

Long Knife News

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3

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Battle Handover



Commander's Corner

*By Col. Philip Battaglia
4th BCT Commander*

Long Knife Troopers,

You are off to a fantastic start to our deployment. It's our turn now to build on the work started by the Devil Brigade.

You have already shown the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Security Forces your professionalism and dedication to our mission. Keep doing what you're doing!

As you execute your daily tasks, remember we are partnered with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police to assist them in becoming more effective and more capable of providing security for Iraq.

Don't allow cultural differences to stand in the way of establishing good working relationships with your Iraqi counterparts.



Col. Philip Battaglia

Maintain your patience and professionalism as you coach and teach military skills.

Safety must be para-

mount in everything we do – not just an afterthought or a distracter.

I hold every Trooper responsible for individual safety and the chain of command to enforce the standards.

Do not assist our enemies by being careless and endangering yourself or your fellow troopers. Don't be your own worst enemy.

Make sure your battle

buddy is keeping up with PT, eating right, getting enough sleep and has their head in the game. By doing so, you will undoubtedly save lives.

I urge you not to think about the deployment as a year to 15 months, but rather, focus on the tasks at hand for the day.

Don't count the days – make the days count.

When you talk to your loved ones, remind them of all the resources we have in place for them back at Fort Hood. I'm confident that your Family members can receive the assistance they may need and deserve at all times.

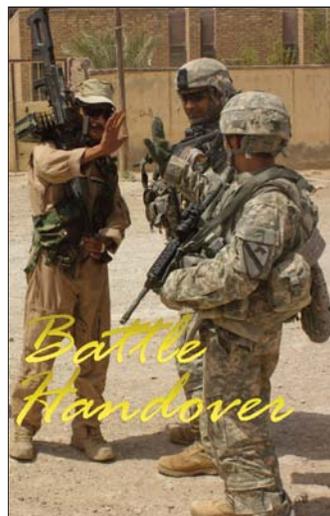
We are serving in a great and proud unit and we will undoubtedly make many positive impacts during our time here.

Long Knife 6 out!

Long Knife News

FROM THE EDGE

A Long Knife Brigade Soldier and an Iraqi Army soldier trade high-fives during a patrol near an Iraqi Police station in Amarah July 7. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)



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2-7 Cav. secures Iranian border

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

AMARAH, Iraq – Manning the frontlines of Operation Iraqi Freedom is not an easy task. Long Knife Brigade leaders are constantly reassessing the situation.

The Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, relieved the outgoing 82nd Airborne Division's 1st BCT, after the airborne unit sped into the Mayson province to assist the Iraqi Security Forces in routing criminals and smugglers at the border.

“We observe and interact with our Soldiers everyday to ensure they are effectively partnering with the Iraqis,” said Command Sgt. Maj. George Zamudio. “This partnership requires a lot of trust and I think our Soldiers are rapidly building a strong bond with this unit.”

Zamudio is the squadron's senior enlisted leader and he aids the squadron commander, Lt. Col. Edward Bohnemann, in assisting the ISF to defend Iraq from smugglers and criminals.

“This squadron is the front-line defense to the negative influences coming from Iran,” Bohnemann said. He added that the ISF are proactive in coordinating and following-up on their anti-improvised explosive device and weapon cache-finding investigations.

“All our operations here are Iraqi-led, it's essential to the mis-

sion that we keep the ISF in the forefront,” he added.

His battalion is working out of an Iraqi military compound called Sparrow Hawk and is slowly moving into a new base called Forward Operating Base Garry Owen.

The squadron is also operating out of a large sports stadium

—AMARAH *continued on page 13*



American troops from 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, patrol with an Iraqi soldier in the Mayson province. The two countries' troops are working together to secure the southern region of Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

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ON 100.1 FM AND 107.3 FM

AFN - Iraq Radio



Pfc. Rebekah Lampman

4BCT takes the HEAT

Long Knives conduct mandatory theater training

By Spc. Creighton Holub
4th BCT PAO

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The 1st Cavalry Division’s Long Knife Brigade completed mandatory vehicle rollover training while in its last pit stop before deploying into Iraq.

So far more than 550 troops have died due to vehicle rollovers in Iraq since the war in Iraq began years ago.

“I’m saving lives in the long run by teaching this to my fellows Soldiers,” said Sgt. Matthew Lucatorta, one of the Humvee Egress Awareness Training simulator instructors and a satellite communication specialist assigned to the 4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood. “In the Signal Corps, we don’t see the end results, we just knew that communication systems were working – we don’t know when a phone call may help save someone’s life.”

Lucatorta and the rest of the instructors stationed here teach an important point – Soldiers need to prepare the doors for exiting before releasing their seat belt.

While the concept



Soldiers assigned to the Long Knife Brigade headquarters company work their way out of the vehicle rollover simulator at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, June 13. The simulator is a part of the required training all troops complete before moving into Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Creighton Holub, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

of opening a door and exiting a vehicle while upside down seems like an easy concept at first, the instructors pointed out that the situation becomes very disorienting and physically demanding when you factor in the 400-pound weight of the doors that were designed to open while still upright.

“I’ve never been flipped over like that before,” said Pfc. Mark Ponce, a human resources specialist assigned to the 4th BCT’s headquarters. “Landing on my head wasn’t the best thing to

do because I’m a big boy. Plus all the body armor makes it harder to move with its additional weight, but I’ll be able to move a lot better with this new body armor we received before deploying here.”

While some of the Long Knife Brigade’s troops completed the HEAT training during the recent Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in Fort Polk, La., most of the troops had to wait for the training in Kuwait.

Using the world’s largest rollover simulator facility, the team here has

trained approximately 13,000 troops in the last three months. Sgt. Eric Gorham, the facility’s sergeant-in-charge and a Soldier assigned to the 4th Sustainment Brigade, explained his team also trains all coalition forces, including Macedonian, British, Kuwaiti, Bulgarian, Kazakhstani, Romanian, Australian and U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marines.

“Sometimes we get feedback from Soldiers we’ve trained here after they get into a real life situation, letting us

—HEAT *continued on page 5*

Long Knives relieve Devil Brigade

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq – The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, began arriving in Iraq in mid-June.

The Long Knife Brigade is preparing to take command from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in the Multi-National Division – Center area of Iraq.

Col. Philip Battaglia's Long Knife Brigade is relieving the 82nd Airborne Division, which has been stationed here for the past year. The Soldiers of the All American Division are helping the Long Knives get accustomed and adjusted to their new home here.

"It's my main focus to make sure you are more prepared than I am," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Hiestand, an intelligence officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Hiestand has been a battle captain, linguistics manager and military intelligence collections manager for the S-2, also called the intelligence section, in the 504th Parachute Regiment for the past year. He uses information that was gathered from important events and

briefs the brigade commander and provides information concerning the brigade's situational awareness.

By using information gathered from significant events that took place on the front lines, Hiestand briefs the commander about what could possibly be done in the near future to effectively support the regiment's troops.

Capt. Pablo Sanchez, the collections manager for the Long Knife

Brigade, said he is motivated by the way his outgoing counterpart is preparing him to take over his position.

"I am working with the 82nd and my troops to create a better standard operating procedure that will be effective here," Sanchez said.

The Army calls the handover process the "right seat and left seat rides." The incoming troops and leaders essentially watch the outgoing team and learn

the procedures and requirements of conducting business in the combat environment. For troops working in the tactical operations center, that means watching their counterparts and learning how to keep the same standards. Then the outgoing troops switch roles and mentor the

new troops until they can efficiently take over.

Sanchez explained that he is currently learning from Hiestand and his troops so that he can be better pre-

pared for the upcoming battle handover when the relief-in-place and transfer of authority ceremony occurred in July.

He said collecting good intelligence allows the American and Coalition Forces in the Dhi Qar Province of Iraq to stabilize the towns and cities in the brigade's jurisdiction.

"Bad intelligence kills our troops, good intelligence brings our Soldiers back home alive," Sanchez said.

Bad intelligence kills our troops, good intelligence brings our Soldiers back home alive.

*Capt. Pablo Sanchez
Intelligence Collections Officer*

—HEAT from page 4
know that something we taught them saved their life," Gorham said.

"This training simulator is realistic, but you don't get the speed and direction elements," he explained.

"But you do get to see how

disorienting you get from being upside down."

The instructors here have access to the latest information and tactics from the battlefield in Iraq.

One of the key points they stressed was troops should unlock the combat locks and doors before they release their seatbelts.

They explained that while hanging upside down, the vehicle occupants are still properly oriented to the vehicle – all the handles, windows and locks are in their normal position compared to their orientation while the Soldiers would be crawling on the upside down-roof of the vehicle.

Continue Living the Legend, see your battalion retention NCO for details

Long Knife Soldier dusts off medical skills

*By Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore
4th BCT PAO*

CSC SCANIA, Iraq – A military intelligence officer finally got to work where her heart is – in the medical community.

After originally enlisting to become a combat medic in the Army Reserves nine years ago, 1st Lt. Khara Keegan, a native of Sioux City, Iowa, enrolled in the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where she graduated and received her commission in the Military Intelligence Corps.

“I like my current job a lot, but the medical profession is where my heart is,” said the 26-year-old security officer.

Keegan, currently serving with 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was reunited with her passion for providing medical

care only four days after arriving in Iraq. She encountered a two-year old Iraqi boy who was badly burned on both legs, stomach and left arm while at Convoy Support Center Scania’s Smith Gate Burn Clinic.

“I didn’t want to be emotional, but I could tell the boy was in a lot of pain,” Keegan recalled. “I cleaned off his dead skin and applied ointment and a wrap for protection, while his parents were holding him and consoling him.”

Amazingly, after only that initial treatment at the base’s burn clinic, the little boy was smiling and holding hands with Keegan.

“He will need treatment for weeks,” Keegan explained. “The patients here are authorized to have their bandages changed and re-dressed three times per week.”

Keegan, along with approximately 700 troops of the 1st

Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, are taking over operations at the convoy support center. The brigade headquarters is located at Contingency Operating Base Adder in Tallil Air Base, approximately 200 miles south of Scania.

The burn clinic’s current noncommissioned officer in-charge is hopeful the Long Knife Brigade Soldiers will continue what the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division started.

“I didn’t know what the new unit was going to do,” said Sgt. Joe Burzeski, a combat medic assigned to the Strike Hold Brigade. “I’m seeing the 1st Cav. Soldiers come in and volunteer on their down time, so I can go home at peace knowing this clinic will continue and prosper.”

The burn clinic operates with mostly volunteer personnel and supplies that are shipped into Iraq from various hospitals in the U.S. Donations include zero-form dressing, 4-by-4 gauze and 3-inch tape required to treat the burn patients.

Burzeski was one of the first medics assigned to the clinic when he first arrived more than a year ago. When he arrived here, the two to five person staff worked inside a 20-foot shipping container with very few supplies. Today, the clinic accommodates approximately 40 patients per day inside the same structure.

“As soon as I heard about this place, I knew I had to help out,” Keegan said. “Today I saw immediate results from my efforts; that’s why I like the medical profession.” She plans to volunteer at the burn clinic as much as her primary mission allows.



1st Lt. Khara Keegan from Sioux City, Iowa, applies bandages on female Iraqi burn patient at Convoy Support Center Scania’s Smith Gate Burn Clinic June 23. Keegan recently arrived with the 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division’s advance party to conduct operations in Scania, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

Troopers prepare for battle

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq – One of the most challenging things a leader in the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, can face during a deployment is preparing his troops for combat.

Staff Sgt. Steven Roode, a Maine native and a squad leader assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, is using his previous deployment experience with his team of new Soldiers.

“As a squad leader, I have the freedom to teach and train with these Soldiers and I get to give them my experiences from when I deployed,” said Roode, a former basic combat training drill sergeant while stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The majority of his squad hasn’t deployed before and is fairly new to this infantry unit.

“I teach my fellow Soldiers what I know, and I’m also learning at the same time,” said Pfc. John Burgess, a team leader in Roode’s squad. “My squad needed a team



Soldiers in Staff Sgt. Steven Roode’s squad assemble a M2 - .50 caliber weapon during a tactical training class at Contingency Operating Base Adder at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, June 24. The Soldiers are assigned to A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

leader so I stepped up to do the job.”

After teaching a class on combat tactics, Roode and his squad discuss the course during an after action review.

If a demonstration is used

in his classes, he walks the troops through the scenario.

“It’s motivating to see these privates go from training to doing their job out in the field,” Roode said. “I enjoy seeing (their soldiering skills) grow.”





Above: A Paladin crewmember assigned to the 5th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, works on an artillery range in Kuwait. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of Sgt. [unreadable])



Left: The 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Detachment holds the American, U.S. Army and First Team flags as Long Knife Brigade Soldiers board a plane at Robert Gray Army Airfield. (Inset) Military leaders shake Long Knife Soldiers' hands and give words of encouragement to the 4th BCT's advance party while boarding their plane to Kuwait. (photos by Pfc. Terence Ewings)



Left: Pfc. George Milam and Sgt. 1st Class David Groce work together adjusting Milam's Aimpoint red dot sight while in Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Below: Guy Mortati, a former Army Ranger who is a MPRI instructor now, guides a Soldier through new combat techniques in Kuwait. (4th BCT photos by Spc. Creighton Holub)



Above: The 5,000 years old Ziggurat is within eyesight of COB Adder. (Long Knife PAO photo by Spc. Creighton Holub)



Above: The Romanian's Camp Dracula at COB Adder. (Long Knife PAO photo by Spc. Creighton Holub)



Above: Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Rodriguez shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Michael Oates in the Long Knife Brigade headquarters. (Long Knife PAO photo by Spc. Creighton Holub)

Long Knives 'SWET' it out

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – There are many thoughts that could possibly run through the mind of a Soldier stepping off an aircraft and setting foot onto a foreign country. That Soldier could be thinking about Family, friends or the mission at hand.

Approximately 300 Long Knife Soldiers in the brigade's advance party arrived in windy and gusty Camp Buehring, Kuwait, June 8 departing from Fort Hood's Robert Gray Army Airfield. And one Soldier had a specific

thing in mind.

Sgt. 1st Class

David Groce, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the special weapons exploitation team, said teaching Soldiers is specific thing in mind. The team is also called SWET for short. "I've been in Iraq before; I have experiences junior Soldiers can learn from."

Groce believes it's essential to pass on as much information as possible to Soldiers.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted vehicle rollover training, weapons familiarization

and counter-improvised explosive device training here.

Units are getting the opportunity to not only get adjusted to the extreme wind and heat of the Middle East before heading north to Iraq, but they also get additional knowledge from their leaders that have already deployed.

As the enlisted leader of the SWET, Groce and his troops provide feedback on bomb makers so commanders can identify patterns to effectively track and locate those criminals.

"When you deploy, you never know what situ-

ation you are going to be placed into," Groce said. "That is why we train and prepare for different scenarios; it's what being a leader is about."

Groce has more than 19 years of military experience and he utilizes it by teaching Soldiers how to adapt to their environment.

"When I'm not training or helping Soldiers my thoughts are with my Family," he added. "And I look forward to the end of this tour and the completion of the mission so that we can all return and spend time with our loved ones."

4th BCT refreshes medical skills

By 2nd Lt. Eileen White
27th BSB, 4th BCT

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Members of Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, recently completed training at the Medical Simulation Training Center here prior to crossing into Iraq.

The center provides Soldiers the opportunity to refresh essential life-saving skills in a simulated combat situation by using realistic mannequins that simulate wounds.

The wounds closely relate to injuries the Soldiers may see on the battlefield. The mannequins breathe, blink, have a

pulse and even bleed until the Soldier is able to control the bleeding.

The training center adds to the combat atmosphere by integrating the sounds of gunfire and yelling in the background, forcing the Soldiers to focus on their tactical first aid skills under fire.

The instructor for the training explained more than 400 troops have died from uncontrolled bleeding in Operation Iraqi Freedom, so chances are that the average Soldier can save a life by knowing the correct placement of a tourniquet or the importance of a pressure dressing and pressure points.

"All of us are glad that we could refresh our skills as medics and learn some new techniques," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Stephens, a medic assigned to Co. C, 27th BSB.

The training was not only geared toward combat medics. Soldiers from various units and job specialties trained to earn combat life saver certification.

"The sights and sounds and the realistic blood and gunfire made me feel like I was actually in combat," said Spc. Diane Beach, an X-ray technician assigned to Co. C, 27th BSB.

"I feel much more comfortable now that I was placed in that situation," she said.

Building on paratrooper and Iraqi success

By Capt. Robin Worch
2-12 Cav. Regt., 4th BCT

MUTHANNA, Iraq – Leaders of the 2nd Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, joined leaders of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st BCT and members of the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team at the Joint Security Site near Combat Outpost #6 in northern Muthanna to meet with local mayors and tribal sheiks.

The meeting was a welcome and a farewell for the American leaders.

The Iraqi leaders welcomed Lt. Col. Scott Kendrick and his staff while giving farewells to the Devil Brigade's Special Troops Battalion.

The incoming cavalry unit is taking responsibility for the sparsely populated province, but the leaders have plans to build on the foundation created by the Devil Brigade.

During the transfer of authority process, the 2nd Sqd., 12th Cav. Regt.'s troops learned from the outgoing American Soldiers and met the local Iraqi people the outgoing troops have built relationships with.

"Their success is our success," Kendrick said about the Muthanna Province's citizens and their actions over the past tour. "We are here to support the Iraqis in their move toward a democratic and representative government through a partnership with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police in all joint missions throughout the province."

Muthanna is under Provin-

cial Iraqi Control, which requires Coalition Forces receive permission from the local authorities before they are allowed to enter any of the cities in the province. Instead of creating friction between the Coalition Forces, it has fostered more cooperation with the local authorities.

Kendrick took the opportunity to introduce his civil affairs team at the meeting. While Muthanna had been largely ig-

nored under Saddam Hussein's rule and did not receive a lot of attention at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, reconstruction projects were started during the Devil Brigade's deployment here.

"In an area of subsistence farmers, each project no matter how small can make a big difference," said Capt. Matt Guevara. "We will use all the assets that we have to continue bringing more projects to the area."



Above: Lt. Col. Scott Kendrick, the commander of the Long Knife Brigade's 2nd Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment, greets one of the Muthanna province's leaders during a hail-and-farewell for the incoming 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., and the outgoing 1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Div., June 30.

Background photo: Lt. Col. Scott Kendrick, the 2-12 Cav. Regt. commander, speaks to leaders in the Muthanna province June 30. (U.S. Army photos by Capt. Robin Worch, 2nd Sqd., 12th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.)

Iraqi PSD taking helm from Americans

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

AMARAH, Iraq – The 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment’s personal security detachment assisted the Iraqi Army in an escort mission in Majarr Al Kabir July 7.

The Iraqi Army troops and the security team accompanied the

2nd Sqd., 7th Cav. Regt.’s battalion commander and an Iraqi general who were visiting the people of the Maysan province.

“We aided in providing the security and support for the Iraqi Army during the mission,” said Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Phillips, the noncommissioned officer in charge

of the American security team.

Phillips said the Iraqi troops are proactive in looking for improvised explosive devices and weapons caches. The Iraqi troops are also persistent in following up on previous assignments and investigations.

“This is my first time working with the Iraqi Army here in Iraq, and I believe it benefits us to work with them,” Phillips said.

The platoon sergeant explained the Iraqi people respect and support the Iraqi Army. Even though the organization has only existed for a couple of years it is operating efficiently he said.

“Together we are not only a strong Army, but we are a strong partnership,” said 1st Lt. Alex Kaivan, the officer in charge of the PSD team.

The Coalition Forces are working well together in and out of combat, Kaivan explained. He added that the Americans in Iraq make the Iraqi Army confident and the Iraqi people safe.



Iraqi Army troops guard an Iraqi Army general while an American Soldier follows. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO)

Long Knife Shadows fly at day, night

By 1st Lt. Aileen Farrell
4th STB, 4th BCT

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq – The Long Knife Brigade’s unmanned aerial vehicle platoon is running missions at its new location here and is immediately making improvements.

The Shadow, a tactical unmanned aerial vehicle, provides valuable, real-time information and video feeds to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division headquarters.

A new launch and recovery area is also being established, which offers tactical communications tools and maintenance facilities for running 24-hour operations.

“I really like the (new location), even though everything isn’t finished,” said Spc. Cayla McMahon, an unmanned air vehicle operator (pilot) and native of Grapevine, Texas. “I think it will be a great place for us to conduct operations while we are

here.”

The platoon completed eight flights at the new site while supporting the outgoing 1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Div., and accumulated 21 flight hours during its first week of operations.

“When the site is finished, we will be able to have everything at our fingertips in order to get the mission done,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Kuhn, a mission commander and Shadow —SHADOWS *continued on page 13*

5-82 readies cannons in Kuwait

By 1st Lt. Christopher White
5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The desert shook as the 155mm high explosive artillery rounds crushed the firing range here.

The Black Dragon field artillery battalion sent more than 140 artillery rounds downrange during a three-day weapon system certification in June.

The 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, of the 1st Cavalry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team, certified its crews and their howitzers before heading north into Iraq to relieve the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

"I'm always excited and eager to participate in these exercises," said Sgt. Martin Arellano, a Paladin crew chief in Battery A. The Detroit native explained why he's such a fan of his artillery team. "The thing that gets me pumped up the most in the world is shooting artillery rounds. When my crew fires, we don't just do it, we do it well. We are the best."

The three-day exercise involved every echelon of the unit's command and control from the howitzer section chiefs to the battalion's fire direction center.

While each artillery section is composed of up to nine Soldiers,

it is controlled by one of only four platoon fire direction centers native to the 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

"The shooting was as much fun as we could have in 120 degree heat," said Pfc. Sean Whalen, an artilleryman assigned to Battery A and a native of Lafayette, La. "It was a good opportunity to prove we have what it takes to perform our tasks quickly and efficiently when a mission comes down to us for execution."

The training event also certified the Paladin crews and fire direction center crews on the employment of the weapon system while deployed in theater.

Red Legs train troops in Kuwaiti desert

By 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop
5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The long waits in morning traffic at Fort Hood were easily forgettable as Black Dragon Soldiers rolled out of their beds to conduct morning physical training on a soft sandy road just a few yards away from their bunks in Kuwait's northern

desert.

The 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment's Soldiers were welcomed to Kuwait by some of the harshest sandstorms the unit's previously deployed troops had seen.

With the majority of the battalion's troops

—**RED LEGS** *continued on page 16*

—**AMARAH** *from page 3* while partnering with the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade and local Iraqi Police units in the Maysan province.

The Americans' arrival not only raised the number of troops in the area, but also brought the need to upgrade the base's facilities.

Bohnmann explained the ISF are effectively controlling the threats here, and the Americans are aiding by providing combat support.

He also said the capturing of multiple high-level criminals are deterring others from making road-

side bombs and provides morale for the both Iraqi and American Soldiers.

With the ISF physically leading the way on joint patrols, the American troops are supporting them and providing additional numbers to assist when necessary.

—**SHADOWS** *from page 12* unmanned aerial system operator, and native of Stuartville, Minn.

Getting the tactical unmanned aerial system platoon up and running has been a bat-

talion-level effort since the Long Knife Brigade arrived in Iraq.

"(I'm excited to see) the future expansion of the site and how it will allow for flexibility of future mis-

sions," said Chief Warrant Officer Adam Morton, a Shadow UAS warrant officer and native of Brownsville, Texas.

The Soldiers in the Shadow Platoon are

excited to get to perform their jobs in the operational theater and use the training they received at Fort Hood, for the last year and a half and during two training center rotations.

Continue Living the Legend, see your battalion retention NCO for details

From the Pulpit

*By Chaplain (Maj.) Ray Bennett
Long Knife Brigade Chaplain*

We have arrived at COB Adder.

Just outside our base lay the remains of the Ziggurat of Ur. These are some of the oldest archeological remains in the world.

The Sumerians of Ur established one of the first complex civilizations here more than 5000 years ago.

This area is also called the birthplace of civilization. The basic elements of civilization developed here: food production, community and criminal law, and complex political interaction. Yet one of the foundations from this civilization is also the foundation for our own civilization – Family relationships.

A key element of our civilization is our Families. We need



**Chaplain (Maj.)
Ray Bennett**

to continue to work on our Family relationships even while we are separated by this deployment.

How do we do that? Re-

member and concentrate on the good times that you had together. Too many times we focus on the things that are wrong with our relationships. We worry about the negative and think of our conflicts. During our deployment it is especially necessary to think about things that made you happy and successful in your relationships. Talk about the good times that you had together.

Remember that the initial

phase of the deployment is a time of mixed emotions. Some days are good and everything is going well, then the next day seems overwhelming. Our emotions are adjusting to this time of separation. For some Soldiers and their Family members this adjustment may come quickly; for others it may take longer.

To deal with this time try to stay connected with your spouse via emails, video-teleconferences and morale calls. Be sensitive to the emotions that you find in your Family members during these calls.

No matter which side of the deployment you are on, you give a great gift to your Family members when you validate the emotions they are experiencing. This will help your relationship grow during Operation Iraqi Freedom '07-'09.

General Order explained

*By Capt. Steve Suchomski
Long Knife Brigade Legal Office*

General Order Number 1 may seem like it takes away a lot of fun, but its restrictions are there to protect you and your buddies' safety and to further our mission of helping the Iraqi people.

Contrary to common belief, civilians working with U.S. Armed Forces are also bound by General Order Number 1. Violations of the general order can hinder unit performance and be used as enemy propaganda. Because of these serious risks, violations may result in criminal or other adverse actions.

Several of the provisions of General Order Number 1 help keep Soldiers safe. The possession, introduction and consumption of alcohol raises the

risk of dehydration, and puts others at risk because of impaired judgment and delayed reaction times. Likewise, illegal drugs and the abuse of legal drugs and other substances can hurt or kill the user, and potentially everyone else in a deployed environment. The abuse of chemicals in compressed air, cleaners and other substances can be unexpectedly and suddenly fatal, even after repeated use.

General Order Number 1 prohibits the possession, touching and use of unexploded ordnance. Unexploded ordnance is unstable and could explode at any time. Likewise, the general order prohibits the possession of private firearms, weapons, explosives and non-government vehicles in theater, because of

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Re-Up Realities

By Master Sgt. Keith Green
4th BCT Career Counselor

Reenlisting is one of the best things you can do for yourself and if you have a Family, it is one of the best things you can do for your Family.

On top of the already magnificent benefits you are already enjoying, you can gain control over your military career by adding only a relatively small amount of time onto your career.

Regardless of your ETS date, if you reenlist for a minimum of two years, you will receive the following: You will be on the first flight back to Fort Hood at the end of the combat tour, a memo from the brigade commander to acquire assignments while TDY at HRC, your choice of Environmental Morale Leave date, a pair of four-day passes to Qatar to be used within six months of reenlisting.

Soldiers will also be allowed to take an additional semester of college when approved for



Master Sgt. Keith Green
Career Counselor

the Fort Hood College Incentive. My retention NCOs are responsible for tracking all participants in this incentive and those Soldiers that have reenlisted since June 10. However, this reenlistment incentive terminates on Aug. 15, 2008.

I have a small team of career counselors and retention NCOs spread across the brigade's area of operations. The brigade's retention office is located at building 510K. Our phone numbers are DSN lines with the prefix of (318).

The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, has Staff Sgt. Wilson and Sgt. Mackey assisting the troops there. You can contact them at 837-1122 or 837-1045. Staff Sgt. Broughton and Staff Sgt. Till-

man service the troops in 2nd Sqd., 7th Cav. Regt. You can call them at 833-1445.

Myself and Sgt. 1st Class Vera are servicing the Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Sqd., 12th Cav. Regt., and you can call us at 833-5386. Sgt. 1st Class Washington and Sgt. Laskowski are working with the 27th Brigade Support Battalion. You can contact them at 833-1445.

Staff Sgt. Collins and Sgt. Moore are the reenlistment experts for the 4th Special Troops Bn., and the brigade headquarters company. You can contact them at 833-5072 also.

Staff Sgt. King and Staff Sgt. Mendez are covering the Red Leg artillerymen of the 5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt. You can contact them at 433-2343.

Army-wide reenlistment incentives, options and cash bonuses are always changing so reenlist today to maximize your reenlistment preferences.

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storage and safety risks. The prohibition against adopting pets and mascots is to help protect against disease and potentially dangerous animals and insects.

The following prohibited activities are to help foster respect with our Iraqi allies, and previous violations have been used by anti-Iraqi forces' propaganda: the taking of private property - including prohibited war trophies, archaeological artifacts and national treasures; going into Mosques without prior approval; proselytizing faiths and religions; keeping found currency or exchanging currency at unofficial rates;

These activities are also prohibited in order to build respect from our Iraqi allies: having intimate or sexual contact with local or foreign nationals; unoffi-

cial photos of detainees or human casualties; gambling and the possession or introduction of pornography.

General Order Number 1 also prohibits activities that may hurt unit morale. Gambling of any kind, the proselytizing or promotion of any religion and the visiting of the living quarters of a member of the opposite sex between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. is prohibited for this reason. These activities pose the danger of hurting unit cohesion and performance.

General Order Number 1 violations are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and not knowing about the general order is not a defense. If you have any questions and for a list of items that are approved as authorized souvenirs, contact your chain of command.

Long Knife Equality

By Sgt. 1st Class Ola Clark
4th BCT EOA/DSARC

Keeping the Long Knife Brigade ready for combat is a key focus of the commander's equal opportunity program.

Myself and 16 certified unit victim advocates are in theater 24/7 to assist our Soldiers in times of crisis.

One of those crises may be a sexual assault, which since 2005, the trooper has had two options for how they wish to receive support.

The newest of the two options is called "restricted reporting."

In a restricted report, the assaulted Soldier has four agencies that can be of assistance: The deployed



Sgt. 1st Class Ola Clark
EO Advisor

sexual assault response coordinator - myself, or a military chaplain, one of the unit victim advocates or a medical facility.

The option that has been around the longest is "unrestricted reporting." This option is the easiest to obtain, as just telling anyone will begin the process.

However, if a fellow Soldier -- even your battle buddy tells you -- you must tell your chain of command within 24 hours of finding out.

I personally suggest going directly to your company commander or first sergeant.

Through unrestricted reporting the assaulted Soldier will also receive medical care, but the military will also be able to protect that Soldier and investigate what happened.

There are many issues involved with protecting our Soldiers and their privacy.

Remember, the EO program safeguards combat readiness through equality.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me with questions or comments at my email:

ola.clark@iraq.centcom.mil or DSN (318) 833-1422.

RED LEGS from page 13 trained as field artillery Soldiers, they carry the nickname of Red Legs, tip of the hat to their artillery forefathers who earned the nickname from their red boots.

Today's Black Dragon Soldiers were able to enjoy some of life's simpler pleasures when they weren't training under the Kuwaiti sun with trips to McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Starbucks, internet cafes and AT&T call centers open 24/7 were available to those wanting to reach back home for a moment.

The troops were introduced to the Army's Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected armored fighting vehicles that were designed to protect them from roadside bombs. They were also taught the latest mounted patrol tactics during two-day and three-day exercises.

"Being in Kuwait made the training more realistic and we learned a lot about how to defeat improvised explosive devices and explosively formed penetrators," said Pfc. Clifford Quinton, an artilleryman assigned to Battery A.

The troops also confirmed their weapon's aiming points. Soldiers also qualified on their weapon systems and conducted reflexive fire training with M-4 carbines on a 25-meter small arms range.

"It was fun to fire a MK-19 grenade launcher

for the first time during our convoy training," said Pvt. Justin Johnson, a native Alaskan assigned to the battalion's forward support company. "Kuwait was very dusty, but a good learning experience."

Adding to their combat training, the Black Dragon artillerymen also trained on theater-specific medical injuries. The training used mannequins that simulated breathing, heart beats and had fake blood that kept flowing until a tourniquet was applied correctly.

"The medical skills we learned were a lot more in depth and intense than what we would normally receive in garrison," said Pvt. Samuel Konecny, an artilleryman assigned to Battery A. "It seemed much more focused on our mission in Iraq, and the instructors were very knowledgeable."

The bread and butter of the short stay in Kuwait for the Black Dragons was a three-day Paladin calibration exercise. The heavy artillery that the Long Knife Brigade's artillery battalion brings to the battle is a 155mm howitzer on tracks that is capable of laying down indirect fire from nearly any terrain Iraq has to offer.

Similar to zeroing an M-4 carbine, calibration ensures the Paladins are able to effectively hit whatever target they are aiming at downrange.