

The Daily Roar

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'Silver Lions' ready to run

by **Sgt. Zach Mott**
3rd BCT, 4th ID PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Silver Lions from the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor continue to prep their vehicles and personnel for operations in Iraq Dec. 29.

The battalion is part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, began deploying from Fort Carson, Colo., in November to this river valley region of Iraq northwest of Baghdad.

This is the third Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment for the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. The first rotation, during OIF I, was from March 2003 to March 2004, the Brigade's second deployment to the region was from November 2005 to November 2006.

Staff Sgt. Karl Christian, a squad leader from Company A, 1st CAB, 68th AR, is on his third deployment to Iraq with the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. and says he's looking forward to beginning operations.

"We're ready," the Richmond, Calif., native said. "We've been training. All year we've been training, training, training; going to ranges, shoot houses, (close-quarters marksmanship) type stuff. We're past the crawl, walk state; it's time to run."

To prepare for the missions ahead, Christian, as well as other members of the 'Silver Lion' battalion, are ensuring their vehicles are properly loaded with the necessary equipment, each Soldier's gear is functioning and that everyone knows the mission ahead.

Christian is an example of the experience that exists within the Striker Brigade, where more than 70 percent have deployed at least once before in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. However there are others, including those Christian must now lead, that are experiencing Iraq and combat for the first time.

Many of these first-timers watched the initial invasion of Iraq -- of which the 3rd BCT was part -- on television and

have heard countless stories about what life is like here.

Pfc. Christopher Reynolds, a team leader with Company A, 1st CAB 68th Armor Reg., has been with the 'Silver Lions' since shortly after the battalion returned from Iraq in November 2006. In that time he has been able to lean heavily on the experienced Soldiers and noncommissioned officers of his company to prepare to come to Iraq.

"We've prepared, we've trained. We trained the whole year for this moment right here," the 20-year old Jacksonville, Fla., native said.



by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3BCT, 4ID PAO

From right, Pfc. Jarod Daly, a Humvee driver from Sandpoint, Idaho, and Pfc. James Ramsey, a rifleman from Shawsville, Va., and Ricky Day, a gunner from Chase, Kan., from Company A, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, load part of the basic issue items into their Humvee Dec. 28 at Camp Taji, Iraq. These 20-year old Soldiers are on their first tour in Iraq and will begin operations around Baghdad in the near future.



Relax time

by Staff Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2nd BCT, 82nd ABN Div. PAO

BAGHDAD - Farmington, Mich. native 1st Sgt. William Phelps (left) and Madison, N.C. native Capt. Josh Richardson, the senior NCO and the commander, respectively, of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division, don't let the cold or the setting sun stop them from finishing an intense game of cribbage outside Coalition Outpost War Eagle in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District Dec. 24.

Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

Wednesday
Clear
 HI: 64F/18C
 LO: 42F/6C



Thursday
Clear
 HI: 64F/18C
 LO: 42F/6C



Friday
Clear
 HI: 64F/18C
 LO: 48F/9C



The Daily Roar

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Talent show host welcomes 10th Mtn. Div. Soldiers

by Spc. Katrina Faulkner-Brown
4th IBCT, 10th Mtn Div. PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq – A 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division emcee opened a talent show with a warm welcome to incoming 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Soldiers at The Tomas Sotelo Soldier's Theater here Dec 16.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Anderson, from Miami, 2nd IBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., welcomed incoming mountain division Soldiers. He told a funny joke before transitioning to a serious note, expressing his grief for a fallen 2IBCT Soldier who won't be going home (with his comrades) and giving his sincere wish that 10th Mtn. Div. comes home with all of its Soldiers.

Ten contestants from 2nd IBCT and 10th Mtn. Div. were eager to show off their talents through song, instruments and dance. Staff Sgt. Fred J. Pedro, a Pembroke, N.C. native, began the show with a song dedicated to his wife back home. Then Anderson introduced Capt. Daniel E. Landrum, a native of Atlanta and battalion logistics officer, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT, 10th Mtn. Div., as the next host of entertainment for 'Patriot' brigade Soldiers throughout their deployment. Replacement disc jockeys, Sgt. Chad D. Hampton, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 4th IBCT, 10th Mtn. Div., from New Orleans, and Damien C. Bland, a native of Houston, are expected to keep events alive when Anderson and Pedro finish their time at Forward Operating Base Loyalty in the coming days.

"The talent show was definitely a success. There were 180 people that attended the event," said Teresa Y. Walker, Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator, Kellogg, Brown



by Spc. Katrina L. Faulkner-Brown, 4th IBCT, 10th Mtn Div. PAO

Staff Sgt. Rodney Clayborn, a native of Compton, Calif., battle non-commissioned officer, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, performs a dance routine during the Farewell/Welcome Talent Show at Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Dec 16.

and Root. "Sgt. Anderson is great with 2nd Infantry Division. We just hope that someone with (10th Mtn. Div.) will step in and pick up the slack." Walker said the MWR team of 14 people is here for the Soldiers, and whatever the Soldiers want to do, they are ready to support 4IBCT's ideas and events.

Contestants competing in the talent show included Sgt. Frankie L. Stiles, a topography analyst and native of Cookville, Tenn., 2nd IBCT; Chaplain (Capt.) Patrice A. Robichaux, from Houma, La., chaplain for Special Troops Battalion, 2nd IBCT; Spc. Mary L. Jones, of Los Angeles, Charlie Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT; Staff Sgt. Rodney C. Clayborn, of Compton, Calif., battle non-commissioned officer, 4th IBCT; Spc. Travis R. Roundtree, a native of Pomona, Calif., battalion tactical operations center, 1st Battalion,

504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division; Sgt. Damian L. Daniels, a native of Baltimore, Special Electronics Device Repair, 1st Bn., 504th PIR, 82nd Airborne; Pfc. Tiffani M. Watson, from Kingsville, Texas, supply, Alpha Company, BSTB, 4th IBCT; and Capt. Daniel E. Landrum, a native of Atlanta, battalion logistics officer in charge, BSTB, 4-10.

Audience reaction was the deciding factor in choosing winners from the ten contestants. The four winners who tied for first place are Clayborn, Landrum, Watson and Roundtree. All participants received prizes to show appreciation for their involvement. MWR and Army and Air Force Exchange Service donated the prizes. Pedro asked each Soldier-contestant to help him sing excerpts from the song, "It's so hard to say good-bye to yesterday," for the closing of the show.