parts of Baghdad. I've always wanted to go to the Green Zone; a chance I didn't have when I was here with the 18th Airborne Corps just one year ago.”

Richards also enjoyed the trip and said it was a learning tool for her. “It was a good learning experience for the supply sergeant and XOs,” she said. “I learned how to sign for and account for equipment, and how the movement process goes from one place to another.”



(U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Ford)

Equipment for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division gets loaded up onto trucks in Baghdad and line hauled up to Mosul where the unit currently is stationed. The BCT received the equipment from the 2nd BCT, 1st CD and the 172nd Stryker BCT.

MARUADERS PREPARE TO PARTY AT TOC

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE, MAREZ, Iraq—For many troops, the last thing they may expect to see when deployed is a gazebo situated in their tactical operations center. But for troops in the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the structure became a reality on Dec. 3.

“I found out there was an abandoned gazebo and talked to one of my platoon sergeants about making arrangements to bring it over here,” said 1st Sgt. Phyllis Green, A Company, Special Troops Battalion.

Before the gazebo could be moved, preparations had to be made. “[My platoon sergeant and I] went to the Material Handling Equipment (MHE) supply yard at Diamondback to put in a request for a 30K forklift,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Clawiter, military intelligence electronic warfare maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge, A Company, STB. “We already had a flatbed [medium tactical vehicle] assigned to our section for the movement. Ratchet straps and dunnage were also needed



Sgt. 1st Class Ed Taylor, platoon sergeant, A Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, delivers a gazebo to his tactical operations center.

in order to secure the gazebo to the truck, and a route recon was done to ensure the gazebo would [fit] at its destination.”

Once the arrangements were made with Kellogg, Brown and Root to move the gazebo with their forklift, the tie-down straps were available, and the recon was

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

GOVERNOR, *cont'd from page 5*

Goran.

“Mosul generates a lot of electricity, but doesn’t benefit from it because it all goes into the national grid. Fuel is another daily problem.

The irony is that Iraq has the world’s second largest reserve of oil, but lacks sufficient refining capabilities to capitalize on it.”

“What is the effectiveness of tribal leaders attempting to interface with the new government,” asked Fallon?

“The tribal system was very powerful until the 1970s,” replied Goran. “Literacy rates took off and the authority of the tribal leaders was somewhat diminished.” Their power took another hit under the rule of Saddam Hussein when he “replaced” tribal leaders that did not agree with him, with people who

did, he explained. These loyalists were referred to disparagingly as “Saddam’s sheikhs” for their lack of any real affiliation to the tribe they were now heading, as well as, in many cases, their lack of qualifications or leadership abilities. “Real tribal leaders wouldn’t put up with Saddam,” added Goran. Now, tribal leaders must join the political process and choose a political party if they want any chance of getting to the national assembly and representing their tribe’s interests.

Religious “extremism” is also a new concept that was never present in Iraq until it was fostered in by Saddam Hussein to combat future invaders. “Before the ‘religious campaign,’ Mosul was a free city; an open city where there was no sectarian strife,” said Goran.

“After the 1991 Gulf War, Saddam pushed an agenda of defense due to religious faith. He knew Iraqis would fight harder and not cooperate with any of his opponents if they believed it was their religious duty to resist. The majority of Iraqi people, however, are not backward or easily blinded; they do not believe in the al-Queda extremism.”

Goran offered a promise of continued vigilance.

“I believe we are moving forward, and will continue to as long as we maintain the will and commitment,” said Goran. “The Mosul people have challenged the terrorists and participated in the elections. Despite bombs, threats, [improvised explosive devices], they still voted. I am very optimistic.”

complete, the troops drove their MTV over to the site where the gazebo was located to meet with the forklift operators.

“At first, when I saw the size of the gazebo, it didn’t seem too bad, but once we got the truck over there next to it, I was skeptical it would fit on the truck and we’d be able to move it,” said Clawiter. “The truck bed is an 8’ x 12’ and the gazebo is about 15’ x 20’.”

Clawiter said there were also other concerns that needed to be taken into consideration before moving the large structure.

“First we had to inspect the gazebo to be sure it was structurally solid enough to be moved,” he said. “Once the forklift was on site, we had to figure out the best way to move the gazebo in order to load it onto the MTV due to the confined area it was in.”

When KBR operators, Steve Procopio and Lawrence Adams assessed the situation, they were leery about moving it, concerned it may get damaged, and that they may not be able to get it out of the space it occupied. “I didn’t think when I first saw it we’d be able to help them,” said Procopio. “The space it sat in was pretty tight.”

After all the assessments were made, the decision how to move it was finalized and it was loaded onto the truck, it was driven to A Company’s tactical operations center. When it arrived at its destination, staff members from several sections who work in the TOC gathered around in amazement.

“When I first saw it coming through the gate, I was like, ‘Oh my gosh!’ I said to myself that I have to stick around and watch this,” said Master Sgt. Richard Zuber, 4th Brigade S-2 noncommissioned officer in charge.

“I didn’t believe it,” said Sgt. Gerald Schudel, brigade security manager, 4th BCT, 1st CD. “It was much bigger than I had thought it would be.”

The Soldiers, with the help of Adams and Procopio, were able to set the gazebo down right where they planned for it to go.

“The guys from KBR definitely knew what they were doing,” said Clawiter. “Mr. Adams, under the direction of Mr. Procopio, was able to maneuver the forklift and gazebo in some very confined areas.”

From the time Green made them aware of the gazebo and what she wanted done, to the time it was in place at their TOC, was a five-hour process that most agreed was worth the effort.

“This is a tough place to be and our young Soldiers are far from their family and friends,” Zuber explained. “It is the job of NCOs to look after their Soldiers. If you



Kellogg, Brown and Root equipment operator, Steve Procopio, gives hand signals to the KBR forklift operator, Lawrence Adams, to guide the A Company, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. gazebo into place after it was transported from Diamondback to FOB Marez on the back of a medium tactical vehicle. The gazebo was ordered to keep morale up in the A Co. tactical operations center. Their top enlisted Soldier, 1st Sgt. Phyllis Green plans on using the structure for unit parties and barbecues.

can enhance their morale, they can stay focused on their mission and perform better.”

“As NCOs, we are charged with caring for our Soldiers as well as training them,” said Green. “I serve my Soldiers and all Soldiers. I love them, worry about, and discipline them when needed. They do so much for our nation, the least that I can do as a leader is show them that I appreciate them and their contributions to our mission. I hope they enjoy it.”

“Simply put, I just want to see them smile as they take a smoke break or a break from the computer screen. I just want to witness the pleasure of enjoying a few moments alone or reading a letter from home. I hope they experience blissful moments as they sit in the gazebo reminiscing about that special moment that brought a smile to their face. For me, that’s mission accomplished!” Green exclaimed.

'ROUGH RIDERS' TAKE REIGNS FROM 296TH

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—Commanders and leaders of the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, wearing their Stetson Cavalry hats, completed their transition of authority, or TOA, in a ceremony held outside their headquarters building Dec. 5 at 3 p.m.

The purpose of the TOA was to mark the official day the unit took over logistical responsibility for the 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry, said Lt. Col. David Whitaker, commander, 27th BSB.

Prior to the arrival of the 27th BSB, the area was controlled by the 296th BSB, he said.

Several minutes before the ceremony began, Spc. John Gifford, food service specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 296th BSB, played "Scotland" and "Brave" on the bagpipes.

"They are traditional Scottish tunes played before battle and at parades," Gifford explained.

The ceremony began with the 296th casing their colors in preparation for their movement into Baghdad.

The 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 'Frontline Support', distinguished themselves from June through December 2006 by providing logistics operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to their records, the 296th is comprised of over 600 Soldiers, the 296th BSB conducted 279 combat logistics patrols, traveling over 15,209 miles; completed 4,842 Stryker maintenance jobs and 1304 direct support maintenance jobs; received and issued 501 short tons of ammunition; issued 56,143 gallons of JP8 fuel; treated



Lt. Col. David Whitaker, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Null, senior enlisted member, both with the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, unfurl their colors during the transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Marez December 5. The purpose of the ceremony was to mark the official date the 27th BSB took over the 296th BSB operational responsibilities.

1,658 individuals during medical screens; and prepared over 260,000 meals at remote locations. The 296th BSB Soldiers have been responsible for supporting over 10,000 troops at 19 locations.

Once the 296th colors were cased, the 27th uncased their colors and a brief history of the unit was read.

“Our Soldiers are ready to accomplish their mission and eager to do so,” said Whitaker.

Following the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. David Null, top enlisted member of the 27th BSB, took his battalion flag out to the flagpole, which was occupied by the 296th. After they removed theirs, Null attached the ‘Rough Riders’ flag and raised it to the top of the pole.

With their flag flowing in the light breeze high atop their flagpole, Whitaker gathered his troops for a final ritual before dismissing them for the day: the donning of their shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service, known as the combat patch.

“Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to the United States Army and the United States of America,” said Whitaker. “You can be very proud of your contributions to the Global War on Terrorism and wear the ‘First Team’ patch with pride and dignity. It’s our team, it’s a great team, it’s the First Team. ‘Rough Riders,’” Whitaker exclaimed to his troops.

Whitaker expressed the importance and significance of the donning of the patch after the ceremony. “It goes back to showing unity within a unit,” he said. “It signifies the fact that we have served our country in combat. There’s no greater honor than that.”



Staff Sgt. Hank Slaughter (center), combat medic, and other members of his platoon, C Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, attach the 1st Cavalry Division shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service to their right shoulder during a combat patch ceremony, held on FOB Marez, Iraq, December 5. Slaughter’s unit has been in country since November and most recently took over logistical responsibility from the 296th BSB during a transfer of authority ceremony Dec. 5.

2IA ROARS THROUGH OPERATION LION ASSAULT

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN SIPP
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

AL-KINDI, Iraq – Soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division completed a three-day validation exercise Dec. 4, paving the way for an assumption of complete control of their battle space and independence of operations within 60 days.

Dubbed Operation Lion Assault, the exercise was designed to promote three objectives for the 2IA: to



Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Iraqi Army Division prepare their convoy of Humvees to roll out of Al Kindi Military Training Base December 6. The convoy was part of a validation exercise, dubbed Operation Lion Assault, that focused on three objectives; to disrupt enemy activity, to capture insurgent weapons caches and to limit the enemy's freedom of movement.

disrupt enemy activity, to capture caches of weapons used by anti-Iraq insurgents, and to limit the enemy's freedom of movement, according to Maj. Gen. Jamal, commanding general of the 2IA.

Teaming with the Iraqi police, every brigade in the division was assigned an area and a combination of objectives and possible targets to gage their performance on communication, planning, and independence of action, explained Jamal.

While the 2IA Soldiers were operating in the entire sector, the Iraqi police were focused more on areas where they would typically conduct missions, said Maj. Gen.

Mohammed Abd Alkhader Wathiq, Provincial Director of Police. "The main focus for the IP was inside the city;

from guarding the bridges to cordon and search in the neighborhoods on the east and west sides of town. We want the police to be active in the city of Mosul, supported by the Iraqi Army."

The exercise concluded with an after-action review by each IA brigade commander who briefed his role during the three-day validation operation. On hand were their Coalition counterparts who candidly discussed what went well and what can be improved on in the future.

Col. Stephen Twitty, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division offered insight into working with the local populace. "As you continue to conduct operations in neighborhoods, you will continue to gain the trust and confidence of the people; and, as you talk to the people, that will help provide you with the intelligence to find the terrorists. It takes time."

The Iraqi commanders were confident in their ability to gather the information by interacting with the populace, but voiced concerns about having enough intelligence officers to properly disseminate all of the information to the line units that could capitalize on it.

Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, deputy commanding general of operations, 25th Infantry Division, reassured the 2IA officers of the Coalition's commitment to them. "We will continue to partner with you and help you in any way we can with assets; be it bomb disposal, engineering, anything you require. Your general (Jamal) regularly keeps me apprised of what you need."

The validation exercise concluded with both sides feeling confident of the level of professionalism and dedication shown by the soldiers. "Security in the Ninewa Province is as strong as it has ever been," said Bednarek. "We are proud of what the division has accomplished. But it's not what I feel, however, it's what you feel that is important, not just at the end of this exercise, but for the beginning of all future operations as well as training events."

"The Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army can crush any terrorist activities in the city of Mosul," replied Jamal. "When we are hit by a car bomb or an IED, the most important thing is to know how to react. We (the 2IA) do. The population of Mosul should be confident in the IA and IP's capabilities to provide security in the Ninewa Province. We are successfully conducting operations as one team," concluded the general.

4th BCT conducts TOA, uncases colors

Stryker Brigade moves south to Baghdad

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FOB MAREZ, Iraq – The 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division turned over their area of operation to the 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony Dec. 9.

The ceremony began with the 3-2 'Arrowhead' SBCT casing its colors while a brief history of the unit was given.

"The unit was reactivated in March 1995 at Fort Lewis, Wash., and was designated as the U.S. Army's first SBCT in July 2002," said Maj. Don Fagnan, master of ceremonies, 3-2 SBCT. "In June 2006, the Arrowhead Brigade returned to Iraq for its second tour. Over the past five months, they have been assisting the Iraqi security forces with counter-insurgency operations in the Ninewa Province."

Once the 3-2 cased its colors, the 4th BCT colors were uncased and their history was read. "The 4th Brigade Combat Team has spent from January to September of 2005 conducting intense training for the brigade's first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are a new formation, however, its battalions have a heralded history in the U.S. Army. The 4th BCT combines these lineages under the nickname 'Long Knife,' which represents the sabers of cavalryman everywhere," said Fagnan.

After the colors were uncased, Maj. Gen. Randy Mixon, commander, 25th Infantry Division,

the higher headquarters for northern Iraq, offered insight about the 3-2 SBCT, who are scheduled to move their operations to Baghdad, and the 4-1 Cavalry. "Today is significant because we are helping to write another chapter in the new history of Iraq, Ninewa Province, and the great cities of Mosul and Tal A'far, among others," he said. "Today the Long Knives from Fort Bliss, Texas, take the reigns from Arrowhead in a quest for freedom, security, peace and stability for the people in Northern Iraq."

During Mixon's speech, he recognized the work the 3-2 SBCT had done while they occupied the area. "Each of you should hold your heads up high knowing that because of your dedication and tireless efforts, you leave behind a nation in better condition than when you arrived here in July. Your actions here give the people of this province hope."

Mixon also hailed the 4th BCT. "Today, we also welcome Col. Steph Twitty and his Soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Your left and right seat rides have been fast and furious, but I also know your Soldiers are ready to take on this mission and bring yet more progress to this part of Iraq. I am confident you will execute the mission you have been sent here to accomplish with personal commitment, pride and professionalism."

Closing out the ceremony was Col. Stephen Twitty, commander, Long Knife Brigade. Twitty said he was eager to get started and to

work with the coalition forces in this area. "The 4th Brigade Combat Team is prepared for this mission, and working together with local leadership, we will accomplish our goals of bringing security and prosperity to the people of Ninewa Province. The brigade combat team stands by our coalition partners, ready to support them as they serve the people of Iraq."



The Long Knife colors are uncased by Col. Stephen Twitty, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier, senior enlisted Soldier, during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at FOB Marez December 9. The TOA marked the day the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division took over the area of operation from the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

HEAD HUNTERS, GHOSTS, T

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

MOSUL, Iraq—In a joint effort, called Operation Samson, coalition Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade conducted security checks throughout the Ninewa Province Dec. 14.

The purpose of the mission was to maintain pressure on neighborhoods known to be controlled by anti-Iraqi forces within Mosul, and to show the American forces working together with the Iraqi Security Forces, who are in the lead. This would be accomplished by working side-by-side with the Iraqi police and the Iraqi Army.

“Today we went and did a joint cordon and knock with the Iraqi Army out of Contingency Operating Base-Eagle,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Massarelli, platoon sergeant, A Troop, 1-9 Cavalry.

The main focus for Massarelli’s group was the Al Zaria and Al Islah areas. “We basically split the sector in half, with 1st platoon in one area and 2nd platoon in another. We searched block by block.”

“We were there to spread the word amongst the local nationals that the coalition forces are working in conjunction with Iraqi Army forces,” said Staff Sgt. Jared Heisler, Bradley fighting vehicle commander, A Troop, 1-9 Cavalry. “We were checking the area and searching houses for any personnel of suspected enemy activity because that is just off a route that has a lot of improvised explosive devices planted on it.”

Bradley fighting vehicles and up-armored Humvees were positioned around the outer perimeter, alongside Iraqi Army vehicles to provide security for the troops working inside the town, going door-to-door. There were also several vehicles placed inside the area of operation to add to the safety of those working within the AO.

In one of the inner perimeter Humvees was gunner Pfc. Brandon Jones, cavalry scout, 1-9 Cavalry. “I pulled security and watched out for the guys on the ground while they went around and talked to local nationals about what they could do to improve the neighborhoods,” said Jones.

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Iraqi Army soldiers, working with troops from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, get ready to position their vehicles for a cordon and knock mission December 14 in Mosul, Iraq.



Troops from 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, head to Mosul, Iraq, to team up with soldiers from the local Iraqi Army for a cordon and knock operation December 14.



An Iraqi woman where Soldiers Division are c Samson Dec. 14

TEAM UP WITH IRAQI ARMY

operation of this size, communication is a vital role to the mission's success. [Massarelli] was on the ground, I was on the truck, relaying information to higher up and the platoon, keeping them informed on what was going on," said cavalry scout Pfc. David Jones for the command truck. "I was also responsible for positioning Jones, our gunner, so they could see the field."

"The mission was a success," said Massarelli. "The Iraqi Army on the ground with the Iraqi Army. The Iraqi Army seemed happy with what they were doing."

"The local leader engagements worked well, they let us into their homes, treated us well, and answered all of our questions. It was a good opportunity for the general public to see the Iraqi Army taking that first step forward, not just the American forces."

"The mission went well," said Heisler, who was responsible for securing the outer perimeter. "A good opportunity to see us working together with the Iraqi Army, it fully boosts the local nationals' confidence in everybody here so maybe they'll take the next step forward to working with them again," said Heisler. "It's a good outfit. I'm ready for the next mission with them."

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Sgt. 1st Class Michael Massarelli, platoon sergeant, A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, uses a portable radio to call his platoon to ensure they are in position before beginning their cordon and knock operation December 14 in Mosul, Iraq. The purpose of the mission was for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division to team up with the local Iraqi Army and search a known hostile area of the city in order to eliminate anti-Iraqi forces in the area.

SMA, USO bring Christmas cheer to Mosul

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN SIPP
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq – Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, in conjunction with the United Service Organization, visited the troops at Forward Operating Base Marez, in Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 16, as the first stop in Iraq on a Christmas tour of U.S. bases in the Central Command area.

Accompanying the SMA were hosts and celebrities Al Franken, of Saturday Night Live fame, and model Leanne Tweeden, one of the hosts of The Best Damn



(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Al Franken and Leanne Tweeden entertain the Soldiers with a skit at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq Dec 16. They were hosts of the United Service Organization's Christmas tour of bases in the Central Command area, partnering with Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.



(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Dallas Cowboy's Cheerleaders Shenythia Willie and Laura Beke entertain the Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq Dec 16, as Al Franken (back) comments. The concert was the first Iraq stop of the United Service Organization's Christmas tour of bases in the Central Command area.

Sports Show Period; country music stars Keni Thomas, Shevy Smith, Mark Wills, and Darryl Worley; as well as the hip-hop brother and sister team of Jakob and Rachael Washington, known as the Washington Project. Backing up all the artists was the world-famous U.S. Army Band, and special guests Laura Beke and Shenythia Willie, members of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.

Preston addressed the assembled crowd and brought the performance into perspective. "When you look at the entertainers that are performing tonight; they could be someplace else other than here. They spend their

entire year out on the road, doing what they do to make a living. Christmas is a special time for entertainers, whether it's the movie industry, or the music industry, for them to spend with their families. All the entertainers here tonight have chosen to be here with you."

The theme of solidarity and support was echoed as each artist spoke before their performance.

"There is only one reason we're here, because you are all family to us," agreed Jakob Washington, one half of the Washington Project. My father was in the Army for 20 years; so you are all family," he added.

Connections to the military could be found in many of the performers, but none more evident than Keni Thomas. Thomas, a former Army Ranger and veteran of Task Force Ranger in Somalia in 1993, made famous by the movie *Blackhawk Down*, and now a rising country music star, added his own understanding of serving as a Soldier. "It doesn't matter what battle you are in or what war you are in; it always comes down to the man on the left and the man on the right of you. That's what it is all about."

Mark Wills and Darryl Worley each performed sets full of tributes to the American troops and representative of the patriotic spirit that surrounded the show. Worley dedicated a song to the wife and children of Sgt. Brent Dunkleberger, a 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldier who was killed four days prior, and whose memorial service was attended by the performers, just hours earlier.

"Being invited to attend a memorial like this really brings everything home," said Worley. "I could tell what Sgt. Dunkleberger meant to everyone who knew him from the love and emotion in the voices of those



(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Country music stars Shevy Smith (left) and Keni Thomas (right) entertain the Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, Dec 16. The concert was the first Iraq stop of the United Service Organization's Christmas tour in the Central Command area, partnering with Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

who spoke about him."

Switching between the reflective and somber moments and transitioning into upbeat humor and music, the artists touched on every emotion present in the audience.

The show featured skits between Franken and Tweeden as well as several different audience-participation vignettes that involved Soldiers from the crowd.

As the three-hour performance drew to a close, the entire cast joined hands with the audience and sang a stirring rendition of "Stand by Me" to close out the show.

The tour is scheduled to play several more dates throughout Iraq before heading to Afghanistan.

2IA ASSUMES MOSUL BATTLE SPACE

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN SIPP
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE TIGER, Iraq – The 2nd Iraqi Army Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Jamal, assumed independent authority to control all actions in their battle space during a transfer of authority ceremony held Dec. 18 at Forward Operating Base Tiger in Mosul.

“This ceremony marks a special time in the 2nd Iraqi Army Division’s history,” said Maj. Gen. Randy Mixon, commander, 25th Infantry Division. “This day also signifies the last [Iraqi Army] division to assume Iraqi Army lead in Multi-National Division – North, and the 2nd Iraqi Army Division will fall under the control of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command on Jan. 15.”

The ceremony consisted of Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier, command sergeant major of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, removing the 4th BCT colors from the flag stand, making way for the placement of the 2nd Iraqi Army Division colors.

“Today we recognize that the 2nd Iraqi Army is fully

“...the 2nd Iraqi Army is fully capable and ready to take over security operations in Mosul and Ninewa Province.”

Col. Stephen Twitty

capable and ready to take over security operations in Mosul and Ninewa Province,” said Col. Stephen Twitty, commander of the 4th BCT. “We applaud your bravery and courage, standing in the face of the enemy and defeating the terrorists.”

Jamal espoused the 2nd Iraqi Army Division’s origins as well as referencing its future responsibilities now that it was in the lead. “This division was established on Oct. 23, 2004, when there was still a state of much lawlessness. We rose to the responsibility of fighting the terrorists as well as simultaneously outfitting the



Iraqi Army commanders salute during the playing of the Iraqi national anthem during the transfer of authority ceremony held Dec. 18 at Forward Operating Base Tiger, Mosul, Iraq.

division with materials and equipment. Together with the [Iraqi Police} we have carried on fighting terror, day and night, and providing security for Mosul.”

Successful completion of the three-day validation exercise, dubbed Operation Lion Assault Dec. 4, removed the final hurdle toward full autonomy of operations and independence of maneuver in their own battle space.

Jamal praised the support and assistance offered by Coalition Forces in standing up the division and offered continued mutual support and assistance to the Coalition Forces whenever they needed it.

While celebrating the 2nd Iraqi Army Division’s new authority, Jamal took a moment to renew their pledge to the citizens of the Ninewa Province. “Terrorists have been at work attempting to ‘kidnap’ Iraq. They target and kill the scientists, the teachers, and the thinkers; attempting to divide us along sectarian lines. Brothers and friends, it’s time to track down and kill the terrorists. Mosul is a city of a civilization blessed by God. Let us pray to God to bring security and stability to all of our country.”

The ceremony concluded with a presentation of gifts to the Iraqi Army commanders, tribal leaders, distinguished guests, and government officials, as well as a full-course meal served to the rear of the presentation hall for all those in attendance.

Santa rides through Province spreading holiday cheer

There was a loud, thunderous whooshing sound heard echoing throughout the Ninewa Province Christmas Eve that many Soldiers claim was Santa Claus in a Blackhawk helicopter.



The jolly fellow touched down at several remote sights where troops from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division were stationed.

“He came here to our retrans sight with our brigade commander and command sergeant major,” exclaimed one excited Soldier from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. “They touched down in a helicopter and handed out gifts and cookies. We all got to sit on his lap

and tell him what we wanted for Christmas.”

After his day-long journey with the troops on Christmas Eve, Santa Claus rested for the night at Forward Operating Base Marez. On Christmas Day, he woke early and was seen riding in a Gator four-wheel, off-road vehicle, decorated with lights and a festive holiday charm, waving to Soldiers.

“I came out of the chow hall and there was Santa in a Gator,” said a passer-by. “He had several elves following behind him in an SUV.”

Two of the ‘elves’ were Col. Stephen Twitty, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier, both with the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div..

“We came by to thank all the troops in person for all their hard work, and to go door-to-door to deliver gifts and holiday greetings,” said Twitty.

The BCT’s senior enlisted Soldier, Frennier, also gave out unit coins with Twitty to recognize outstanding troopers who have been performing exceptionally well during their deployment.

“We’re doing this to keep the morale up,” said Frennier. “We want to let the troops know that we care about them because they’re just as much a part of our family as our loved ones back home.”



Notes from home

The staff of the public affairs office, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., has been posting a Web log (blog) in the El Paso Times newspaper's online Web site since our arrival in Kuwait. So far, we have been averaging more than 3,000 'hits' on the counter per week. As with all blogs, anyone can post a response. We have received comments from family members and friends of the brigade and will use this page to post their messages to our troops. To visit the blog site: <http://elpasotimes.typepad.com/longknife>

Great story, can't wait for more. Stay safe.

Michel and Marcia Taylor, proud parents of PFC Kitchens

Posted by: michel and marcia taylor | December 04

Great to be able to hear something from the other side. We support all the troops and your efforts over there. God Bless all of you and come home safe and soon. We are very proud parents of PFC Pleasant.

Posted by: Mark & Lana Powell | December 08

Thanks for keeping us informed... Stay safe over there!!

Proud 1/9 Wife !

Posted by: Linzi Ralph | December 08

I am extremely happy to have found this newsletter.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Sgt. Paula Taylor and her staff for this.

My nephew is 1st Sgt Kenny Power with the 2-12, "Thunderhorse", B co. I have been trying to get just general info on going ons with the 4th BCT & his unit, but the media concentrates on the big stories. If anyone knows of him, please send my regrades because I haven't received any e-mails in a week. I hope all goes well as I know that any place in the theater can be dangerous. God Bless & Godspeed the mission and come home.

Posted by: Gregory Santana, Pico Rivera, CA | Dec 09

Dear Sgt. Paula Taylor,

About the posting, can I suggest the most recent post at the top so as visitors coming back don't have to scroll to the bottom to get to the most recent.

Also, is anyone blogging 2-12 Cav? If so, please let me know.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Greg

Posted by: Gregory Santana, Pico Rivera, CA | Dec 09

Dear Sgt. Paula Taylor,

In my earlier posting, I meant Comments, not your postings.

Oh, I am soooooo happy about this.

Any chance about 2-12's going ons?

Thank you,

Greg

Posted by: Gregory Santana, Pico Rivera, CA | Dec. 09

Have been waiting on new postings. Any news on the 2-12 A company. Got a fella close to our hearts in that unit.

Marcia and Michel Taylor

Posted by: michel and marcia taylor | December 10

Just a parent of a soldier currently serving in the 1st CAV in Iraq. Appreciate the insight, even the horrors.

Blessings for your safety, and hers. Kath

Posted by: Kath Wicker | December 12, 2006

I am so glad to have found this

Posted by: Marie McCarthy | December 12

Hey guys of 5-82 (Hi Honey) Keep it safe ya'll are our hero's and we love and miss ya. Our Prayers flow constantly for everyone everywhere affected by this war. God Bless and Keep us safe one and all.

Posted by: Marie McCarthy | December 12

hey 1/9 how are ya'll we haven't heard anything in a while. be safe and a big hello from TEXAS

Posted by: paula fitzpatrick | December 13

This info and especially the 4th BCT Newsletter has made being the Proud Mom of SPC Daniel Eagan a little easier. Keep up the wonderful work, we appreciate it so much and give 100% support to all the troops doing what must be the hardest job in the world today.

Posted by: Gail Eagan | December 18

Chaplain (Maj) Mitch Butterworth and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier lead the Long Knife troops in a Christmas carol during the tree lighting ceremony at the FOB Marez Dining Facility Dec. 15.



(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)



Troops stationed on Magloub Retrans site pose with other members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division who came to visit them on Operation Sleigh Ride December 24. The purpose of the operation was for Santa Claus to meet the troops and hand out gifts for Christmas.

(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

HeadHunter News



**1-9 CAV(ARS)
"Head Hunters"**

Compiled by 2nd Lt. Richard Hutton
1-9 CAV Public Affairs Representative

The Headhunters have been busy since assuming control of West Mosul, Iraq. After arriving from Kuwait, they began preparing themselves for two weeks of patrols alongside the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, from Fort Lewis, Wa.

When 5-20 IN got the order to head south sooner than anticipated, the Headhunters had to push their relief timeline up and build the combat power faster than expected.

With the help of A Company, 5-20 IN, the 1-9 Cavalry assumed operational control and began the task of maintaining and stabilizing West Mosul, as well as building the strength, confidence and authority of the Iraqi Security Forces in their sector.

Since the transfer of power, the Headhunters have helped the 'Long Knife' Brigade foster coalition and Iraqi relations and legitimize the ability of the Iraqi security forces to provide a stable environment in Mosul.

The Headhunter Squadron was active immediately in its transition; setting up a proactive battle rhythm and an aggressive patrol schedule in order to show the citizens of Mosul that they were present and capable of building the infrastructure and systems necessary to the future of the city.

They set about doing this by undertaking a number of missions, including daily taskings to patrol and secure the major routes of western Mosul, assist the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police in their training and development, help build and sustain civilian military operations to build local infrastructure, and gain and maintain contact with insurgent forces in the area of operations, through raids, cordon and knock/cordon and search operations, ambushes and deliberate attacks to destroy them.

In particular, the Headhunter Squadron has undertaken several missions thus far that have shown the strength and capability of the U.S. Cavalry.

Nightly raids on improvised explosive device manufacturers, enemy snipers, insurgents and terrorists have succeeded in gaining valuable intelligence and equipment in our fight.



(U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Richard Hutton, 1-9 CAV)

A December sunset over the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment headquarters building on Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq.

The Headhunters have also acted as the primary Quick Reaction Force for western Mosul, the U.S. engineers and military police units; and have been working with embedded military training teams that were created to build the strength of the Iraqi security forces.

Due to the still-growing Iraqi judicial system and the lack of capable local judges, the Headhunter Squadron has participated in an operation designed to bring judges into the area who can ably try and prosecute insurgents and criminals for their crimes. By securing these judges and their proceedings, the 1-9 Cavalry has increased both the effectiveness and credibility of the Mosul judicial system. In addition to building the local courts, 1-9 Cavalry has also begun a mission, that will provide security to the thousands of local Iraqis and Muslims traveling through Mosul during the annual Hajj, which lasts from December to January.

By protecting these citizens and showing those outside Mosul that the passage through the city is safe, they hope to help build credibility for the growing Iraqi government and security force. These operations have and will continue to demonstrate the growing strength of the Iraqi populace and the city of Mosul.

Horseman News



1-17th

“Horseman”

Compiled by Capt. Catherine Crocker
1-17 CAV Public Affairs Representative

TALL AFAR, Iraq – The Cavalrymen of 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, arrived at Forward Operating Base Sykes and FOB Diamondback five months ago.

The aviation Task Force, known as Task Force Horsemen, is commanded by Lt. Col. Michael Pyott and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Dobs. The Task Force is comprised of the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment; B Company, 122 Aviation Support Battalion; C Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment; elements of the 209th Aviation Support Battalion; F Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment (Air Traffic Control) and an Air Force staff weather team from the 25th Infantry Division.

Since arriving in Iraq, Task Force Horsemen have been conducting split-based operations between Tall Afar and Mosul.

Two months ago, the Horsemen sent one of their companies, the C Troop ‘Crusaders,’ to FOB Speicher under the control of their sister battalion from Fort Bragg; Task Force 1-82 ‘Wolfpack.’ The Horsemen have conducted over 2,055 combined OH-58(D) Kiowa and UH-60 Black Hawk missions for a grand total of over 7,198 day and night vision goggle flight hours.

A majority of the Task Force’s missions in all three locations involve supporting ground units with air movement, reconnaissance,

security, and quick reaction force direct fires, if required. Task Force Horsemen supports the 4th ‘Long Knife’ Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in the second largest city in Iraq, which is Mosul, as well as Tall Afar and throughout the Western Ninewa Province. Task Force Horsemen also supports military, border and police training teams that are embedded with Iraqi units in cities throughout Long Knife’s Area of Operations and along the Syrian Border.

A unique challenge and privilege for the Horsemen is working for two outstanding brigades: The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) and the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Division. The Horsemen are attached to the 25th CAB, ‘Task Force Wings’ from Wheeler Army Airfield in Hawaii. TF Wings provides logistical, administrative and operational aviation support to the Horsemen from their Headquarters at FOB Speicher, Tikrit. The Horsemen also support TF Long Knife from Fort Bliss, Texas. The Long Knife Brigade controls the area in which TF Horsemen operates and relies upon the Horsemen for 24 hour security, reconnaissance, attack and air movement support for its ground forces operating throughout its vast battle space.

Supporting ‘Wings’ and Long Knife has been challenging for the Horsemen as the distances between their three separate elements is

considerable. Like good cavalymen however, the Horsemen have adapted well and have contributed immensely to making Northwest Iraq a more stable and secure environment for the coalition and Iraqi forces, as well as the local populations. The Horsemen’s success, thus far, has unfortunately come at a great cost.

The members of TF Horsemen suffered a tremendous loss on September 13, 2006, when Capt. Matthew C. Mattingly, commander, A Troop, was killed-in-action over Mosul, Iraq. Pyott, eloquently stated, “Capt. Mattingly died leading his troop in combat and his sacrifice ultimately disrupted an insurgent force and saved American lives. He died a hero.” Fortunately for the Horsemen, Mattingly left behind a strong unit of aviators and cavalry troopers, who are ready, willing and trained to continue the fight.

Task Force Horsemen’s strength and resolve is demonstrated every day as we continue the mission; supporting our fellow troops on the ground. Our brothers-in-arms face danger every hour, and they find great comfort in the sound of our aircraft overhead.

As long as they are operating on the streets and in the sand throughout the Area of Operations—the Horsemen will be flying overhead. We are cavalymen and troopers; it’s what we do, despite the danger. We will remain vigilant in doing our part to win the Global War on Terrorism.

Thunder Horse News



2-12 CAV
"Thunder Horse"

Story compiled by Sgt. Paula Taylor
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment conducted cordon and search operations in Gazallea December 21, which netted several items of contraband.



(U.S. Army courtesy photo, 2-12 Cav.)

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment conduct a dental examination of a local Iraqi national during the unit's visit to the village of Bakariya.

For the operation, the troops were divided into three sectors. In section one, 15 sniper rounds were found, along with a white sedan that had several bullet holes, 100 AK-47 rounds in a yellow bag and anti-Iraqi forces papers.

Lt. Col. Sabbah, job title, arrived with the military training team and took control of all items.

In section two, the patrol found an abandoned house, that had one AK-47 rifle, two 30-round magazines, a map, several VHS tapes, 13 blank Iraqi Army IDs, commo wire, a 105mm artillery shell, one initiator, four batteries, three ski masks, uniforms, two drills, two rubber

stamps (unknown translation) and three vehicle bill of sales.

The Iraqi Army informed the patrol during the mission that the house in section two may have been used as a holding place for kidnap victims because they found a room with bindings and other signs of hostile intent usage.

In addition to the cordon and knock mission, the 2-12 Cav. also worked side-by-side with the Iraqi Army, conducting a medical civic action project (MEDCAP) in December.

The MEDCAP was a combined operation that helped to bring medical assistance to over 250 men, women and children from the village of Bakariya. Additionally, this operation delivered humanitarian aid in the form of personal hygiene items and blankets.



(U.S. Army courtesy photo, 2-12 Cav.)

Local Iraqi nationals line up to be seen by Soldiers of the 2-12 Cav. and Iraqi Army during a joint medical civilian aid program in December in the village of Bakariya.



(U.S. Army courtesy photo, 2-12 Cav.)

Iraqi soldiers prepare to assist troops of the 2-12 Cav. in the village of Bakariya during a medical civilian aid program in December.

Promotions

1st Lt. Hughes

1st Lt. Furda

1st Lt. Gilotti

1st Lt. Kerr

1st Lt. Ryan Ostermann

1st Lt. Rick Stenberg

Staff Sgt. Riel

Sgt. Luster

Cpl. Nunez

TF Ready News



**4th BSTB
"Vigilant"**

Story by 1st Lt. Bridgette Bell
4th STB Public Affairs Representative

The E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment 'Eagles' have been actively taking on the counter-improvised explosive device (IED) mission since entering the Iraq theatre of operations three weeks ago. The company's initial success while attached to the Special Troops Battalion has only been matched by their continued dedication to duty and mission accomplishment.

While conducting a routine route clearance mission on Dec. 1, 2006, 2nd Platoon prevented a possible disaster: As traffic stopped to let the convoy pass, the lead vehicle noticed a possible IED lying in the middle of the road behind a civilian vehicle. Noticing the nervousness of the vehicle's occupants, the patrol cleared all traffic and pedestrians from the area and proceeded to question the two Iraqi civilians. The patrol employed its Buffalo, a route-clearing vehicle, to investigate the possible IED. Upon further inspection, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team confirmed the IED had been emplaced for a follow-on team to emplace the initiation system.

The two personnel were found to have an excess of \$5000 on their person and one tested positive for a highly volatile explosive commonly found in IEDs.

The Eagles recently took over the route clearance mission from 18th Engineer Company after conducting what is called a right-seat, left-seat ride where the outgoing unit familiarizes the incoming unit with the area and the tactics, techniques, and procedures that have been successful for them.

The platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, 1st Lt. Edward Marion of Sayreville, NJ., attributes the platoon's early success to a good battle handover and his Soldiers' keen attention to detail. "It was evident that we had conducted good training," said Marion. "It was only our second day doing missions on our own. By catching the guys in the act, cordoning off the area, and searching the vehicle properly, we secured what could have been an extremely dangerous environment for both US Soldiers and the local population. That's what we're here to do."

As Task Force Ready begins steady-state operations, the focus is on the counter-IED fight. The E Company Eagles continue to lead the way in the brigade and set the example for other units to emulate.



(U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Lyndsay Evans 4th Special Troops Battalion)

Maj. Stephen Bales, Special Troops Battalion executive officer of London, Ky., and 1st Sgt. Jesus Gonzalez, first sergeant, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, of El Paso, Texas congratulate Msg Michael Green of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., on his promotion.

Promotions

To 1st Lt: Spencer Calder, Christopher Ford, R.J. Henderson, Malukah Johnson, Allieu Kamara, Ariel Perez, Meredith Rice, and Grace Richards

To Master Sgt: Michael Green

To Sgt. 1st Class: Mario Luna

To Staff Sgt: Jeremy Redden

To Sgt: James Durden, Gary Jimenez, Jacob Lacey

Rough Rider News



27TH BSB
“Rough Rider”

Article compiled by Sgt. Paula Taylor
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The Rough Rider Battalion has been busy organizing their offices and getting their equipment and personnel ready for the various types of missions they will be responsible for conducting while in theater. There has been a lot of work accomplished, and all of the different shops have been working on their own projects.

They have painted, built decks, office furniture, shelves and tables, and have torn down walls and rebuilt new walls to accommodate their needs.

Each company within the battalion has its own mission. While the A Company ‘Regulators’ primary mission is supply and transportation to the Long Knife Brigade Combat Team, they are also handling additional tasks. So, aside from providing fuel, water, food, ammunition, repair parts and transportation, the Soldiers, they are also supporting the Iraqi Police, the Iraqi Army, providing convoy security, and conducting essential gate security on the forward operating base.

Sgt. Norris Williams of the Transportation Platoon was chosen to lead the newly formed Gun Truck Platoon. The soldiers in the Gun Truck Platoon are fuelers, water dogs, supply specialists, truck drivers, and nuclear, biological and chemical specialists who rose to the challenge of providing security and protection to the Combat Logistics Patrols that distribute supplies to our comrades on the battlefield.

The Regulators are learning to use new digital and communication systems so that their Soldiers on the road can communicate with each other, our headquarters elements on base, and our faithful air cavalry elements in the sky. Combat Logistics is definitely a team effort, and every troop plays an essential role in making sure that the support mission is accomplished.

The Aid Station, operated by C Co., is now in full operation. They even added the ‘Cobra touch’ to give it a homey feel. That gave them motivation for the many tasks that they provide on a daily basis, which include; aid station operations for a 4,000 Soldiers, split between two sites; medical coverage for convoys; and

non-medical tasks, such as providing guards for the dining facility as well as roving patrol for the many guard towers that encircle our forward operating base, Marez.



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 27th BSB)

Staff Sgt. Jason Hinman uses his handyman skills to construct walls in the motorpool on Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq.

Promotions

1st Lt. Kendra Evers
Sgt. 1st Class Todd Morrissey
Pfc. Dana Massey
Pfc. Danny Lofton
Staff Sgt. John Ruffin
1st Lt. Manuel Gallegos
Pfc. Ashley Goodman
Pfc. Jonathon Cason,
Pfc. Ivan Martinez
Spc. Albert Apodaca

Re-enlistments

Spc. Nutthapon Srisathith



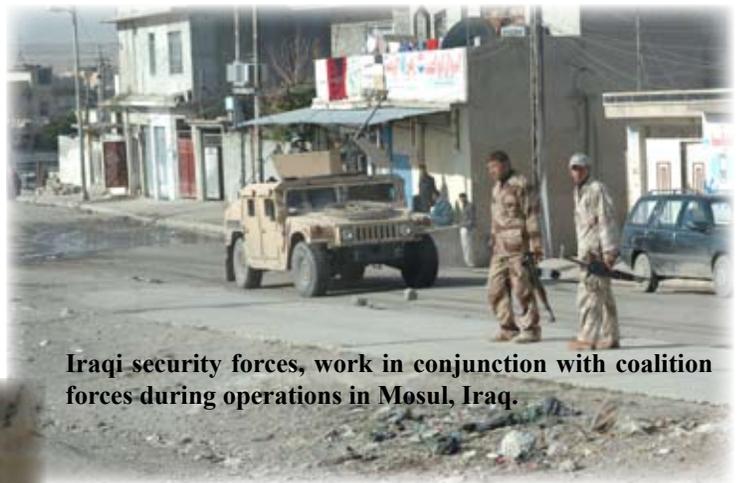
Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Campbell on patrol in Mosul, Iraq.



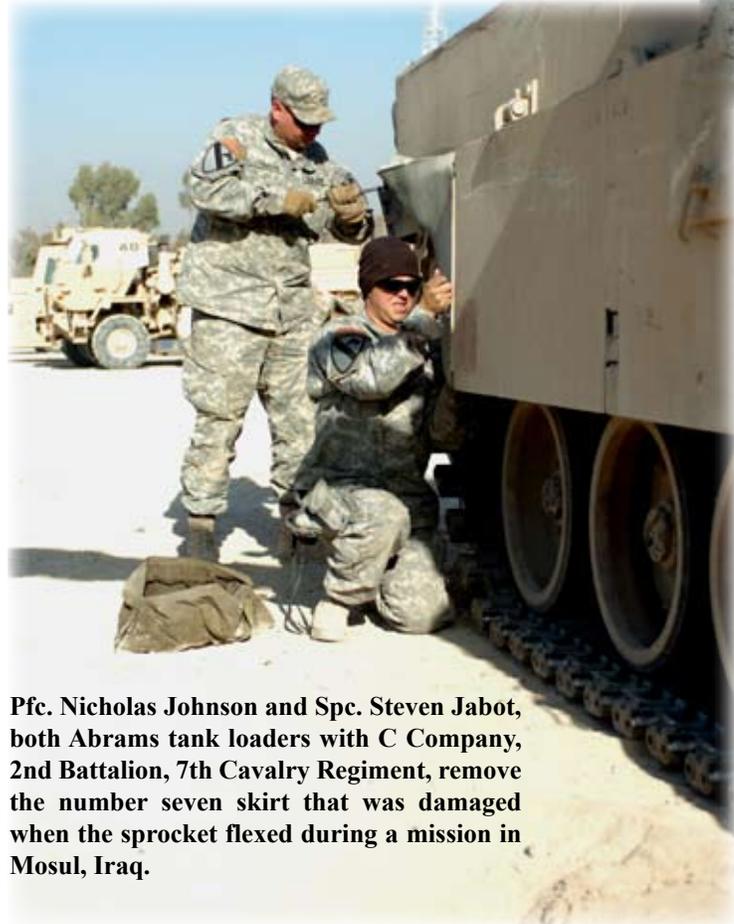
Staff Sgt. Patrick Willie and Sgt. Scott Douval bend the skirt down on an Abrams tank at Forward Operating Base Marez.



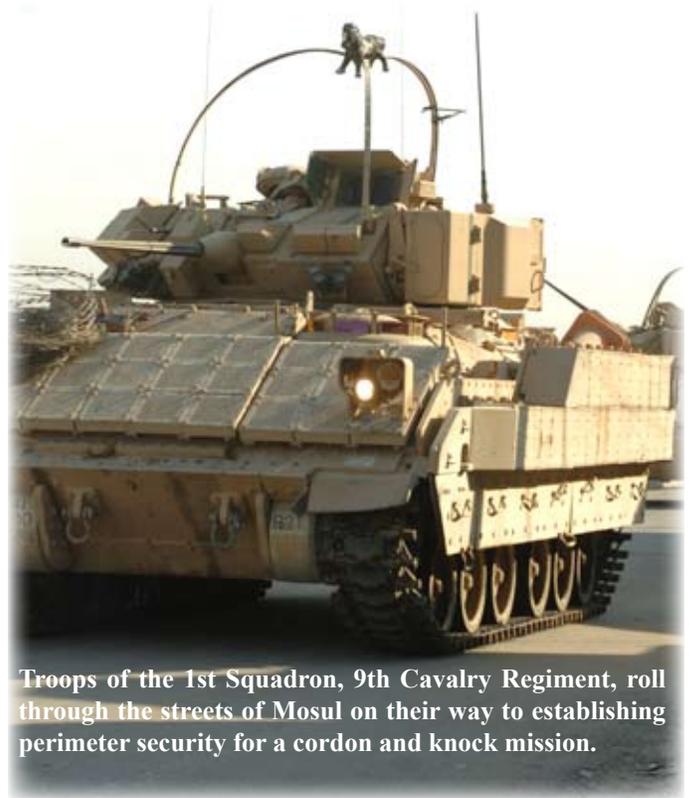
Iraqi police officers assist in keeping the streets of Mosul, Iraq, safe and secure.



Iraqi security forces, work in conjunction with coalition forces during operations in Mosul, Iraq.



Pfc. Nicholas Johnson and Spc. Steven Jabot, both Abrams tank loaders with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, remove the number seven skirt that was damaged when the sprocket flexed during a mission in Mosul, Iraq.



Troops of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, roll through the streets of Mosul on their way to establishing perimeter security for a cordon and knock mission.

خطر
ابقى بعيدا
CAUTION
STAY BACK
مه تره سي يه
دوور به 100 متر

