

THE

Grey Wolf

HOWL



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Commander's Column

By Col. David W. Sutherland
3BCT, 1CD Commander



As we near the completion of our 5th month, I am continually impressed with the increased performance of our Soldiers and the work they have accomplished with our Iraqi Army counterparts. The 5th Iraqi Army Division and its units are not the same as they were five months ago.

The Iraqi Army soldiers and officers are continuously showing their commitment to making Diyala a safer province. They are now conducting targeted operations independent of Coalition Forces. Their confidence and competence is also demonstrated by their ability to conduct combat opera-

tions at night. The increase in their capabilities to conduct these targeted operations during all conditions facilitates increased security and hastens our transition from lethal operations to a coaching and mentoring role.

This increase in the IA's capability is due to our Soldier's professionalism. The Iraqi soldiers have our Troopers as a role model; and it's because of our Soldiers, who are partnered with IA units, that the IA has seen how a professional force performs its duties.

Our Soldiers have clearly shown the Iraqi Security Forces the successes of well-planned and executed operations. Our Soldiers are responsible for this increase in the IA's capabilities; and the values they demonstrate on a daily basis, the way our units conduct combat operations in a safe manner and our ability to protect our force

has served as a continuous example for the ISF to follow.

I am also thankful for the sacrifices our Troopers make on a daily basis as we continue to fight this war. Most of our Soldiers are conducting operations in a very austere environment, often without the comforts of the Forward Operating Bases. Their sacrifice is not going unnoticed, as Command Sgt. Maj. Felt and I are incredibly proud of every one of them. It is because of their hard work and dedication to the mission that we are making headway in our mission to improve the capabilities of the ISF to provide a secure environment for the people of Iraq. I am fully confident that their efforts today will help us achieve peace.

God bless my Soldiers and the families of Greywolf.

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'Hooah' Corner

By Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt
3BCT, 1CD CSM



1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nf3 Nf6
4 . g 3 B b 4 + 5 . B d 2
Bxd2+6.Nbxd2 0-0 7.Bg2
Nc6 8.0-0 d6 9.Re1

Checkmate!

I know what you're thinking... "The CSM has lost his mind." Well, let me explain. The code above explains the moves of a chess game between Boguljuboff and Alekhine in Hastings in 1922. It's considered one of the top ten chess games of all time. It was won by Alekhine by finishing with a spectacular queen sacrifice.

Chess, the game of kings. The game of chess is one of the oldest forms of military gaming. Its moves are classic. Famous chess champions have demonstrated skill beyond normal comprehension. Many lessons can be taken from the game: tactical patience, coordination, planning, thinking ahead, decisiveness and teamwork. Yes, teamwork.

The pieces on a chess board are unique. Their moves are special. Their interaction is the key. No one piece wins the game by itself, if they don't work together, you don't win. If you don't appreciate the relationship of each piece to the whole you don't win much. Each piece has its special contribution to the set, including the pawn.

The pawns are the only piece that exists in more than a buddy team. Their contribution though is significant; no game is played without them. The concept of specific moves and restrictions are a perfect analogy to the brigade

combat team.

Within the "Greywolf" team we have many moving parts. Each is special; each makes its own contribution to the effort. We have had numerous adjustments to the team in recent weeks.

One thing to remember is it's a team. I ask you all to see the big picture and contribute your part to the team effort. Assist others in their efforts to accomplish the mission. We are truly a team in the global war on terrorism. The uniformed services of the United States work together today in ways we didn't envision just a few years ago.

As you walk around the FOB, you see Army, Navy, Air Force, DA civilians, civilian contractors, coalition force partners and local nationals. You see Armor, Mechanized Infantry, Airborne Infantry, Light Infantry and Striker Infantry. You see engineers, medics, logisticians, administrators, mechanics and some times you even hear the field artillery. There are many pieces to the puzzle.

The variety and diversity of the force is an amazing thing to behold. One thing we all have in common is the enemy. We are all fighting the same opponent. We must never forget that part. As much as we might see the differences in ourselves at first, we must remember in the end that we are all on the same team.

I have been a proponent of the saying, "There are no red-headed step children in the 3rd Brigade." Everyone is integrated into the Greywolf family. No one is to be left out. I don't care if a unit is attached to us for one day; they are Greywolf from that moment on.

To ensure the team is all pulling together I want to reiterate some basic discipline standards that the Greywolves' follow. Greywolves wear

PPE, also know as personal protective equipment.

When outdoors, we wear eye protection and gloves. We carry our weapon at the low ready. That means hand on the pistol grip, the weapon is not slung under your shoulder like a purse, and it's not slung over your back with the barrel running down the crack of your fourth point of contact. It's carried in a manner as to depict discipline and enforce muscle memory.

It's very evident when someone does not adhere to these standards. In fact, it's evident from 100 meters away. Because of the readily visible adherence to these standards or the lack thereof it is a great tool for the leadership to have an understanding of our level of discipline, supervision, leadership and standard enforcement. It actually serves as a great tool to develop discipline in subordinates and leadership in young leaders.

I submit to you that if we have trouble enforcing these simple standards, how can we master the more challenging tasks? As Gen. George S. Patton said, "If you can't get 'em to buckle their chinstrap, how are you gonna get 'em to close with the enemy?"

Georgi Orlov writes in his studies on chess endgames that, "Pawn endings are the cornerstone of the endgame." This is symbolic of the importance of the individual Soldier in the global war on terrorism. Imagine if the Saddam Hussein hadn't conducted his 5-25s correctly. The individual Soldier makes all the difference.

Checkmate.

Live the legend,
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'Grey Wolf' Leadership Academy Trains IA, IP, CF

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

The fighting position was generally quiet. Coalition forces and Iraqi Security Forces manned defensive positions, while others worked or relaxed.

Suddenly, the position is under fire. ISF, who were not at defensive positions, quickly put on all of their gear and prepared to engage. A coalition machine gun and Iraqi mortar team destroyed the enemy, and the teams are told to stand down.

A few minutes after work resumes, two blasts rock the position, and the teams again scramble for their gear. This time, the coalition forces are going to need more than just their machine guns, so the Iraqi Army takes up positions on the roof and Iraqi Police take up supplementary positions.

The enemy is held off again, but an American Soldier has been injured. An Iraqi ambulance is signaled, and IA Soldiers carry the wounded warrior off the roof for medical treatment.

Not long after that, a third engagement occurs, and more troops are called in to secure the area.

After the last engagement, all of the troops are called into formation in front of the crowd that was watching the entire ordeal.

The entire defense was part of a graduation ceremony at the 'Grey Wolf' Leadership Academy on Forward Operating Base Gabe,

Baqubah, Iraq, Feb. 18.

The academy is run by Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and the students are a mix of Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and coalition force Soldiers.

The academy consists of a seven-day course, with a graduation ceremony on the eighth day. Classes in the course are both classroom and hands on, to include leadership, first aid, marksmanship and defensive position training.

"The soul purpose was to teach them how to fight together as a team, and then have them take what they have learned in this course back and start using it with the rest of the people in their units," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Young, an instructor at the course who is native to Lockhart, Texas.

Young said the students seemed to perform best at the range.

"The IA and IP seemed like they did better with the hands on stuff," he said.

Out in the range, the students trained on marksmanship, reflexive fire, buddy team fire and a squad live fire.

"It let them understand how to control their fires, instead of just shooting as fast as they can," said Young. "It also helped them understand how to take cover... to move as an element and to attack in a decisive way."

Staff Sgt. James Evans was in

charge of the ranges during the course.

The ranges taught the students accuracy instead of suppression, which conserves ammunition, said Evans. The ranges gave them the confidence to say "I can defend this," he said.

Iraqi Security Forces aren't trained as well in marksmanship as American Soldiers, so the marksmanship and reflexive fire were crucial skills for them to learn, said Sgt. 1st Class Norbert Foley, another instructor at the course.

"With the buddy teams and reflexive fire, they walk away with 'you can shoot one round, and still be effective,'" said Foley.

Young said the students showed potential to actually pass on their skills while down at the ranges.

"They were correcting each other out at the range," said Young. "If they are correcting somebody when they see them doing it wrong, there is better chance that they will put that into use when they get back to their units."

"The key is that whatever small part they learned, they take it and pass it on," said Foley.

The students learned more than just firing techniques, said Evans. The live fire defense of the academy taught them that situations can change quickly, he said.

"You can be doing one thing and automatically, on a moments

notice, be prepared to defend," said Evans.

To get the students more comfortable with each other, there was a bonfire every night where the Iraqi students would dance and sing traditional songs, with the American Soldiers occasionally joining in.

After a few nights, the Americans began to sing their own songs to the Iraqis, creating friendly competition between the two groups.

The bonfires were an important part of creating unity between the three different groups of students, said Young.

"It is important not only to train them up on tactics ... but it's also good to get them working together," he said.

"Gathering around the bonfire every night, we learn a little bit about their culture, they learn a little about ours and we get to know each other on a more personal level," said Spc. Michael Barbosa, an American student in the course who could be seen every night at the bonfire learning Arabic and having conversations with the Iraqis.

The bonfires and social interactions were also important for the IP and IA to learn to trust each other, since they often have to work together on missions, said Barbosa.

"If they are on the same sheet of music, I think operations will go a lot smoother," he said.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Jeff Young watches an Iraqi Police officer to be sure he is firing safely during a buddy team live fire at the 'Grey Wolf' Leadership Academy.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Preparing to fire, an Iraqi Army Soldier aims his mortar tube during a live fire exercise at the 'Grey Wolf' Leadership Academy.

Airborne Soldiers Treated to Comedy Show

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

It was an unusually hot February day in Balad Ruz, Iraq, as comedians David Alan Grier, Kevin Avery and Kristopher Tinkle took the stage and performed for the Soldiers of 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, outside the Forward Operating Base Caldwell Aid Station.

The event was a United Services Organization, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation comedy tour, Feb. 12, to help boost morale to deployed Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

"It was really good, I'm glad they got to come out here," said Staff Sgt. Willis Moore, Company B, 5-73 Cav. "I like the fact that they are coming out here and showing their support."

"We don't get to see [shows] too often with us being on a [smaller] FOB," continued the New York City native. "It really helped build morale out here."

Tinkle, who is also a substitute teacher in Oakland, Calif., opened the show with jokes pertaining to his personal life and his work with children.

Avery followed with very movement-oriented jokes the Soldiers could relate to, and Grier closed with jokes from his life in the spot light, his frustrations with the opposite sex and other everyday events in his life.

"[I] knew this was a once in a lifetime opportunity and David Allen Grier was nice enough to let [Avery and myself] be a part of it," said Tin-

kle about performing for the Troops.

"When I got the phone call, I was actually on the playground with my students and I said I would definitely do it," he continued. "This has been a great experience for me."

Tinkle also said this was an eye-opener for him from what he had seen in the news as he finally got the chance to get the other side of the story.

"You know you're not getting the whole story on TV," Tinkle said. "Being out here gives us a better look at what [the Soldiers] are really going through."

"These are our fellow Americans -- we have to support them," Tinkle continued. "Luckily I have been given comedy, so this is how I can help out."

Before the show started, Grier, Avery and Tinkle took a tour of the small FOB, visiting Soldiers who would not be able to attend the afternoon show.

"It's also cool to go inside and see the guys who never get to see the shows," Tinkle said. "You can tell that it means something to them. And David is a real well-known, funny person, so when he walks into a room, you see that whole room light up."

Sgt. Justin Vincent and Sgt. Cody Smith, both of Co. D, 5-73 Cav., agreed the show was a morale booster the hard working unit needed.

"I thought the show was really well oriented and I think it definitely was a real morale



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Comedian David Alan Grier entertains the Soldiers of 5-73 CAV, during a USO and MWR comedy show at FOB Caldwell, Iraq.

booster," said Vincent.

"It was a great show put on by the USO," added Smith, a native of Shain, Wyom. "David Alan Grier, Kristopher Tinkle and Kevin Avery rocked!"

"It really was a good morale booster," he continued. "They were very funny."

"The fact that they came to Iraq and to FOB Caldwell, that means a lot that they came to us," Smith said. "This really helps our troops."

"It's nice that people support us and want to show support for us, and it's a blessing to have people like that in the world," added Vincent.

"Morale is a big thing," said Moore. "I do feel my morale is up and I'm getting ready to go share with the guys who didn't get to see all the funny details from the show. We have to share the [laughs]."

Useful Iraqi Phrases

Where were you born?
wein mau-luud?

On the cover ...



An Iraqi SWAT team moves to supplementary positions to help defend a position during a live-fire exercise at the 'Grey Wolf' Leadership Academy on Forward Operating Base Gabe, Baqubah, Iraq.

Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

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Chaplain's Corner

Road to Perdition

About a year or so ago, I was invited to watch the movie "Road to Perdition", in which Tom Hanks plays a hit man who finds his heart. Michael Sullivan, the character played by Hanks, is the captain and friend of crime boss John Rooney, played by Paul Newman, but when Sullivan's son witnesses a mob "hit," Sullivan must choose between his crime family and his own. The drama goes on and the conflict this character goes thru allows him to connect with his son, but he loses his relationship with God.

This drama is tragic, but conflict is a daily issue we all have to deal with. What is conflict? Conflict is a natural discrepancy resulting from individuals or groups that differ in attitudes, beliefs, values or needs.

There are some ingredients that allow conflict to take place between us, others and God. They are:

Needs -- meaning the things that are important for our well being. When we ignore our need of God, the needs of our shipmates or the need of the team, conflict arises.

Perceptions -- meaning the way people interpret reality, which varies from person to person. The way we perceive God can either get us closer to him or away from him.

Control -- the way people use or define control is an important influence on the number and classifications of conflicts. If we see God as a controlling monster instead of a loving Father, then conflicts between us and God can be disastrous.

Values -- are beliefs or principles we consider to be very important. Serious conflict occurs when values between individuals are not either compatible or clearly understood. Depending on your interpretation of values is how conflicts can arise between you and God, shipmates and society.

Feelings and Emotions -- meaning the way people let their emotions and feelings become a major influence over how they deal with conflict and how people ignore the feelings of others as well as their own. If we let our feelings and emotions get between us and God, we can cut off an intimacy that God yearns to have with us.

Conflict is not always negative. In fact, it can be beneficial when effectively managed. When conflict is understood, and the individuals and society reach consensus, then conflict can be managed. Conflict can provide us with growth and innovation, new ways of seeing things and give us additional management options.

There are people who believe conflicts should be an alternative for everything; it seems to them that this is ok, that conflict and violence is God's way to prove a point. The Bible teaches us that, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12, NASB). Having conflicts for conflict's sake can damage relationships, destroy lives and nations. Conflict can be a dangerous thing if is not managed and given to God; therefore, conflict, if is not understood and well managed, can destroy your relationship with God, shipmate and society at large. It can lead you down the road to perdition.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jesus Perez
3BSTB Chaplain

Soldier on the FOB

"What is your favorite food served at the dining facility?"



Pfc. Robert Lua
HHC, 3BCT

Mexican food -- "The enchiladas, the beans, the rice -- because that's the type of food I eat at home. It brings a sense of home to Iraq."

Sgt. Roy Law
B Co., 3BSTB



Cheeseburgers -- "At least I know it's meat."



Staff Sgt. Alvin Ponce De Leon
PiTT Team

Steak and Shrimp -- "I love seafood. I feel like I'm eating in IHOP."

Spc. Aaron Cash
B Co., 215th BSB



Cheese sticks -- "I just like cheese sticks I guess."



Pvt. Gregory Giordano
B Co., 215th BSB

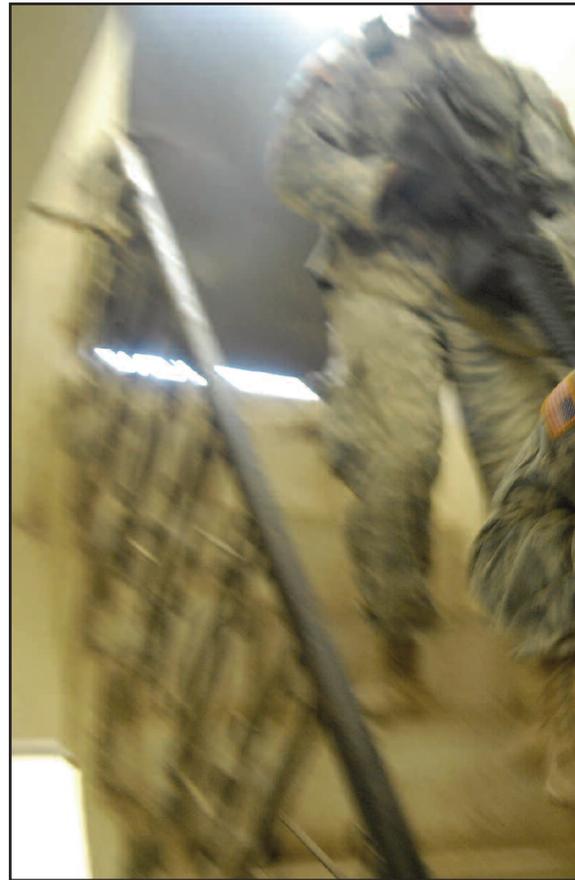
The Sandwich Bar -- "It's somewhat healthy."

GREY WOLF



Staff Sgt. Ty Curry, Military Transition Team, Iraqi army, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, stands in front of a possible vehicle born improvised explosive device, which was destroyed during a four-day operation in New Baqubah, Iraq. The purpose of the operation is to eliminate New Baqubah as an operating base for improvised explosive device building cells and key leaders of anti-Iraqi forces in Iraq.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall



Above, Members of the U.S. Army, Military Transition Team, Iraqi army, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, clear a house after receiving sniper fire from that area during a four-day operation in New Baqubah, Iraq, on March 3, 2007. The purpose of the operation is to eliminate New Baqubah as an operating base for improvised explosive device building cells and key leaders of anti-Iraqi forces in Iraq.

Right, Members of the U.S. Army, Charlie Company, 1st Cavalry Division, 12th Infantry Regiment, and the Iraqi army, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, conduct a cordon and search in Kahn Bani Sa'ad, Iraq.



F IN ACTION



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

While conducting combat patrols in Balad Ruz, Iraq, Iraqi children interact with a Soldier from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, attached to 3-1 Cav.



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall
Second Lt. Jonathan Hicks, Co. A, 1-12 Cav., attempts to access the upper levels of a building, which was just recaptured from the insurgencies.

Career counselors help Soldiers make sound decisions

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Numbers. With an emphasis on troop increases and higher recruiting goals, Soldiers may get the impression that they are just numbers.

In the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the Soldiers are nowhere near numbers – they are Warriors.

“We don’t see them as numbers,” said Staff Sgt. Anna Conklin, the career counselor for 215th Brigade Support Battalion.

“We see them as a person and a Soldier,” said the Santa Rita, Guam native.

As a career counselor, Conklin helps Soldiers plan for their futures, whether it is through re-enlistment or just advice.

Spc. Wesley Heine, Reconnaissance Security Detachment, is one of those Soldiers. He visited the retention office on Forward Operating Base Warhorse and met with Conklin.

“I wasn’t planning on re-enlisting at all,” said Heine, who later ended up raising his right hand and re-committing his service to our Nation.

Conklin said that the unit has a goal for retaining Soldiers, which is 80 percent of the eligible population.

“As of right now, we are where we need to be,” she said. “We continuously retain quality

Soldiers versus quantity.”

Even with this goal, numbers are not what Conklin said she is concerned with, but rather the well being of the Soldiers who walk into her office.

“We will help you make a just decision,” she said.

Heine went to Conklin just to see what his options were and he happened to mention Hawaii, he said.

Conklin told him that if Hawaii was what he wanted, she would do her best to get it for him, he said.

While Conklin encourages many Soldiers to re-enlist, she said the decision does not just involve the individual re-enlisting.

The decision to re-enlist is just as much the Soldier’s decision as it is the Soldier’s family, because it affects them too, said Conklin.

Conklin said she advises Soldiers to talk the decision over with their loved ones back home, especially if it concerns money or movement.

“A Soldier is willing to commit as long as he has full support of his family,” said Conklin.

Before making a decision, Heine was

sure to speak with his wife about it, he said. She said she would love to move to Hawaii.

As a career counselor, Conklin does her best to meet the needs of her Soldiers.

Soldiers have come into the office with dumbfounded looks on their faces and left smiling, said Conklin.

“When Soldiers leave our office, they have a sense of security and have all of their questions answered,” she said.

While deployed, many Soldiers don’t have much time to think about re-enlistment.

Many of the Soldiers have their main concerns on getting home, said Conklin. Retention

is sometimes put on the back burner in many Soldiers minds.

Soldiers also have busy days, which the retention office has taken into consideration.

“We try to accommodate everybody because their schedules may vary,” she said. “We will be here until midnight if we have to.”

Heine said Conklin did her best to help him make his decision, but in the end, with his family’s blessing, he re-enlisted because he loves his job and loves to serve his country.

“There is nothing like being in the military,” said Heine. “You can’t get another job like this.”



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, congratulates his Soldiers on their decisions to re-enlist at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Baqubah, Iraq.

**RUN WITH THE PACK!!
STAY GREYWOLF!!**



WOLF CREDO

RESPECT THE ELDER'S
TEACH THE YOUNG
COOPERATE WITH THE PACK

PLAY WHEN YOU CAN
HUNT WHEN YOU MUST
REST IN BETWEEN

SHARE YOUR AFFECTIONS
VOICE YOUR FEELINGS
LEAVE YOUR MARK

'Grey Wolf' Retention Team

3 BCT Senior Counselor
3rd BSTB
1st-12th CAV

215th BSB

3rd-8th CAV
6th-9th CAV

2nd-82nd FA

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Helmes
Staff Sgt. Luis Carter
Staff Sgt. Jason Folmar
Staff Sgt. Alegray Hamer
Staff Sgt. Annamari Conklin
Staff Sgt. Margaret Smothers
Staff Sgt. Don Jewell
Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson
Staff Sgt. Keston Dyer
Staff Sgt. Daniel Beltran

Diyala MiTT Helps Iraqi Army Succeed

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Coalition forces in Diyala province in Iraq bring important strategic military force to the area, but their efforts can only go so far.

It is the Iraqi military that needs to take the lead, which is what military transition teams, or MiTTs, bring to the fight.

A MiTT is comprised of coalition force Soldiers from various job fields who work with Iraqi Army Soldiers at division, brigade and battalion levels.

“The number one job for (our) MiTT is to help the Iraqi Army brigade that we work with to transition to the point that they can step up to complete operations on their own,” said Lt. Col. Jay George, the commander for the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army MiTT.

The 2-5 MiTT works with their Iraqi counterparts to help them transition to become a self-sufficient fighting force, said the

Spartanburg, S.C. native. The team falls under the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which in charge of operations in Diyala.

“All of the guys we deal with down there seem very eager to learn,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Lindstrom, a Corry, Penn. native and 2-5 MiTT Soldier.

Lindstrom said he always tries to let the Iraqis come up with their own plans on how to operate by observing from outside and giving them advice when necessary.

If the MiTT tells them how everything needs to be done, they aren’t learning anything, he said.

“It’s their military; they need to do things their way,” said Lindstrom.

Spc. Garfield Pellhum, native to St. Roberts, Miss., said before he goes out on missions with the Iraqis, he does certain routines to show them a system of checks before leaving.

Pellhum is a gunner with the 2-5 MiTT who mainly focuses on security for the patrols he goes out on, and ensures the well being of other gunners and drivers.

“I think that the MiTT teams are actually accomplishing what needs to be accomplished for Iraq to have a working Army,” said Lindstrom.

“The Iraqi Army needs to be Iraq’s force for the future,” said George. The Iraqi Army needs to be the military arm of the government that can respond the way the government needs it to, he said.

Each Soldier on the MiTT

partners with staff sections and members in the Iraqi Army brigade, said George. They also help them tactically by bringing assets such as air strikes and indirect fire to the fight, he said.

The IA watches how coalition forces operate, said Pellhum.

“This time I know we are making a difference,” said Lindstrom, who previously deployed in 2004. “I can see that first hand.”

“From the last deployment to this deployment... the IA has come leaps and bounds from the last time I was here,” said Lindstrom.

“The sooner that their army stands up and completely stands by itself... the United States Army can finish the mission,” he said.

“When they do that on their own, then we have succeeded, and the United States Army can start stepping back out of the picture,” said George.

Many different elements of 3rd BCT had to give up some of their best Soldiers, but George said it was worth it.

“If it hurts, if it’s painful to give the person up, then it is probably the right thing to do,” he said.

George said he has seen the IA making progress.

“I do see that the Iraqi Army is moving forward,” he said.

It will take time for the Iraqi Army to be a completely self-sufficient force, he admitted, adding that it took Americans a long time to become the stable government they are today.

“They are on the right track,” said George. “It is just going to take time.”



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Garfield Pellhum, prepares his M240-B machine gun before going on a mission with the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Military Transition Team, in the Diyala province.

In Memory Of....

SSG Eric Ross
Co. D, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Carl Seigart
Co. A, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SGT John Rode
Co. A, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SSG Alan Shaw
Co. D, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

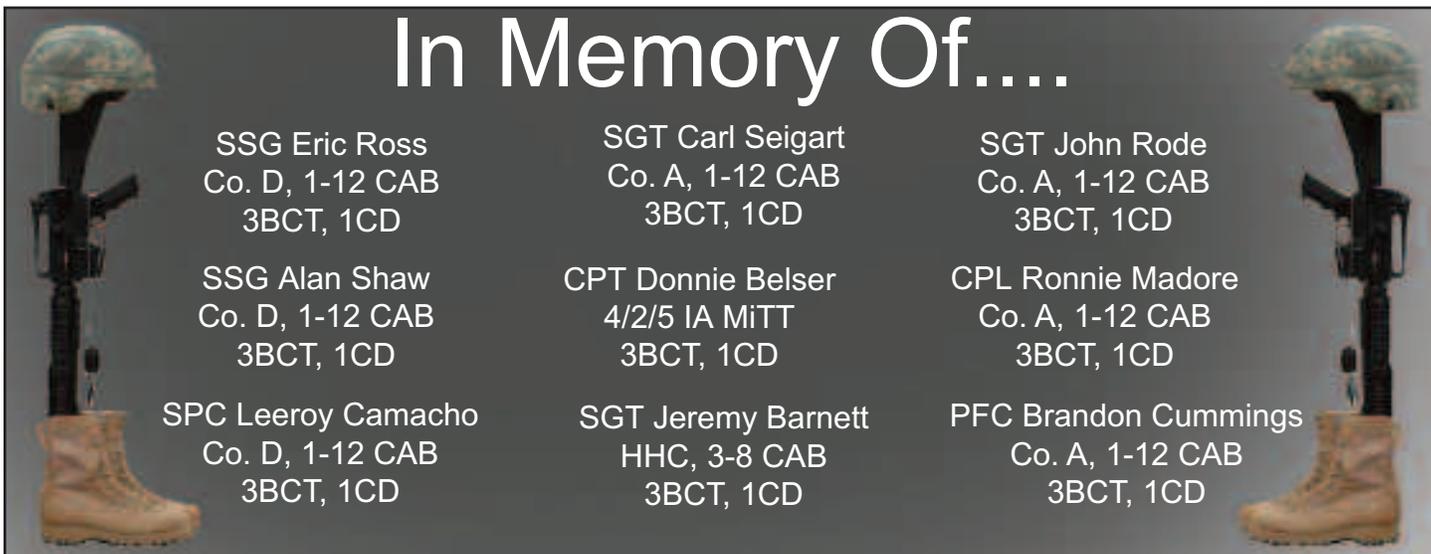
CPT Donnie Belser
4/2/5 IA MiTT
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Ronnie Madore
Co. A, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Leeroy Camacho
Co. D, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Jeremy Barnett
HHC, 3-8 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

PFC Brandon Cummings
Co. A, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD



Austin Marathon in Iraq?

'Grey Wolf' Soldiers Participate in Early Morning Marathon

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

It was pitch black, with no sun in sight, as a mixture of Army, Air Force, Navy and civilian contractors approached the starting line for the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, in Baqubah, Iraq, Feb. 18. With the official "Go!" at 5:30 a.m., the military personnel ran into the darkness to begin their long journey to complete 26.2 miles.

Having the Austin Marathon in Iraq was the brain child of Capt. Christopher Widell, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Widell and his wife started running together over a year ago, and entered the Austin Distance Challenge together before his deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

"I started running just for fun over a year ago with my wife," said Widell. "She decided to do the Austin Distance Challenge, which is a series of six races that starts with a 6K and ends with the Austin Marathon."

Widell knew his wife would be running the Austin

Marathon and so would he. He was going to live up to his end of the bargain.

"I think it's pretty cool," continued Widell. "[My wife and I] each have goals and it keeps us from constantly thinking about how bad we miss each other. We can ask each other about training and how it's going. It is a little bit of a bond between us [while I'm deployed]."

And that's when Widell decided to bring the Austin Marathon to the Soldiers of Grey Wolf. These Fort Hood, Texas, based Soldiers were given the opportunity to partake in an event which is highly regarded to many people of the central Texas region.

As the morning of the event came, Widell wasn't expecting many participants for the early morning race. He was surprised by the final turnout.

"I was really impressed with the turnout," Widell said. "When I first started talking about this in late December, early January, I was thinking maybe only 15 people who show up. But 48, that's amazing."

Supporters and volunteers for the race lined different areas around the FOB, serving the runners water and food when



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Runners pose for a picture before they start the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. Members of the Army, Air Force, Navy and civilians participated in the event in Baqubah, Iraq.

they passed by. There was also a large group of supporters and Soldiers cheering for the runners as they crossed the finish line. Some Soldiers keeping up with their time, other just happy they finished the 13 and 26 mile course.

"I was very surprised," said Capt. Nicolas Sheldon, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Military Transition Team attached to the 3rd BCT, about finishing first in the half marathon. Sheldon said the secret to his success was running for an hour straight each time he ran for physical training.

"Typically, I'm on missions three days a week and planning for missions the other four," said the Utica, NY, native. "Every single planning day, I make sure I get an hour in of running. Running like that for a month will help get you ready."

Capt. Christopher Bennett, Company C, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Jose Chavarin, 113th Combat Stress Patrol attached to Grey Wolf, said they were just happy to finish the event.

"It is a good feeling to finish," said Chavarin. "This is an accomplishment that helps keeps our mind out of the reality that we are going through right now."

"It's a good separation from the war zone," he said.

"This is a nice change to the routine of being out here."

"There is a good connection there," said Bennett. "I'm about to go home on leave and doing this right before I go brings me a little bit closer to home."

Bennett and Chavarin trained together in preparation for the event, pushing each other to better themselves and to achieve their goal of finishing.

"We have been training together for a while, so for us to start and finish together is awesome," said Bennett.

And the sense of accomplishment was just what Widell was hoping for.

"I hope the Soldiers that ran take a sense of accomplishment with them," said Widell. "I know a lot of these guys have never ran a half or full marathon, so this is big for them."

"And with the Soldiers training and preparing for the race, I hope this took them away from the 'Groundhog Day' feeling that Iraq can be," he added.

Widell also hopes the Soldiers gain a sense of appreciation for the sport.

"Running is fun; it's a healthy sport," he said. "There is really nothing bad about running at all. And it has brought a lot of people together today to set goals and accomplish something big."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Capt. Christopher Widell, HHT, 3BCT; 1st Lt. Liv Isham, Co. C, 215th BSB; Capt. Mike Anderson, HHT, 215th BSB; and 1st Lt. Kristen Anderson, Co. C, 215th BSB, run on the rough roads of Forward Operating Base Warhorse, in Baqubah, Iraq, for the Austin Marathon.

Recon Mission Takes Cavalry on a Scenic Tour

By Sgt. Armando Monroig
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As they maneuvered their way toward the hills, coalition forces were expecting the same familiar mission: search the area and find the enemy or clues that might lead to them, with frequent stops



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

A Bradley Fighting Vehicle from 6-9 Cav., patrols the hills surrounding Hamrin Lake during a joint patrol with 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army.

to talk with local leaders.

But once they arrived at the hills, dismounted and climbed to the top, they were treated to a scenic view that rivals what they see most of the time during their military operations.

The view is a stark contrast to the flat desert and palm groves they normally patrol. Here, sloping hills lead the eyes to the horizon, the sun casts shadows on every crevice of the terrain that exhibits a range of sand-colored hues, and village nestled beside a vast, blue lake.

"It was a nice change of scenery," said Staff Sgt. Fred Turner, a senior scout assigned to Troop A, 6th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

But the picturesque hills were not the only reason Turner and other Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, along with members of the 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, were here today.

The two units conducted a joint reconnaissance patrol through the hills near Hamrin, Feb. 17, to search for insurgent mortar positions and terrorists who are planning to shoot down military aircraft near the lake.

According to intelligence gathered by the squadron, anti-coalition forces operating in the Hamrin area use the rolling hills as cover to launch mortars toward Forward Operating Base Normandy.

The squadron, out of Fort Hood, Texas, also received reports that terrorists are using the hills to observe flights that go in and out of the base.

The U.S. and Iraqi forces searched the hills that offer a scenic view of Hamrin Lake, but also overlook the base. After searching for enemy mortar positions, Soldiers found signs of enemy activity.

"We found battle positions dug in on top of one of the hills," said Turner.

But after searching the village of Hamrin and questioning residents, coalition forces came up with very little on the whereabouts of the suspected terrorists. However, two individuals suspected of having ties with the terrorists were detained.

Aside from the dramatic scenery, this was an average day of patrolling and searching for enemy forces by Soldiers like Turner and Staff Sgt. Jerry McCloud, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle commander assigned to Troop A.

McCloud said that even though they didn't come up with much after searching the hills and village of Hamrin, the mission was still successful because it allowed them the opportunity to conduct operations with Iraqi Army Soldiers.

"It reinforces the training they're receiving. We are in a supervisory role," said McCloud. "They did well. They got out there and they were focused."

In addition, McCloud and other Soldiers had the opportunity to interact with residents. As a friendly gesture, McCloud gave a soccer ball to three Iraqi boys who came to see the convoy by the lake.

"It's a way to try and better our relationship with the people," McCloud said.

Turner added that recent missions in their area of operations have bore fruit for coalition forces, like the discovery of a large weapons cache in nearby Jazeera.

"We went there (to Hamrin), showed a presence and got to know the people," said Turner. "I think we're having a positive impact on the area."

Iraqi Police, Coalition Forces Discover Large EFP Cache

An informant's tip led Iraqi Police officers from Judidah, Iraq, and Coalition Forces from the 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to a large improvised explosive device cache in the Baqubah area Feb. 24.

The cache consisted of:

- 2 explosively formed projectiles in various stages of assembly
- One completed improvised mine and more than a dozen others in various stages of construction
- More than two dozen mortar rounds and 15 rockets
- Over 130 disks capable of producing as many individual

EFPs

- Six rocket launchers
- Five anti-aircraft rounds
- Over two dozen RPG warheads
- More than 400 plastic and steel containers in various stages of fabrication for IED construction
- Large quantities of IED-making material such as detonation cord, C4, blasting caps, fuses, EFP launching tubes, bags of ball bearings and voltage regulators

"The vigilance of the Iraqi Police and the willingness of the people of Diyala to end the cycle of violence led to this discovery," said Col. David W. Sutherland, 3-1 Cav. com-

mander and senior U.S. Army officer in Diyala province.

A Coalition Forces explosive ordnance disposal unit safely disposed of some of the munitions with the majority of the cache being transferred to Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

"The terrorists and sectarian fighters who use these explosives have no other desire than to stop the progress of the country," Sutherland said. "Their hatred manifests itself in the weapons that these supplies would have been used for. The

people realize this and understand that progress is impossible without stopping the violence.

"The people are choosing, and they are choosing progress and development by providing information," he added.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lauree R. Washington Jr.

An IP officer and a 1-12 CAV Soldier unearth a large IED cache discovered near Baqubah, Iraq.

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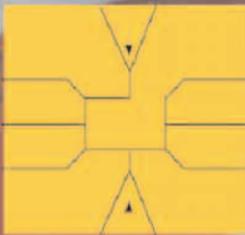


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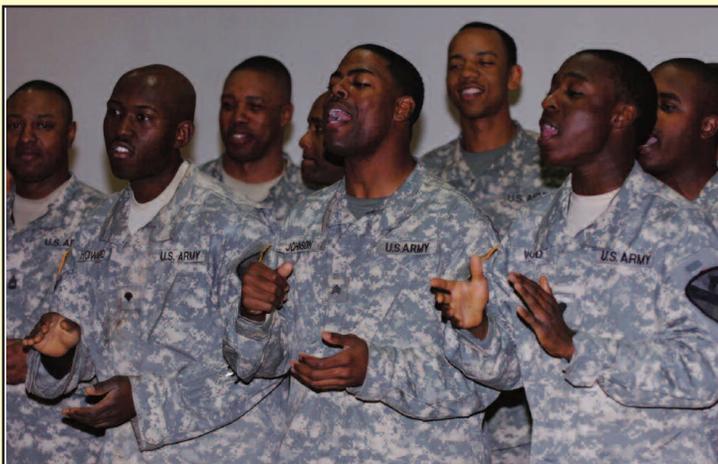


Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, sing in the choir during a celebration for Black History Month, Feb. 25. Lt. Col. Ronald Kirklin, commander of 215th BSB, and the guest speaker for the event, said, "I ask that you care for all...and lead, regardless of color."

Got Photos?

If you'd like to see your photo in *The Grey Wolf Howl*, e-mail Sgt. Serena Hayden at serena.hayden@us.army.mil.