

WARHORSE

Serving the Soldiers, Civilians and Families of 2BCT, 4ID



RIDER

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**Brigade uncases
its colors at Echo**

CONTENTS

Warhorse Sends.....page 2

3-16 explores quality of life at FOB Adder.....page 3

Buffalo Soldiers work to improve FOB Summers.....page 4

Soldier Spotlight.....page 5

Working together for a nationpage 6

Attack Co. begin ops at COP 4...page 7

Commander visits Kalsu.....page 7

1-10 conducts MASCAL exercise.....page 8

JSS, local community build relations ..page 9

Cover Story: Warhorse Brigade, Lonestar Battalion uncases colors at Echo.....page 10

Around AO Warhorse.....page 12

Building Up the Force.....page 14

Roughriders participate in Kalsu 10-miler.....page 16

Maintaining Military Intelligence.....pg 17

Chaplain's Corner.....page 18

A Co, 1-67 laying down foundation for success.....page 19



On the Cover:

Col. Butch Kievenaar uncases the brigade colors at a ceremony.
photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II,
2nd BCT PAO

Warhorse Sends: Movement of Units



The Warhorse Brigade is preparing for the expansion of the Warhorse area of operation. This battlespace increase will require us to move some of our forces to new locations.

While we do not have the final decisions on what our battlespace will look like, we do know that 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery will move from FOB Adder to FOB Kalsu.

This should be a smooth transition since the 204th Brigade Support Battalion is already on FOB Kalsu.

The battlespace increase should be decided within the next few weeks. As of right now the Warhorse area of operation includes: Najaf and Qadasiya provinces.

The Warhorse Brigade will provide over watch with assistance by, with and

through the Iraqi Security Forces in order to continue their progress as they provide security to the Iraqi population in these provinces.

We have made significant improvements in the quality of life for our Warhorse Soldiers in Iraq.

These improvements will continue until I'm satisfied that all Warhorse Soldiers have a controlled environment to sleep in and eat in, adequate internet connectivity, phones and MWR facilities.

The two issues that we are working hard to resolve is the timeliness of mail delivery and ensuring all of our Soldiers are receiving all of their deployment financial benefits.

If you have not logged into the vFRG website recently, I highly encourage you to do so. We update the vFRG website weekly. Our next Town Hall is November 6, 2008 at 1800 in the McMahon Theater. If you have questions that you would like for me answer, please e-mail them to connie.kallerson@conus.army.mil. I will continue to provide updates on the Warhorse Brigade through out our deployment.

Remember, if you did not hear it from me or the Warhorse Rear Detachment then it is only a rumor. Please continue to visit the Warhorse vFRG website to get the latest information.

We are Warhorse!

HENRY A. KIEVENAAR, III
COL, AR
Commander

WARHORSE



RIDER

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Do you have a story to share? The *Warhorse Rider* welcomes articles, commentary, and photos from readers.

The *Warhorse Rider* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

Submissions and requests for further information should be emailed to the editor: carlos.burger@iraq.centcom.mil.

3-16 explores quality of life at FOB Adder

Story & photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente,
2BCT, 4th ID PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq – With the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, recent arrival to Combined Operating Base Adder, the Soldiers are beginning to explore the quality of life and what the base has to offer.

The main body of the battalion began arriving Oct. 5, into the unit's area of operation.

A few of the other "Thunder" Soldiers are scattered throughout the 2nd BCT's battle space, offering support roles to other units.

"The post is pretty well established, with a lot to offer to the Soldiers during their off time," said Capt. Brian James, automations and communications officer-in-charge, 3-16 FA and a San Antonio native.

COB Adder boasts a huge PX with additional shops, a large Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility and gym, internet cafés, phone centers, a large dining facility, three cafés, several fast food restaurants, a free laundry and shuttle service, among other amenities.

The MWR facility includes a movie room, board games, a video game room, a library with free books, free Internet with Web camera capabilities, billiards and ping pong tables.

The gym also offers an Aerobics room in addition to weightlifting and cardiovascular training equipment.

The MWR-run Internet café offers free internet with Web camera capabilities as well, DSN lines and a pay-option for SPAWAR services, which allows Soldiers to call home over the Internet.

"Most of us have only been here for a couple of days to a week," said Sgt. Christopher Sprayberry, driver, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-16 FA, "So a majority has not yet explored all that there is to offer when off-duty."

"We're also busy settling in and

getting equipment and buildings ready for operations," added Sprayberry. "The Soldiers are busy and tired, but we're happy to be here after a long time at (Kuwait)."

A majority of the battalion Soldiers are living in tents currently, but that should change soon with other units redeploying, continued Sprayberry, who calls Minot, N.D. home.

"Some of us are sleeping in tents right now, but it's not so bad and we're expecting to move into containerized housing units pretty soon," said Pfc. Andrew Goldsmith, signal support specialist, HHB, 3-16 FA.

"Besides the heat outside, everything else is pretty good," added Goldsmith. All the tents have power and air conditioning.

Nearly 100 Soldiers are currently living in CHUs, which mostly comprise the Soldiers staying at COB Adder, said James.

Goldsmith said one of the most important things available to him is the use of phones and Internet.

"It's important to keep in touch with the Families and let them know you're okay," said Goldsmith, from Memphis, Tenn. "It keeps the morale up for the Soldiers and their Families."

Soldiers have access to shower and latrine trailers, regardless of which base they are located in, James said.

"We're solving the issues and conditions, working at them every day, to improve things for (the Soldiers)," added James 



(above) Pfc. Branden Morgan, artillery gun crewmember, Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, looks for something to read at the Morale Welfare and Recreation facility of COB Adder. The books are donated for Soldiers or left here by Soldiers who wish to pass it on.

(below) Soldiers from 3-16 FA take a break at Combined Operating Base Adder. A majority of the approximate 400 troops currently live in tents.





‘Home is where you hang your Stetson’ *Buffalo Soldiers work hard to improve FOB Summers*

Story and photos By Sgt. Rodney Foliente,
2BCT, 4ID PAO

FOB SUMMERS, Iraq – As a group of sweating Soldiers digs a trench under a desert sun, they sing an impromptu song that carries on the hot wind, “Home is where you hang your Stetson ...”

A year is a long time to be away from home. For some Soldiers, it becomes habit to call wherever they find themselves for a long period, home.

Some do it consciously, others unconsciously, but they fix the place up and make it more their own.

And that is exactly what the Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are doing consciously and diligently at Forward Operating Base Summers.

At the beginning of October, they began arriving and hit the ground running, digging, cutting, hammering, painting and any number of other things to get their FOB up to their standards, which will continuously

raise throughout the deployment, said Sgt. Maj. Martin Kelley, operations sergeant major for 1-10 CAV.

Many of the Soldiers say a good portion of their drive and ability to deal with and improve the current conditions is pride in their unit and what it represents: the history and also the legacy of what they will leave behind.

The Buffalo Soldiers have been around since 1866 and if these Soldiers have their way, those who follow in their footsteps will continue to march forever.

“They love being Buffalo Soldiers,” the Penrose, Colo., native said of his troops. “They are proud of their heritage and the Soldiers that came before them. It’s a great honor to be a Buffalo Soldier.”

“I appreciate my leaders and I wouldn’t want to be in any other unit,” agreed Sgt. 1st Class Steve Szakal, senior food operations sergeant, Troop D, 1-10 CAV and native of Pueblo West, Colo.

Perhaps in part, it is that pride

which drives these Soldiers to work hard to improve their year-long place of residence. Perhaps also it is a desire for more comforts and better quality of life and in part because they are told to do it. As a whole, it seems to be a bit like what occurs at a normal home.

“We’re doing a lot to improve this place and make it more homelike,” said Sgt. Joey Mansapit, food service specialist, Troop D, 1-10 CAV.

“Quality of life is getting better,” said Mansapit. He admitted that it is taking a great deal of extra work, but that the effort will be worth the benefits and he said he is optimistic that life on the base will get better soon.

Apart from their normal jobs, Soldiers are picking up tools and building and improving things. He said that Navy Seabees have also been working hard to help with building furniture and structures and refurbish buildings.

On top of the extra duties and work to fix up the base, Mansapit said he takes pride in his primary job of mak-

See **Stetson**, page 18

Soldier Spotlight:

The long walk: Spc. Khot's journey

Story and photo by Capt. Brian James,
3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment

Spc. Joseph Khot doesn't mind walking; in fact he's done it all his life.

Khot, a motor transport operator with Company G, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division admits that even though he is a truck driver, driving is still new to him. At 27 years old, he learned to drive when he joined the Army two years ago. Where he grew up, there were not many vehicles to drive. Khot grew up walking across Africa.

Khot was born in Bor Town, in the Jongelei District of Southern Sudan. The people of his tribe were cattlemen. As a 7 year old, Khot and the other boys would take their families' cattle down to the White Nile River to graze and drink during the day. He was down at the river when government troops attacked his village in 1987. He and the boys escaped into the bush.

This was the beginning of Khot's long walk. The boys spent the next four years living off the land.

"Some of the boys could not swim and did not make it across the rivers. Some did not make it because of the animals, the wild animals," Khot said. He and the rest of the boys eventually made it to a refugee camp in Ethiopia, but did not stay long because of political instability there.

In 1991, Khot found himself back in Sudan being trained by a rebel group.

"I did not want to fight," Khot said, "but the rebel leader was

from my tribe, so I was obligated to fight. I was a boy soldier, but I never fought on the front lines."

U.N. security forces found Khot and the boys who had survived. The United Nations helped him make his way to northern Kenya where he spent the next 11 years in the Kakuma refugee camp.

He survived, went to school, and was finally reunited with his mother and two brothers. But that reunion was not to last long.

In 2003, he was selected by the Lost Boys program to immigrate to the U.S. He and four others moved to San

Diego to start their new lives.

"What I have noticed about San Diego was that people did not appreciate how beautiful it was and how much opportunity there was everywhere. In Kenya, I would not have worked in a government job or joined the Army because I would always be a refugee, an outsider. In America, there are no tribes like there are in Africa. You are free to live and work wherever you want," he said.

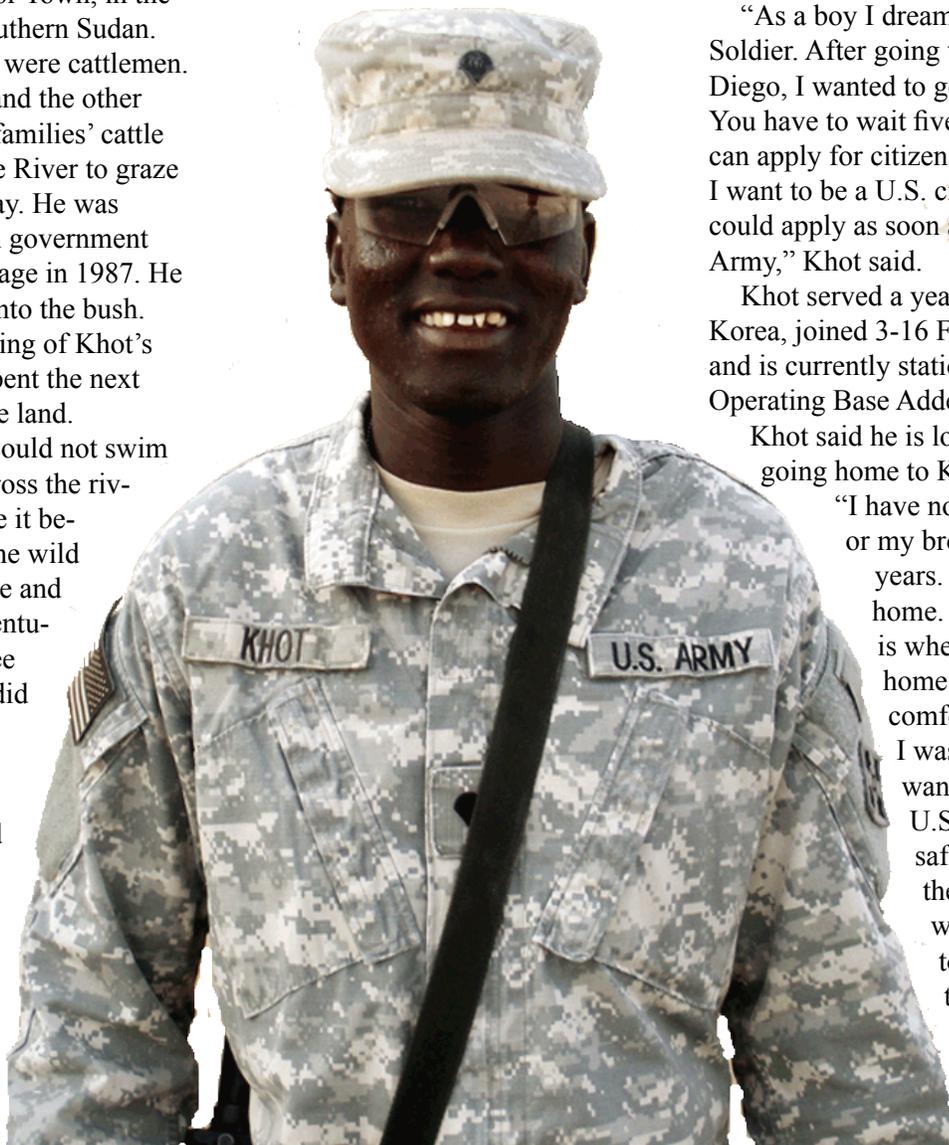
Khot joined the Army in 2006 to take advantage of the Army's educational opportunities and to become a U.S. citizen.

"As a boy I dreamed of being a Soldier. After going to school in San Diego, I wanted to get a better life. You have to wait five years before you can apply for citizenship as a refugee. I want to be a U.S. citizen. I knew I could apply as soon as I joined the Army," Khot said.

Khot served a year at Camp Casey, Korea, joined 3-16 FA in February and is currently stationed at Combined Operating Base Adder.

Khot said he is looking forward to going home to Kenya someday.

"I have not seen my mother or my brothers in five years. I want to go home. People say home is where the heart is or home is where you feel comfortable. When I was in Africa, I wanted to be in the U.S. where it was safe. When I was in the U.S., my mind would wander back to Africa. I think that home is in heaven," Khot said. 🇺🇸



Working together for a nation

Story & Photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente,
2BCT, 4ID PAO

CAMP ECHO, Iraq – With Iraqi Army Soldiers, Iraqi Police and U.S. Soldiers living and working together, the Joint Security Station in Diwaniya shows with daily missions and cross-training that they are all dedicated to one goal: a self-sustaining and an independently secured Iraq.

In the short time since the arrival of Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, they have conducted training and daily missions that keep the Iraqi Security Forces in the forefront and the U.S. Soldiers providing assistance when needed.

There is a vast improvement to the quality and capability of the ISF, said Staff Sgt. Adam Martinez, section sergeant, Co. C, who deployed previously for Operation Iraqi Freedom I and also in 2005-2006. He said the ISF presence is now strong and consistent in Diwaniya.



Staff Sgt. Kelley Martin, tank commander, C Company, 2-8 IN, and an Iraqi Policeman walk through a date palm grove during a patrol in Diwaniya Oct. 14.



Sgt. Abel Valli, squad leader, C Co., 2-8 IN, and an Iraqi Army Soldier scan for anything suspicious during patrol in Diwaniya date palm grove Oct. 14.

“Iraq has changed a lot since the last two times I’ve been here. It went from having hardly any checkpoints to having them every one or two blocks here,” said Martinez, who comes from Harlingen, Texas.

“I think that helps the public. They see an IPs or IAs all over the place or on patrols and it lets the people know that the (ISF) are taking charge of their country. It gives (the ISF) a face to the public so they can see how they’re working hard to make their country better,” said Martinez

“It seems as if the people will approach them for any problems, because they’re used to seeing the ISF out there,” he said, adding that the citizens’ requests for ISF assistance illustrates that the people trust them to keep the peace.

The U.S. presence in the area provides more of a support role and assistance in professionalizing the ISF, said 1st Lt. Cory Guenther, fire support officer, Co. C.

“Our working with them shows them a baseline of what standards we’re using and gives them a (sugges-

tion) of some of the tasks they should be accomplishing,” continued Guenther, from Tomah, Wis.

With each patrol including IA and IP personnel, there are less U.S. Soldiers required for the missions, which puts less strain and calls for less U.S. manpower, said Guenther.

He adds that as the ISF continue to progress, more American Soldiers will find their slots replaced by Iraqis. The Iraqis will take more and more of the security responsibilities and the Co. C Soldiers will fade more and more into the background, until they are no longer needed.

Working with the Americans helps the ISF become more proficient, said Hori, a Soldier with the 4th Battalion, 8th Iraqi Army Division. He said that they are all working together and eager for the time when the ISF will be able to do their jobs without foreign assistance and Iraq will be strong and self-reliant. 

Attack Company begin operations at COP Four

Story by Capt. LaRue Meehan,
2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry
Regiment

CAMP ECHO, Iraq – Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, are currently working at the Combat Outpost 4 in Qadisiya Province.

Although there is plenty of work to do, constant vigilance against security threats and the Soldiers are far from home, Soldiers find life at COP 4 better than they expected.

Since Attack Company's recent arrival to COP 4, they have already conducted patrols, said Pfc. Kyle Edgbert of 2nd Platoon.

He was eager to share that when they conducted their first patrol in the town, he didn't know what to expect. His first time to Iraq, he said his first

patrol, although uneventful, would be among his most memorable.

"Iraq has done a 180 (degree turn)," said Sgt. Andrew Leasure, who is no stranger to Iraq and is on his second combat tour.

He goes on to add "there are a lot of things better this time around," explaining that he was mortared every day during his first deployment.

He also added that "it's much easier to drive this time."

He said he was astonished at how much cleaner the city is, compared to his first tour.

He said he is impressed with how far along the Iraqi's have come since his last tour. He said there are a lot more Iraqi Police that are doing their job, to include putting on their body armor.

Leasure recently went on a patrol where they trained Iraqi Army Soldiers to enter and clear a room. He stated that this would never have occurred the last time because the IA Soldiers would never show up to train.

"Things are going a lot better than last time," repeated Leasure.

He remarked that quality of life at COP 4 is pretty comfortable.

"The containerized housing units are nice and there is plenty to do here. (The air conditioning) works all of the time and the food is pretty good."

Phones are also available and the Soldiers can hit the gym. Leasure said that he feels that it is safer overall this time around, echoed by many of his fellow Soldiers serving in Iraq again.

"Overall, the morale is good," said Leasure. 

2-4 ID commander visits 204th BSB at FOB Kalsu

Story and photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente,
2BCT, 4ID PAO

FOB KALSU, Iraq – With the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's recent arrival to Iraq, the brigade commander, Col. Butch Kievenaar, visited with the 204th Brigade Support Battalion at Forward Operating Base Kalsu Oct. 3.

With the brigade units spread out over a large area of operations, Kievenaar, visited the FOB to monitor operations and the Soldiers' quality of life.

"I think it's good for the Soldiers when the command team comes out and visits and asks us how things are going. It shows that they're not just names you hear about, but you get to see them in your work areas," said Spc. Chad Stump, a mechanic with Company B, 204th BSB.

"It shows they are interested in where we are, how we're doing. We can also show them we're ready to do our mission," Stump added, a native of Elkview, W.Va.



The brigade's senior ranking officer and noncommissioned officer met with battalion key leaders and staff members, visited work sites and living quarters, and talked with the Soldiers at various locations.

"It shows me that they actually care about the Soldiers and are willing to take the time to see how the battalions and their Soldiers are doing, especially since we're on different FOBs," said Pfc. Aurelia Thompson, a supply specialist from Company A, 204th BSB.

"I think it helps the morale of the Soldiers to see them take such interest," Thompson continued, who hails from Tohatchi, N.M.

Both Soldiers, along with Pfc. Os-himar Matthewson, a supply specialist with 204th BSB Headquarters and Headquarters Company, were also awarded commemorative brigade coins during the visit, after their supervisors singled them out for their hard work and exceptional professionalism. 

Buffalo Soldiers conduct MASCAL exercise at Summers

Story by Sgt. Rodney Foliente
2BCT, 4ID PAO

COB SUMMERS, Iraq – The Buffalo Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted a simulated mass casualty exercise at Combat Operation Base Summers Oct. 15.

As Soldiers relaxed for a meal at the dining facility, a simulated fire raced through the building, as Soldiers' reacted to protect themselves and evacuate the casualties for medical attention.

The medics of the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Troop then had to assess the wounded and treat them in order of medical priority.

"Once we knew the type of casualty, we were able to quickly get them from the casualty control point to the aid station," said HHT 1st Sgt. Edward Smith from Miami.

"It is important for Soldiers to conduct training like this— it builds confidence. We can talk about a MAS-



photo by Ed Keeser, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Soldiers from 1-10 CAV., evacuate a Soldier with simulated wounds to the aid station during a mass casualty exercise at COB Summers Oct. 15.

CAL but we need to execute it so that everyone knows what to do if it really happens," he added.

"This was the first MASCAL exercise the Squadron has conducted since (the National Training Center, Calif., in spring).

It was important to find shortcom-

ings and holes in our plan and find out what we need to fix," said Capt. Robert Johnson, physician assistant from Beaverton, Ore.

"We found some minor things we need to correct but overall it was a good exercise," agreed Capt. Sunghun Cho, doctor from Hagerstown, Md.

The exercise was observed by Col. Butch Kievenaar the brigade commander, who talked to the Soldiers during the after action review.

"This was great training. Hopefully the only time we do this is in training, but this is necessary to ensure we are able to take care of our Soldiers in the event of an emergency," he said.

"It is important that we train in combat situations to be prepared, because we never know what can happen tonight," said Kievenaar. 



photo by Ed Keeser, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Medics from 1-10 CAV., assess the wounds of a Navy Seabee during a mass casualty exercise at COB Summers Oct. 15.

Story Ideas?

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JSS, local community build relations

2-8, ISF begin security operations in Diwaniya

Story and photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente
2BCT, 4ID PAO

CAMP ECHO, Iraq (Sep. 30, 2008)
– As a patrol of Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 8th Iraqi Army Division and Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, move through the streets, doors and gates open as local citizens of Diwaniya come out to greet them.

Children move forward; shyly at first but then among a chorus of chattering voices, high-fives and handshakes. The parents and young adults smile indulgently as they also greet the patrol. In the background children absorb themselves in games of soccer, but they pause now and then to wave.

The patrols began as the 2-8 IN Soldiers arrived at Diwaniya's Joint Security Station Sep. 23, and have consistently been met with just as much local enthusiasm and welcome.

"The community was very friendly. It was a nice shock ... not what I expected. They come out of their houses to meet us and talk to us during our patrols," Pvt. David Shirley, driver, Co. C, from Bakersfield, Calif.

"Part of our mission is to interact with the local Iraqi population to see what we can do for them. They're very friendly and receptive to our presence and say they are happy to have us here working with the ISF," said 1st Lt. Tyler Bradley, platoon leader, Co. C, who comes from Austin, Texas.

Interacting with the community is important for building trust and strengthening the relationship between the citizens and the JSS, said Hori, a sergeant with the 4th Battalion, 8th IA DIV. Doing joint patrols with the U.S. Soldiers also strengthens the bonds between the JSS personnel.

Working and patrolling side by side also gives the ISF more practical experience to add to the training they are continuously receiving from the Co. C



Staff Sgt. Ryan Parkinson, master gunner, Company C, 2-8 IN, 2BCT, 4ID, entertains a group of young boys during a dismounted mission Sep. 27 in Diwaniya. Parkinson comes from Rexburg, Idaho

Soldiers, said Bradley, adding that the Comanche Soldiers have also benefited from working alongside their Iraqi counterparts.

"They've contributed a lot to the mission already," said Bradley, as the 2-8 IN Soldiers learn more of the area. He said the ISF know their way around the area and are more familiar with the people.

As the JSS expands, more ISF will be brought in, particularly Iraqi Police and other ISF elements to augment the IA soldiers currently there, said Bradley. The goal for when the U.S. departs is for the different ISF components to be able to police and maintain security of the area by working together, drawing upon each agency's strength and making the JSS a more robust and capable force.

"I think meeting the people is a good thing. They are our new neighbors and they need to see the ISF doing their part to show them that they can take care of the people and the

community, said Sgt. Terry Phillips, gunner, Co. C, from Madison, Wis.

Comanche Company is there to assist in training and professionalizing the ISF, so that they can become more proficient in their duty "to protect the people living here and to help guarantee the basic needs of the people," said Phillips.

All of the missions include Iraqis in the forefront. But with a smaller ISF presence there currently, the patrols have more Americans than Iraqis. But as their presence at the JSS expands, the ISF role will become progressively more prominent, while the U.S. role lessens, said Staff Sgt. Donald Anderson, platoon sergeant, Co. C, from Jackson, Miss.

"We're doing joint operations all the time, with them up front and in the lead; approaching their people. We're just here to help," said Anderson. 🇺🇸

WARHORSE BRIGADE, UNCASES COLORS AT



Col. Butch Kievenaar, and Command Sgt. Maj. Frederick Thompson uncase the colors during ceremony here October 4.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II 2BCT, 4ID PAO

CAMP ECHO, Iraq (Oct. 4, 2008)—With several country flags already flying high in front of the Multi-National Division- Central South headquarters, Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, participated in a ceremony to unveil the latest colors to fly at the camp- the colors of the ‘Warhorse’ brigade.

The next week, Soldiers from every company stood tall as Maj. Bruce Terry barked the command for attention. Even in the blistering Iraqi heat, the Soldiers of the “Lonestar”

battalion showed they lost no military precision, even though they are in a combat zone.

Onlookers watched with pride as their colors were removed from its case, signifying that the battalion had officially arrived.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Headquarters and Headquarters Troop and 2BCT Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, participated in ceremonies to uncase their colors here Oct. 4 and 9 to recognize the official transfer of authority of the camp over to the brigade.

“Even though we are already doing missions, the time is right to show that we have officially arrived in theater,” said Col. Butch Kievenaar, 2nd BCT, 4th ID commander during the brigade ceremony.

“We are making history here in Iraq. Today is for you to take your place in that history,” said Lt. Col. Leo Caballero, 2nd STB, commander during his remarks.

In both ceremonies, the commanders were flanked by their senior enlisted advisors, Command Sgt. Maj. Fredrick Thompson and Command Sgt. Maj. Wade Myers, respectively,

LONESTAR BATTALION

ECHO

as they unfurled the colors. After both ceremonies, the command teams presented combat patches to their staff and command teams, and those who were on their first deployment.

The brigade assumes responsibility of the provincial-controlled Qadisiya Province, a task that primarily falls on the Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment.

“Part of our mission is to interact with the local Iraqi population to see what we can do for them. They’re very

friendly and receptive to our presence and say they are happy to have us here working with the ISF,” said 1st Lt. Tyler Bradley, platoon leader, Co. C, 2-8 IN and native of Austin, Texas.



Lt. Col. Leo Caballero, 2nd STB commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Wade Myers, the senior enlisted advisor for the battalion uncase the colors during a battalion uncasing ceremony here Oct. 9.



Spc. Anthony Madden, a signal support specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2BCT 4th ID, is given his combat patch by Col. Butch Kievenaar, during the uncasing ceremony here October 4. Kievenaar awarded the patches to those on their first deployment to Iraq.

The ceremony was held the same day as the Polish army commemorated its successful mission in Iraq with an “End of Mission” Ceremony. The Polish contingent ended operations Oct. 1, after completing ten rotations in Iraq.

Although it’s mission accomplishment for the Polish forces, it’s a new type of mis-

sion for the brigade from Fort Carson, Colo., as they will continue the process of professionalizing the Iraqi Security Forces in the area.

“The Warhorse Brigade will provide overwatch with assistance by, through and with the Iraqi Security Forces, as they continue to secure the Iraqi population in this province,” said Kievenaar.

The STB’s mission is to provide communications, intelligence, mobility and security support to enable the brigade’s unit of action and accomplish an assigned objective, said 1st Lt. Anthony Zangoglia, battalion administration officer. 🇺🇸



AROUND AO



Iraqi schoolgirls watch as a Soldier from B Co., 2-8 IN, 2nd BCT, 4th ID walks across a street during a dismounted patrol in Diwaniya, Oct. 19. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT 4th ID PAO.



Spc. Justin Zito, metal worker, Company B, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, grinds and shapes a metal part at Forward Operating Base Kalsu Oct. 21. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT 4th ID PAO.



Spc. Christina Brink, force protection sergeant, Military Police Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, directs the perimeter security during a mission to visit the Iraqi Police Qada District Headquarters in Diwaniya Oct. 5. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT 4th ID PAO.



Sgt. Deguzman, Company C, 2-8 IN, 2BCT, 4ID, window shops for toys at a local store in the 8th Division Iraqi Army during their dismounted patrol. Photo by Airman 1st

WARHORSE



Staff Sgt. Tarras Ray, B Co., 2-8 IN, 2BCT, 4ID, covers the rear of the formation during the dismounted patrol of Diwaniya market. Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT 4th ID PAO.



Soldiers from 1-10th CAV, 2nd BCT, 4th ID, work at building a desk at FOB Summers Oct. 6. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO.



market stand with an Iraqi soldier from Class Matthew Plew, Combat Camera.



Staff Sgts. Chester Darris and Staff Sgt. Richard Cansler, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, 4ID, take the oath of enlistment, led by Col. Butch Kievenaar, commander, 2nd BCT, during a reenlistment ceremony at FOB Kalsu Oct. 21. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente, 2nd BCT 4th ID PAO.



An Iraqi Soldier from 4th Battalion, 8th Iraqi Army Division, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Thomas, tank commander, Company C, 2-8 IN, 2BCT, 4ID, begin to check out an empty building for any possible threats during a mission Sep. 27 in Diwaniya.

Building up the force: *ISF, U.S. Soldiers work together at JSS*

Story and photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente,
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

CAMP ECHO, Iraq (Sep. 30, 2008) – The Soldiers of Comanche Company come from all walks of life. Born in different countries and states throughout America, young and old, they joined with a singular purpose.

They enlisted or reenlisted after Operation Iraqi Freedom began—a testament to their dedication for a secure Iraq. Whether it's their first or fifth deployment to Iraq, their service and dedication binds them into a strong team.

Throw into the mix Iraqi Security Forces and you have what some might find to be surprising camaraderie and tightening cohesion between the two forces.

They joke with one another, share family pictures and dreams, eat, train, work and live together—chipping away the language and cultural barriers;

learning from each other.

To them, it just seems to be the natural order of things. They say they are one: fighting for the Iraqi people and a secure, self-governing Iraq.

Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, began teaming up with the 8th Iraqi Army Division at Diwaniya's Joint Security Station 2 Sept. 23.

As they continue to refurbish the station, plans are set to soon bring Iraqi Police and other ISF components into the station, creating a center where the different Iraqi security elements can refine working together to further professionalize their security capabilities in serving the people.

"We're building the JSS up for the ISF to take over. It will be the central hub for the ISF to better manage the area with an economy of force, having

each element of the ISF here working together. When we leave Iraq, the ISF can continue successful security operations in Diwaniya," said 1st Lt. Tyler Bradley, platoon leader, Co. C, who comes from Austin, Texas.

Living and working together has done much to help make them more comfortable with each other and provides constant opportunities to learn from one another, said Bradley.

"They're just as excited to learn English as we are to learn Arabic," said Bradley

As if to illustrate the point, outside, Iraqis teach Americans an Arabic song. They laugh as the U.S. Soldiers botch a few words. An Iraqi soldier tries to make a joke about this in English, but needs help from one of the 2-8 IN Soldiers. The group laughs again.

There is much for each group to learn and much to teach.

The U.S. Soldiers have been con-

ducting classes and training for the ISF, which has proven beneficial by adding a greater degree of discipline and professionalism to their ranks, said Bradley.

“The ISF are emulating us and look forward to patrolling with us. They want to learn and are thirsty for knowledge,” said 1st Sgt. Duayne Uhlig, Co. C, from Wickenburg, Ariz.

The JSS IA soldiers agree.

“I am very happy to work with the Americans so we can further develop our capabilities to do our job successfully,” said Hori, a sergeant with the 4th Battalion, 8th IA DIV, via a translator.

He said he is very hopeful for the near future of working with the U.S. Soldiers and for the time when Iraq no longer needs assistance to secure and govern itself.

Many of the Soldiers who have deployed to Iraq before note a marked and positive difference in the ISF capabilities from previous tours.

“I see a lot of improvement from



Staff Sgt. Donald Anderson, platoon sergeant, Company C, 2-8 IN, 2BCT, 4ID, listens with surprise to Jay-Z, the music selection of an Iraqi Army Soldier at the Joint Security Station in Diwaniya Sep. 27.

the last time I was out here. The ISF are a lot more disciplined and are becoming more professional. They’re taking care of business and providing security for the area,” said Staff Sgt. Donald Anderson, platoon sergeant, Co. C, who is on his third deployment to Iraq.

Although Diwaniya is his home for the duration of the deployment, his thoughts drift back to the states. He admits that deployments are hard, especially being apart from his Family.

“You kind of get used to it and so does the spouse ... but it’s still kind of hard,” said Anderson. He said that a supportive Family— who believes in what their Soldier has to do— and being able to communicate back home makes deployment easier to deal with.

“It’s hard,” he repeated, “but I’m an Army Soldier; it doesn’t matter what the Army wants me to do or where they want me to go, I’ll go. It’s my job and I think it’s important to be out here. We’re trying to improve the situation. It’s good for us, the Iraqis and everyone.”

Thoughts of home hit everyone, but the Comanche Soldiers expressed confidence in their Families being taken care of and they wanted their Families to feel confident of their Soldiers’ well-being.

“We know our Families are supporting us and taking care of each other back home. It’s hard for Soldiers to be away from Families and hard for Families to be apart from their Soldiers. We’re here for each other and know the (Family Readiness Group) is there to support the Family members. The FRGs are even contacting the parents of single Soldiers and keeping them informed,” said Uhlig.

“We’ve got our guys working hard but they don’t know the word ‘quit.’ I’m proud of them. I consider it a privilege to stand before these guys and the company commander feels the same way.”

There is a lot of hard work the Comanche Soldiers have accomplished and a lot of hard work before them, but the Soldiers’ morale is extremely high, said Uhlig.

“Building up the JSS establishes stability for the community and lets them feel safer. We’re doing a lot of hard work with long hours right now, but it’s just what we’ve got to do. For the deployment, this is our home too,” said Pvt. David Shirley, driver, Co. C, from Bakersfield, Calif. 🇺🇸



Sgt. Zack Holder, medic, Company C, 2-8 IN, 2BCT, 4ID, treats a heat casualty, an Iraqi Army Soldier, Sep. 26 at the Joint Security Station in Diwaniya Sep. 26. The IA Soldier’s noncommissioned officer offers assistance and learns from Holder during the evaluation and treatment.

‘One foot forward’ Roughriders participate in Kalsu 10-miler

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt.
Miguel A. Rivas, 204th Brigade
Support Battalion

With more than 140 military and civilian personnel on hand, during the early morning race, Capt. Adhana J. McCarthy realized quickly she would have plenty of competition at Forward Operation Base Kalsu’s 10-Miler Oct 5.

If McCarthy was seeking a runner’s high or wanted to be part of the tradition that allows Soldiers to connect with their brothers-in-arms across the globe during a sporting event, she could be forgiven, but the Long Beach, Calif., native admits she had other motives.

“I wanted another t-shirt,” McCarthy laughs, wearing her red shirt earned by participating in the 2006 Kalsu 10-Miler. “How many people can say they have run 10 miles in the same obscure place? I get to do it, twice.”

The Kalsu race coincides with the U.S. Army Ten-Miler, held every October in Washington, and is widely considered one of the largest 10-mile road races in the world.

Soldiers from the 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, represented their battalion well during this year’s FOB Kalsu version. Not only did 29 Roughriders come out for the run, two males and two females crossed the

finish line in the top five in their respective gender categories.

Spc. Matthew Maddox, distribution platoon, A Co., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was first among the Ft. Carson group. The other top finishers in the battalion were Capt. Michael Cooke, battalion operations assistant; Sgt. Rosa Mendoza, chaplain assistant, and Edelina Calle, Issue Section, A Co.

Maddox said he has been running since his mother, Margaret, bought him a pair of running shoes at the age of six.

His life didn’t exactly change, however it certainly started moving faster. The 29-year-old still fondly remembers how he started dashing from room to room inside their Springfield, Ill., home. Even today, he can be seen walking at a quick pace as he heads down to the motor pool.

“Running is my hobby. It’s relaxing, definitely,” said Maddox. “I love to run. That is what I do.” He has made qualifying for the Army Ten-Mile team a priority upon returning to Ft. Carson.

Calle said she signed up for the Army Ten-Mile as a way to challenge herself. The big payoff was not her coming in as the fourth fastest female, the Triunfo, Ecuador, native said, but that she could share her achievement with her eight-year-old

son, Jeffrey.

“Oh, that’s awesome, mommy!” Jeffery said, in an e-mail before giving his mom a verbal high five. Jeffery is also a member of his third grade track team, showing that he can carry on the family tradition as well.

When presented with a picture of her assistant passing a group of secu-

rity guards, Chaplain Lisa Northway, Mendoza’s boss, had a quick thought.

“When she is not around, I can tell people that she is running around somewhere,” said Northway, holding a copy of Mendoza’s photo.

Running around somewhere is something that Cooke is known to do. Shortly after the battalion



Sgt. Rosa E. Mendoza, 204th BSB chaplain assistant, runs her way to a fourth-place finish among all female participants in Forward Operation Base Kalsu’s Army Ten Miler Oct 5.

moved north from Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, Cooke began spending more time on the treadmill in preparation for the race. The San Diego native said he is no stranger to running in the sand.

Some of the other obstacles that the 2004 West Point grad faced, however, were not as familiar.

“The course was difficult because it had “the muddy part by the sewage pond. I had to run past the burning piles of trash. The moon dust was tough since you could not see where you were running,” he said

Not that Cooke is complaining. Cooke added that the race was a way to break up the daily back-and-forth grind of going to the battalion tactical operations center and the temporary tents.

“(Ann) was happy I did it,” said Cooke, when asked about breaking the news to his wife. “She knows that running makes me happy. She was proud that I finished in the top five, but she worries about my lungs.”

All the runners who placed received medals and certificates and even those that did not finish fast enough to earn a top five finisher medal or a certificate came away with a T-shirt as a keepsake.

Although McCarthy received her new shirt, she said that there is still more to why she chose to participate in the grueling run.

“Kalsu feels like a second home,” said McCarthy. “I feel closer to Kalsu.” 

Maintaining military intelligence

Story & Photo By Capt. Andrew Camp, 2STB, 2BCT, 4ID

CAMP ECHO, Iraq – The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, which is equipped as one of the most technologically advanced BCTs in the Army, requires a wide variety of military intelligence equipment in order to conduct military operations.

When a military intelligence system breaks, the call goes out to the brigade’s intelligence electronic warfare repair shop, assigned to the BCT’s military intelligence unit: Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT.

“The mission of the IEW shop is to operate, integrate, repair and maintain mission-essential military intelligence systems in support of the combatant commander,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Kripplebauer, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of IEW operations for 2nd BCT. “We keep the brigade’s military intelligence systems up and running and save the Army time and money by providing direct service and system integration.”

The IEW Soldiers are in a position to make on-the-spot repairs to keep the intelligence systems up and running and information flowing. IEW Soldiers are also the subject-matter-experts for the systems and provide



The Soldiers from the intelligence electronic warfare repair shop, Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are the “fix-it” personnel and maintainers of the BCT’s military intelligence equipment.

advice on their employment to the command and assistance with the integration of intelligence systems.

“Depending on the mission, the Brigade intelligence officer may need to set up his systems in a configuration that has never been used before,” said Kripplebauer. “Our job is to take that configuration and make it work.”

Operating in Camp Echo, Soldiers from most units on the base continually come and go, bringing electronic equipment of all descriptions. The shop’s shelves are filled with radios, hard drives, computers, and printers in various stages of disassembly and repair.

“We are also capable of troubleshooting and repairing small electronics,” said Kripplebauer, indicating the electronic components lining the walls. “There really isn’t anyone else in the Brigade who can do that.” Dealing with such a wide variety of equipment creates

a unique environment which requires IEW Soldiers to think outside the proverbial box.

“Our job requires a lot of initiative,” said Spc. Adam Darrah, a communications maintainer recently reassigned to the IEW shop from the 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd STB. “We have to coordinate with division and civilian companies to get the parts and information we need to complete the job.”

The knowledge and capability to fix almost anything electronic has created a certain esprit de corps among the IEW Soldiers.

“When I come to work in the morning, I never know what’s going to come through that door,” said Darrah. “But I’ll fix it.” 

Chaplain's Corner: "Enjoy a Purpose Driven Life"

By Chaplain (Maj.) John Kallerson
2BCT chaplain

What is your purpose in life? It is a question that every man and woman will wrestle with at many points during their lifetime. I contend that it is one of the most important questions you will have in your life and that you will wrestle with this topic as you grow not only in years but in wisdom. I encourage you to take time for yourself to examine this question during our deployment. While many people today seem to examine this question without guidance or help, there is no need to do this alone.

Several years ago, a book was written by Pastor Rick Warren on the topic of purpose in our lives and it became very popular. He wrote it after he spent many years wrestling with the question of his purpose in life. He was seeking to discover what scripture revealed as God's view on the topic. Perhaps this all sounds simplistic, but when you consider all the books written on the topic and the fact that many people still have no clear understanding, I submit it is anything but a simple task.

The Bible is a tremendous book—the book of life—but it does not take you long to discover that the more you read it, the more questions you have. I contend we will all struggle with this concept our entire lives and our views will change over time ... if we give them some attention. Warren's book hit a nerve and has helped many people start the journey of discovering their purpose in life. He worked

Stetson, from page 4

ing sure the Soldiers get good food with the proper nutrients and calories to accomplish their missions and extra work.

One of the buildings being refurbished is the main barracks, which will give the Soldiers currently crowding into other buildings, a greater deal of personal space. Also, when the unit they are replacing redeploy home,



very hard to make a complicated issue understandable, not simple.

At the core of his book, Warren proposes five benefits of a purpose driven life:

First, knowing your purpose gives meaning to your life. When you seek your purpose in life, you will find significance and hope that helps you cope with the challenges of life.

Second, knowing your purpose simplifies your life. You can build a foundation on which you have an ability to make sound decisions and decide how to use your time and where you will put your personal resources.

Third, knowing your purpose focuses your life. You can increase your effectiveness in your activities when you focus in on selective areas like a laser beam; work, relationships, church, social life, etc.

Fourth, knowing your purpose motivates your life. We become energized

there will be additional living space available.

Soldiers have shower trailers and are expecting more shortly, as well as power and air conditioning in their living and work areas.

"Our goal is to improve the quality of life for our Soldiers and promote partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces, so they can stabilize and

when we have a clear purpose, which translates into choosing a direction for your life's journey.

And finally, knowing your purpose prepares you for eternity. What ultimately matters about our lives is not what others value about us but rather what will God value about our lives? I encourage everyone to consider their purpose in this life so that they may fully enjoy the benefits of life now and eternally. The Prophet Micah shines a light on the topic in the Bible's Book of Micah 6:8 where he states, "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

My prayer is that we will all seek to know our purpose in life so that we may help one another while walking humbly with our God. In this manner, I believe we will all start to enjoy the benefits of a purpose driven live. God be with you all. 🇺🇸

secure their own country and we can turn all this over to them," said Kelley.

It will take time and hard work, but these Soldiers seem up to the challenge. 🇺🇸

A Co,1-67 laying down foundation for success

Story by 1st Lt. Christopher Freeborg, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment

HAWIJAH, Iraq – Company A, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, recently completed the Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority with Company C, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

After conducting joint patrols with the outgoing unit, Co. A assumed the lead on operations surrounding Hawijah.

While a 14 day RIP/TOA may seem unusually long; the Soldiers realize there are two RIP/TOAs taking place at the same time — one between the two battalions and another between Coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

Capt. Larry Brown, Co. A commander said he faces challenges unlike any he experienced on his first deployment to Iraq in 2004. Not only is Brown responsible for targeting, pursuing, and eliminating insurgent activity in the area; but he will also seek ways to stimulate the local economy, advise city councils, and oversee millions of dollars of Iraqi contracts.

Brown is working closely with Iraqi leaders such as town mayors, sheiks, contractors, Iraqi Police leaders and Iraqi Army officials to accomplish these tasks.

During the RIP/TOA process, Brown met many key local leaders by attending the grand opening of an IP station, having lunch with a local

mayor and finishing off his day with dinner at an IA General's compound.

Of course, it will take time to build up to the level of personal relationships forged by 1-87 IN. Cooperation between CF and Iraqi Security Forces successfully reduced violence in the area by approximately 90 percent over the last year.

The Alpha Company platoon leaders, 2nd Lt. Christopher Smith and 1st Lt. David Miller, said they are equally busy learning their area of operations. Initially, they observed patrols led by the outgoing unit's leadership and familiarized themselves with current tactics, techniques, and procedures used by 1-87 IN.

Taking the time to sit down with Iraqi leaders was something the 10th Mtn. Div.'s Soldiers executed very well, and the bond developed between CF and Iraqi leadership was essential to the reduction in violence over the last year, said Sgt. Glen Fadden, Co. A.

He said in his previous deployment, the focus was on the U.S. taking the lead to get terrorists off the streets and secure the area. That responsibility now lies mainly on the competent shoulders of the ISF.

"Now the emphasis is on meeting the local leaders, building up the Iraqi communities and showing the local populace that their government is capable of supporting them," said Fadden.

On a recent mission in Abassi, Smith met with a local city council

member and the Civil Service Corps subcontractor to evaluate the progress of the newly Iraqi-funded program. The intent behind CSC is to teach Iraqis the necessary skills to find jobs for rebuilding the infrastructure of their communities.

Most students are motivated to get paid for learning; yet, ensuring full attendance has been very challenging. Smith said he was very pleased to see that 97 out of 105 students were present for training and he took the opportunity to speak with some of the students.

The students said they were very pleased with the curriculum, which includes carpentry, electrical engineering, plumbing, masonry and general management.

"I wish I could take those classes. They are really informative and it is on subjects that are useful in everyday life. It's easy to see how the CSC will improve the standard of living here," said Pvt. Daniel Gower, Co. A.

The Abassi CSC program looks very promising, said some of the students, who are eager to learn a new trade and contribute to rebuilding their neighborhood.

"They are all doing a great job, and the hard work will benefit their community greatly," said Smith.

The Soldiers of 1-87 IN showed that the fruits of hard work can be reaped if cultivated, and Co. A, 1-67 AR plans to do just that; continuing to build upon what has already been accomplished.

November MWR classes at Camp Echo

Abs Class: *Every Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday at 8 p.m.*

Belly Dancing Class: *Every Tuesday @ 9 p.m.*

Boxing Class: *Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 p.m.*

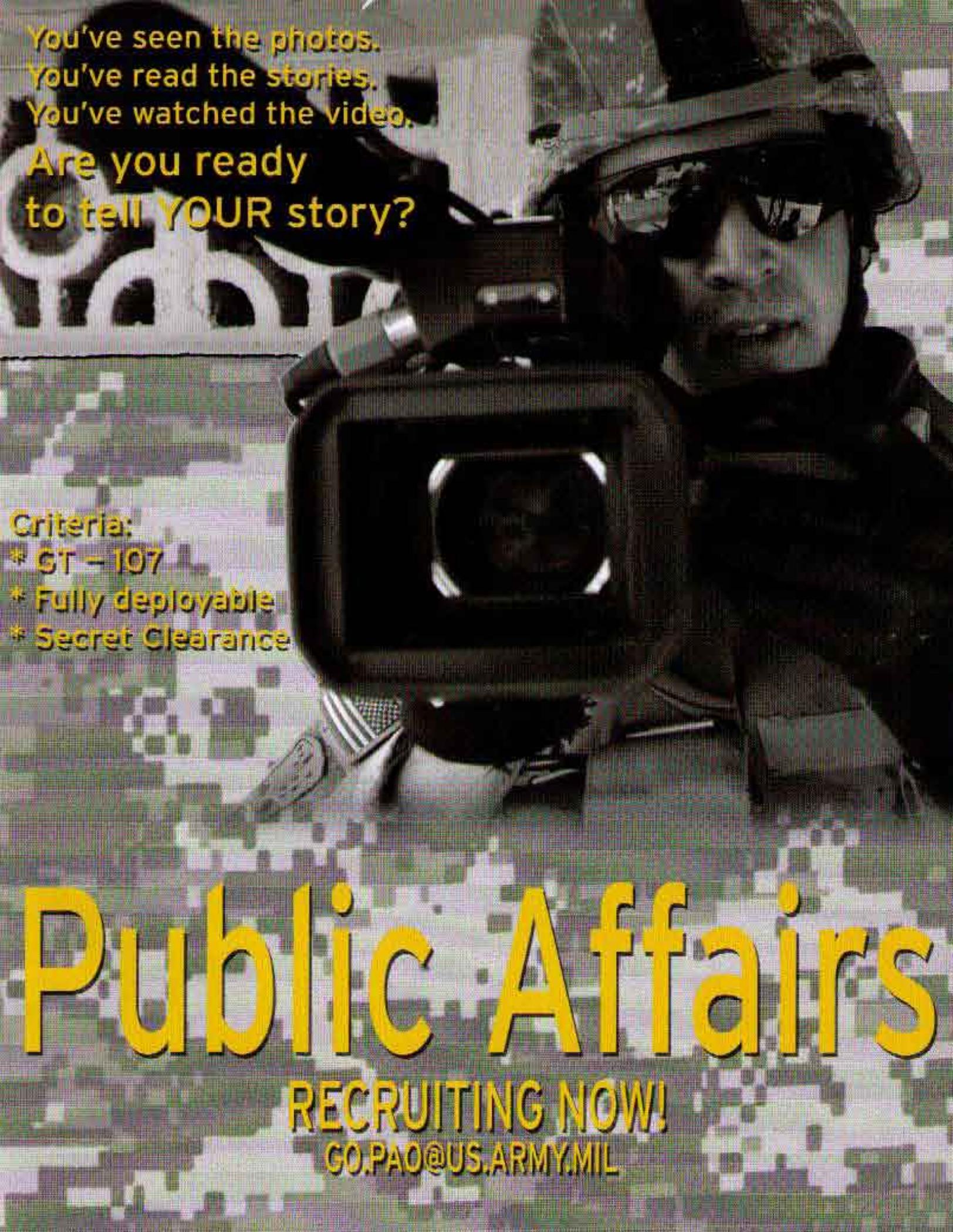
Salsa Class: *Every Wednesday at 9 p.m.*

All Classes held in MWR room in gym, second floor!

Sing and dance at the theater! *Every Friday @ 8 p.m.*

Karaoke
Every Saturday @ 8 p.m.
Disco/Hip-Hop Night

Every Sunday @ 8 p.m.
Salsa Night



You've seen the photos.
You've read the stories.
You've watched the video.

Are you ready
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Criteria:

- * GT - 107
- * Fully deployable
- * Secret Clearance

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