

The Daily Roar

VOL. 1, NO. 3

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION -- BAGHDAD

THURS, DEC 20, 2007

1st Cav. Div. transfers authority of MND-B to 4th Inf. Div.

By Sgt. Jason Thompson,
4th Inf. Div. PAO

Under the clear, morning skies of a promising new day in Baghdad, the 4th Infantry Division took the reins of Multi-National Division -- Baghdad from the 1st Cavalry Division during a transfer of authority ceremony here Dec. 19.

The ceremony honored the hard work and sacrifices of the departing 'First Team,' and looked forward to future challenges and successes soon to be earned by the 'Ivy Division.'

Presiding over the ceremony was Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commanding general, Multi-National Corps -- Iraq.

Odierno said that the battle in Iraq changed significantly during the last year and the success could be directly linked to the 1st Cav. Div.'s efforts in and around Baghdad.

"Significant events are often a result of the right people being in the right place at the right time," said Odierno. "In the case of Baghdad in 2006 and 2007, the right people were the magnificent men and women of Multi-National Division -- Baghdad and their dedicated Iraqi Security Force partners."

Odierno said all Soldiers of the First Team should be proud of what they

accomplished during their tenure in Baghdad. He said the Soldiers had a direct positive impact on the Iraqi people's day-to-day lives, which is apparent by the increased activity in all the Baghdad market places, traffic on the streets, numerous soccer games played in all the local neighborhoods, and the smiles on the children's faces.

"The biggest success was the complete, full partnership they formed with their counterparts in the Iraqi Army, National Police, station police, patrol police and local leaders," continued Odierno. "Because of their shared concern, genuine care and daily engagement, they earned the trust and confidence of Baghdad's people. In turn, it sparked a grassroots movement among the millions of residents and empowered them to feel in control of their own destiny."

The 1st Cav. Div. commander then addressed the audience of Iraqi and Coalition leaders, looking back on a year's worth of successes and sacrifices by his MND-B forces.

"Although the cost has been high, and the toll on the lives of our Soldiers has been great, our cause was just and noble, and we have prevailed," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr., as he somberly addressed the crowd. "We have fought together, side by side, and have won every time. Our Soldiers know it, and the enemy knows it. There is not a place in Baghdad where the enemy feels free or a place to call his home."

Fil then thanked the Iraqi Army soldiers that the success of the First Team came with a partnership between the Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

"We have done this in partnership.



by Staff Sgt. Luis Orengo, 113th MPAD

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia uncasing the 'Ironhorse' colors during the MND-B transfer of authority ceremony

Whatever progress we have made, whatever success we have secured, is a testimony to that partnership and the result of our combined strengths."

With the colors of his division cased and ready to accompany him home, Fil's thoughts were focused on the efforts of his Soldiers and on the continued success of the 4th Inf. Div.

"As with always at the end of a challenging tour, we leave with mixed emotions. It is quite reassuring to know that we are handing the battle over to such a capable division, and that's the Steadfast and Loyal 4th Inf. Div. led by the supreme command team of Maj. Gen.

See **MND-B** pg. 3



photo by Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger, 18th MP BDE

Holiday spirit

Native of Baltimore, Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Whitfield, a member of the 18th Military Police Brigade's Police Transition Team holds two year old Mustafa at the Al Hagas Elementary School here Tuesday. The 18th MP Bde. and the 153rd MP Co. handed out toys and food to the school children.

Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
HI: 51F/11C
LO: 33F/1C



FRIDAY
Mostly Sunny
HI: 53F/12C
LO: 35F/2C



SATURDAY
Mostly Sunny
HI: 55F/13C
LO: 37F/3C




The Daily Roar

Multi-National Division - Baghdad
Public Affairs Office

Commanding General:
Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond

Div. Command Sergeant Major:
Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia

Public Affairs Officer:
Lt. Col. Steve Stover

Public Affairs NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

Editor:
Spc. Philip Klein

Staff Writers:
Sgt. Michael Molinaro
Sgt. Jason Thompson
Sgt. Mark Matthews
Sgt. Jerome Bishop
Spc. Angel Martinez
Spc. Elvyn Nieves
Pfc. April Campbell
Pfc. Samantha Schutz

The *Daily Roar* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The *Daily Roar* are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 4th Infantry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 4th Infantry Division, or The *Daily Roar* of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of The *Daily Roar* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share?

The *Daily Roar* welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC guadalupe.stratman@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The *Daily Roar* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor walter.klein@mnd-b.army.mil



by Staff Sgt. Luis Orengo, 113th MPAD

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, incoming Multi-National Division-- Baghdad commanding general addresses the multi-national audience during the MND-B transfer of authority ceremony Dec. 19

1st Cav. Div. provides smooth transition for 4th Inf. Div.

from **MND-B** pg. 1

Jeff Hammond and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia.

“I’m leaving totally confident that you’ll be able to quickly build and expand upon the efforts and that the Ironhorse Soldiers are ready for the tests that lie ahead.”

With the clear, crisp notes of the 4th Inf. Div. Ironhorse Band accompanying the ceremony, Fil passed on the mantle of MND-B with pride for his Soldiers and optimism for his successors.

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, commanding general, 4th Inf. Div., uncased his colors and assumed command of the MND-B mission as the division colors changed position in the honor guard procession.

“As we, the 4th Inf. Div., return to Baghdad for our third deployment, we truly feel we have two homes. One in Fort Hood, Texas, and our other is clearly here in Baghdad. We look forward to

once again serving with our Iraqi brothers.

With obvious pride in the troops of his new command, Hammond closed by thanking the 1st Cav. Div. for their great efforts in providing a smooth transition with the 4th Inf. Div.

and took a moment to recognize all the forces that make up MND-B.

“To Maj. Gen. Fil and the 1st Cav. Div., magnificent job. Your Steadfast and Loyal efforts have improved security across Baghdad, but more important, I see hope for the future. We must build on this and continue progress. We still face determined enemies who threaten peace and security. There is still much work ahead. Our job, alongside our Iraqi counterparts, is to provide stable security and set conditions for improving life in Baghdad.

“This, we will do as a team.

“It is my honor to represent the men and women of Multi-National Division – Baghdad. Steadfast and Loyal.”



Guard mounts savor mystery meals

By Sgt. Brandon Little

Task Force XII PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - These delivery guys, equipped with M-16s and bulletproof gear, have never promised to bring you food in 30 minutes or less. They won't knock on your door, or expect a tip; and the aluminum foil covered meals they carry are always a surprise.

The mystery meals they transport always arrive in a well-armored vehicle, so there's no neighborhood too dangerous.

The members of this heavily armed 'meals on wheels' team are part of the Task Force XII guard mount delivering hot meals everyday to Soldiers performing guard duty.

"The Soldiers can't leave their posts to get chow, so we take food to each of the locations we operate," said Sgt. Gale Bever, a day shift rover for the Task Force XII guard mount. "I know if I was in their shoes I wouldn't want to have to wait to get chow."

Task Force XII is responsible for manning guard towers and one Entry Control Point (ECP) to the airfield. The guard shifts extend beyond the hours of the dining facilities here, so the Soldiers on duty would have to go several hours without food if not for these Soldiers.

"I would rather have them eat on shift and have their minds on the mission instead of being hungry and having their minds on food," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Washburn, sergeant of the guard from 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"It's not quite as large of a selection, like going to the DFAC, but we try to vary the choices of food (we bring) as much as possible."

Each guard shift receives four mystery meal plates, with four drinks, to last them the duration of their duty, but the Soldiers have plenty of water and are also allowed to eat snacks they brought with them.

"I don't think I would be able to perform my job if I was hungry because I would be cranky and a lot less alert," said Pfc. Iyana Jennings, an ECP guard from 4-3 ACR. "I think it's good that they take the time to deliver meals to us."

It's better for the Soldiers to have a meal from the DFAC instead of a Meal Ready to Eat because nothing helps improve morale like a hot meal, said Bever, a native of Raleigh, N.C.

This hot mini-feast they receive is prepared from four different meal menus provided by the DFAC; but not even



by Sgt. Brandon Little, Task Force XII PAO

Sgt. Gale Bever, a guard mount day shift rover in Task Force XII, delivers lunch to Spc. Amanda Hodge and Pfc. Iyana Jennings at an Entry Control Point (ECP) to the airfield. Soldiers performing guard duty at an ECP, or in guard towers, are delivered meals because they are unable to leave their guard post during their shift.

the delivery guys know which plate is what because they are wrapped in aluminum foil.

"I'm happy when we receive the meal because I'm always hoping the mystery meal will be steak ... but most of the time it's not," said Jennings, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

"I've been working for the guard mount for about 14 months as both a driver and a guard in one of the towers," said Spc. Lionel Sierra, a 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldier from Fresno Calif. "I know what we do for them is important and I think they appreciate everything we do for them."

In addition to delivering meals to Soldiers on duty, the guard mount also keep the vehicles running; brief and debrief Soldiers performing guard duty; and they hold formations to inspect the Soldiers weapons and equipment.

"When we deliver the food, it also gives us a chance to check on how the Soldiers are holding up," said Washburn, a native of Portland, Ore., a veteran of OIF I in 2003.

Whether it's checking to see how Soldiers are doing, or delivering warm mystery meals, the Task Force XII guard mount does everything it can to take care of the Soldiers who help keep Camp Taji safe.

"I'm happy when we receive the meal because I'm always hoping the mystery meal will be steak ... but most of the time it's not"

Pfc. Iyana Jennings
ECP guard from 4-3 ACR