

Vol. II, Iss. I

May 1, 2008

THE RALLY POINT



Serving the men and women of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division - Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom



RAIDER BRIGADE
joins MND-B in
Al Rashid



THE RUCKSACK



Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond
4th Infantry Division Commander
Multi-National Division - Baghdad

Col. Ted Martin
1st BCT Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb
1st BCT Command Sergeant Major

Maj. David Olson
1st BCT Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT Public Affairs NCOIC

Spc. David Hodge
Staff Writer

Sgt. Vin Stevens
Broadcast NCO



MAY 1
2008
VOL. II,
ISS. 1



The Rally Point is published monthly in the interest of the Families and Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the Armed Forces deployed in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The Rally Point is a U.S. Army funded publication authorized for the members of the Armed Forces, under the provision of AR 360-1.

The views in *The Rally Point* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army.

To contribute to Raider Brigade's *The Rally Point*, contact the 1st BCT Public Affairs Office or send stories, photos and information to david.j.olson1@us.army.mil or brent.michael.williams@us.army.mil.

Significant contributors to the May 1, 2008 edition include: MND-B PAO; Capt. Brett Walker and Capt. Daniel Eickstedt; as well as the men and women serving in support of the Global War on Terror. Thank you!

What's in the bag ...



The Leader's Handbook ... pg. 3



1st BCT Soldiers assume command of Southern Baghdad ... pg.4



Raider Brigade Soldiers take up camp in Kuwait's Udairi Desert ... pg. 6



Rashid Commercial Bank opens in Doura's center of commerce ... pg. 8



Raiders meet with prominent sheik ... pg. 9



MRAP: Bigger, Better, Stronger ... pg. 10



FRONT SIGHT POST: KUWAIT TO BAGHDAD ... pg. 12



COUGARS: Business as Usual ... pg. 14



WARRIORS: Maintain East Rashid ... pg. 16



Marne Commander visits Tuskers Battalion ... pg. 18



Packhorse Battalion trains Iraqi NCOs... pg. 20



Ghost Squadron Soldier's quick decisions save man's life ... pg. 21



Raider Brigade Soldier's maintain physical and mental fitness for new mission ... pg. 22



RAIDER SAFE ... pg. 23



Chaplain's Corner ... pg. 23



COUNTERFIRE: Combat Camera ... pg. 24



Col. Ted Martin, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, unfurl the "Raider" BCT colors during a Transition of Authority ceremony April 13, officially assuming responsibility of Forward Operating Base Falcon and coalition operations in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

LEADER'S BOOK

STEADFAST AND LOYAL



Col. Ted Martin

Motivated Raider Brigade Soldiers!

We have occupied Forward Operating Base Falcon, located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad and have begun operations to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Baghdad and Iraq.

Soldiers, I must say, we are off to a great start!

On April 13, the Raider Brigade, 1st BCT, officially joined Multi-National Division -- Baghdad, taking command from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Thank you, Dragon Brigade! The honor is ours!

We have accomplished this feat, only after spending much needed time to acclimate and train, honing our skills and preparing our equipment for our new home away from home.

Since arriving in Baghdad, we have completed a textbook transition into this operating environment as the Raider Brigade Combat Team conducts a wide array of security and civil-military operations in support of the Baghdad Security Plan and the Iraqi people.

The Soldiers of the Raider

Brigade are working alongside the local and national governments, the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi and National Police and the Sons of Iraq, or Abna al-Iraq, to better provide security for the more than one million people living in Rashid.

The Iraqi Security Forces prove to us daily that they are 100 percent capable of providing a better future for the people of Iraq.

The Raider Brigade currently has orders for a 15-month rotation to Iraq, and as such, the Soldiers of this BCT will close the legacy of 2008 in Iraq and open a new chapter in 2009.

We have many milestones to look forward to this year, to include provincial elections, which will pave the way for national elections next year, and we will be ready!

In the days ahead we will focus our attention on the many needs of this district and work to maintain the levels of security and stability that the Iraqi people enjoy today.

We are working with the local Iraqi leaders in the muhallas, or neighborhoods, and beladiyas, or communities to make much needed improvements and progress towards rebuilding an infrastructure decimated from decades of abuse and negligence.

And all this in the first 30 days of arriving in Baghdad!

All the while, I look forward to the future, knowing that we have only just begun!

Finally, to the Families of the Raider Brigade and the Rear Detachment: Thank you! Your support back home keeps us going.

RAIDER 6

To the men and women serving in support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and Multi-National Division – Baghdad from Forward Operating Base Falcon:

To date, we have done an excellent job; from the deployment, to staging in Kuwait; through the movement into Baghdad and the brigade's transition into the current mission to better the lives of the estimated 1.2 million Iraqi people of the Rashid District.

We are operating from Combat Outposts and Joint Security Stations throughout southern Baghdad. We are conducting combined operations in support of Iraqi Security Forces, and we are sustaining the fight at every level.

Remain focused! Leaders ensure that your Soldiers have situational awareness of their mission and the importance that each and every Soldier plays in helping the 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division – Baghdad achieve its mission.

Stay vigilant! We will continue in our mission to assist the Iraqi people by providing security and stability. The Soldiers of this brigade will remain steadfast examples for the ISF to follow as they serve by our side.

Noncommissioned officers, set the example, and kill complacency before it starts. NCOs are the standard by which all Soldiers will be measured, and we will be held accountable.

Soldiers maintain over watch in all that you do. Ensure that someone has line of sight on you at all times. This is not the place to find oneself all alone. I want safety incorporated into all that we do – Raider Safe!

I also want to acknowledge the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, part of the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team, stationed at Fort Polk, La.; as well as the 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 3rd Infantry Division, deployed from Fort Stewart, Ga.

I look forward to this opportunity to work with these units and am proud to add them to our brigade combat team.

At the same time, I want us to remember the 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., operating at FOB Rustamiyah, attached to the 4th BCT, 10th Mountain Div.; and the 4th Bn., 42nd Field Artillery, attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Airborne Div. at FOB Prosperity. We will not forget!

Lastly, Soldiers make the time to let your loved ones know that everything is going well. Make use of the amenities that the Army provides. Write a letter, send an email or get on the phone. Let your Families and friends know that you love and support them just as much as they love and support you.

Enjoy this publication. Hold onto it, and know that we are the RAIDER BRIGADE – Steadfast and Loyal!



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb

Raider Brigade relieves Dragons

1st BCT takes on mission in Rashid District

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

“Upon the completion of distinguished service for Multi-National Division – Baghdad, the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, is released from attachment ...

“The 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, is hereby attached to MND-B in support of



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Sgt. Jose Moreno (left) and Spc. Frederick Gregory, both infantrymen assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, run up the brigade colors April 13, in front of the Raider Brigade Headquarters located on Forward Operating Base Falcon. The act was Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st BCT, first order during a Transition of Authority ceremony for the “Ivy” Division’s latest BCT to join Multi-National Division -- Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Raider BCT replaced the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, as it completed its 14-month mission to provide a safe and secure environment for the 1.2 million people of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

Operation Iraqi Freedom effective 13 April 2008, signed Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, MND-B, 4th Inf. Div., Commanding.”

Amidst the many changes that have taken place across Iraq’s capital last year, there was one more change left to complete for MND-B Soldiers and the 1.2 million citizens of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

MND-B said “mission complete” to the 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div., and welcomed the 1st “Raider” BCT, 4th Inf. Div., to its ranks April 13, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

“The 4th Bde. of the 1st Inf. Div. has Soldiered long and hard these past 15 months,” said Col. Ted Martin, commander, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. “The Soldiers in the Raider Brigade salute you for all that you have done.”

During the ceremony, the 1st BCT uncased its brigade colors signifying the beginning of its mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

The incoming brigade replaced the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, which officially ended its 14-month rotation when Col. Ricky Gibbs, commander of the 4th BCT, cased the “Dragon” Brigade’s colors.

During the ceremony, Gibbs thanked the Dragon Soldiers, who arrived in southern Baghdad at a turning point in the nation’s history and performed their mission with the utmost competence, professionalism, enthusiasm, and valor.

“Finally to the Soldiers of Task Force Dragon: your performance here was absolutely magnificent,” said Gibbs, who hails from Austin. “You truly made a monumental difference here. You will be remembered by generations of Iraqis, and U.S. citizens alike; for your bravery, compassion and many accomplishments.”

Since February 2007, the 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div., worked with the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and National Police to reduce violence in the Rashid district by approximately 90 percent, and worked with government and community leaders to improve quality of life for the 1.2 million citizens in southern Baghdad, said

Gibbs.

“You are all the living embodiment of the division’s motto you proudly serve: ‘No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great... DUTY FIRST,’” Gibbs said about the Dragon Soldiers.

Gibbs also recognized the Dragon Soldiers and the Families who have made the ultimate sacrifice in helping the light infantry brigade complete its mission.

Martin, a native of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., extended his gratitude to the outgoing unit for its professionalism during the brigade’s relief in place.

“The Soldiers of the Raider Brigade know and acknowledge the sacrifices of your Soldiers, and we will endeavor to uphold the high standards that you set in Rashid,” he said.

Raider Brigade Soldiers arrived at FOB Falcon in late March, weeks before the TOA ceremony, and immediately began integrating into the 4th BCT’s operations through a transition process, commonly referred to by Soldiers as a “Left Seat/Right Seat Ride.”

“The purpose is so the outgoing unit can show the incoming unit how they have been operating,” said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Nice, a fire support noncommissioned officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. “Soldiers have to gain an understanding of how the outgoing unit conducts its mission, and then they can apply that to their own way of doing things.”

For approximately two weeks during the Right Seat Ride, the Soldiers observe how the veteran unit conducts its missions and standard operating procedures, said Nice.

“Also the Right Seat Ride gives the incoming party time to set up their equipment so that when the switch occurs, they are fully operational,” said Sgt. 1st Class Loyd Rhoades, a fire support NCO assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div.



“The outgoing Soldier then begins to relinquish his duties to the incoming (Soldiers),” Rhoades explained.

The Raider Brigade Soldiers arrived in Baghdad eager to assume their mission, having trained for the deployment during the last 15 months and completed multiple major training events.

The Raider Brigade takes on its current mission as it has many times throughout history, said Martin to the distinguished

guests in attendance.

“The Raider Brigade is present for duty and prepared for combat. We will always be STEADFAST AND LOYAL, the Raider Brigade!” Martin said to the 4th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, and then turned to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, 1st BCT, to give his first order.

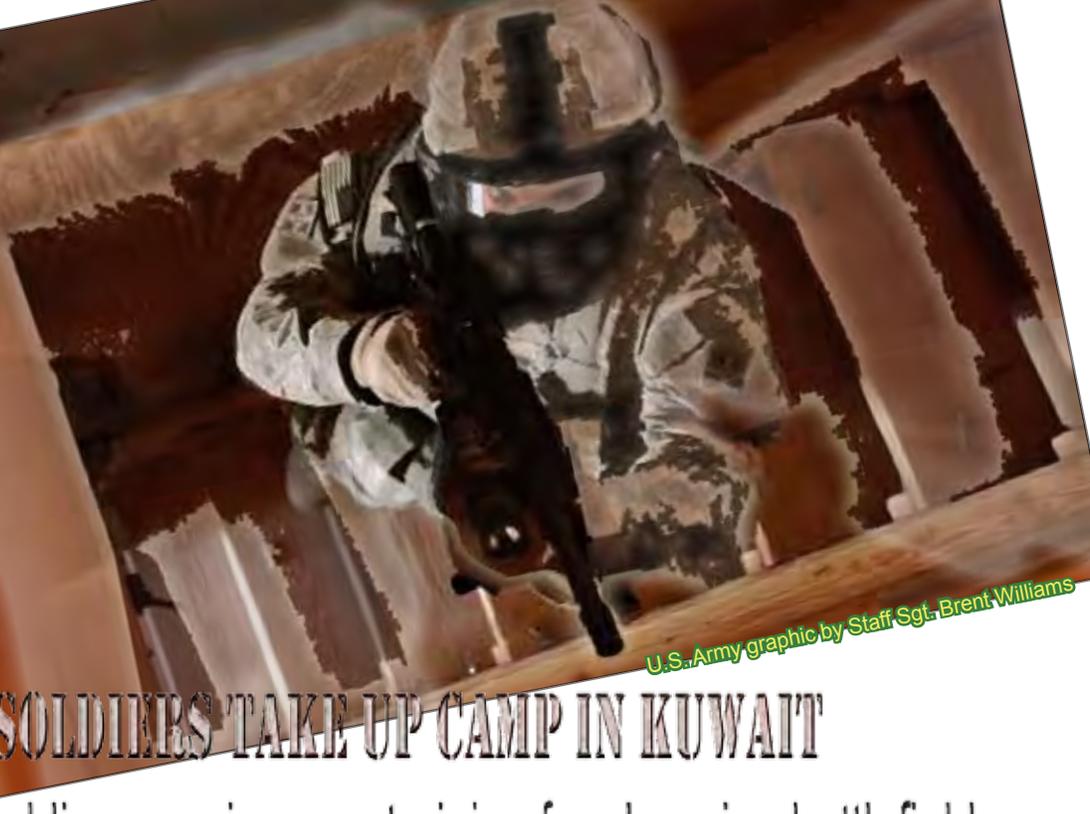
“Sergeant major, run up the colors!”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Col. Ricky Gibbs, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, case the 4th “Dragon” Brigade colors during a Transition of Authority ceremony April 13 at Forward Operating Base Falcon. The 4th BCT will return to Fort Riley, Kan., having completed its 14-month deployment to the Rashid district in southern Baghdad in support of Multi-National Division -- Baghdad and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Kyle Lobdell, an armor crew-member assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, climbs a flight of stairs while conducting Military Operations in Urban Terrain training, March 20, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Raider Brigade Combat Team conducted multiple training events at the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Training Village before moving across the berm to support Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



U.S. Army graphic by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

RAIDER BRIGADE SOLDIERS TAKE UP CAMP IN KUWAIT

Soldiers receive new training for changing battlefield

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

The Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pitched their tents at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, during the month of March, in preparation for their 15-month rotation with Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Raider Brigade Soldiers used this short time in Kuwait's Udairi Desert to hone their combat skills in preparation for the missions that will become a daily routine for the units that are deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Lt. Col. Paul Hossenlopp, deputy commander, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"The training here in Kuwait gives the Soldiers a chance to get acclimated to the theater and climate change," Hossenlopp said. "Also, it allows Soldiers to be successful at the personal and crew-levels before they enter combat operations."

Hossenlopp said that he believes the valuable training is a critical piece in ensuring the overall combat readiness for the Raider Brigade, and will better prepare the Soldiers to fight as a unit in Baghdad.

The latest round of training for the Soldiers incorporated the most recent techniques, tactics and procedures used on today's battlefield and served as refresher for some of the veteran Soldiers.

"We have had some new training this time," said Spc. Jario Calidonio, a scout assigned to the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT. "The (Improvised Explosive Device) training was good; it was a refresher for my mind."

Calidonio, who hails from Los Angeles,

said that the Soldiers of his Scout Platoon arrived in Kuwait combat-ready and look forward to the challenges of the future operations.

The training in Kuwait varied from hip-pocket training on the rules of engagement and laws of land warfare and instruction on the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer to three-day training events for the Army's newest combat vehicle, the Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicle.

Among the new training the Soldiers attended during their first two weeks in camp was a medical treatment-based class devoted to teaching Soldiers how to stabilize wounds until a higher echelon of medical treatment is available, said Mike Haight, a training facilitator and instructor at Camp Buehring's Medical Support Training Center.

"The training has evolved into more of a combat-casualty care and combat life saver course for Soldiers," Haight said.

This four-hour class has already paid dividends on the battlefield since its start in May 2006, explained the retired Special Forces medic with more than 15 years of service.

"Soldiers have said that the material taught in the class is what's working on the ground," said Haight, a native of Seattle.

Since its inception, the class has doubled in size and is on the verge of doubling its numbers again, said Haight. The number of Soldiers trained at the class since its last expansion has multiplied four-fold.

Raider Brigade Soldiers attending the class said it was educational, but lacked the usual classroom characteristic: boredom.

"The advanced combat life saver course was very informative," said Pfc. Jensen

Buller, a medic from Oshkosh, Wis., assigned to the personnel security detach-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Pfc. Jason Baker, a human resource specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, inserts a nasopharyngeal airway into the tracheal tube of a training mannequin during combat trauma casualty care training conducted by Raider Brigade Soldiers, March 17, at the Medical Services Training Center located in the Coalition Forces Land Component Command at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

ment, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "It was very good training."

The 1st BCT has added all the training of Kuwait to its repertoire, and with the rigors of combat operations inside Baghdad on the horizon, Raider Brigade Soldiers will be given the opportunity to adapt to a similarly harsh environment, said Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smiley, operations sergeant major, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"In Kuwait, the training builds the Soldiers' confidence on their weapons and hones other necessary combat skills," Smiley said.

Upon arriving in Baghdad, the 1st BCT Soldiers can expect to be busy learning their new area of operation from the outgoing unit, so it is important that the Raider Soldiers make the best of the training environment in Kuwait, said Smiley.

"We want to make Iraq a safer place for its citizens and security forces," Smiley said. "Also to make sure the unit replacing us is better situated in regards to training and the environment on the ground."

With their boots on the ground, the Soldiers continue their reception into the Central Command Theater with orientation briefs and several periods of classroom training while allowing their bodies to acclimate before conducting rifle and gunnery ranges.

"The Soldiers have met the standards," said Smiley, who hails from Lake Village, Ark. "Overall, Soldiers are achieving all the training goals, and in fact, are ahead of schedule."

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade continued to conduct pre-combat checks and inspections to ensure that they are ready to assume their upcoming mission in Baghdad's Rashid District.

For more photos and video of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and the 4th Infantry Division visit:

<https://www.dvidshub.net>



Armor crewmembers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, fire the main guns of their M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks, March 16, during a tank screening at the Udairi Range Complex, Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Soldiers of the Raider Brigade Combat Team trained in preparation to begin combat operations in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Rashid Commercial Bank

New bank opens in Doura's center of commerce

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Eight months ago opening a bank in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad sounded like a good way to stir up trouble.

Fast forward to the grand reopening of the Rashid Commercial Bank April 20 in Doura.

A crowd of excited faces and Soldiers from both the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Iraqi Security Forces, assembled around a doorway secured only by a strand of ribbon.

With a snip of the scissors, the crowd of Iraqi citizens, which had amassed hours earlier, began filing inside to use the banks services.

"Today is a historic day for us," explained Zuhair al-Jumaily, bank manager. "We are pleased to reopen this branch and provide services to the residents of Doura."

With tellers already in position to begin work, the residents of this center of commerce known by many as the Doura Market trickled inside through the taut security.

"In the past, Doura's situation was very bad," Jumaily explained. "Today, the area is safe and secure. The bank will serve a large number of residents, and we are very pleased with the efforts of the Coalition Forces."

Capt. Daryl Carter, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn, 4th Inf. Regt., 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, works with the residents of Doura and patrols the streets daily.

"The place was basically desolate until about eight months ago," Carter explained. "Now, if you walk down Market Road, it's a gold mine. We can barely drive through this area without being surrounded by people."

When the community was at its worst, many of the residents abandoned their homes and businesses to seek refuge some place else, said Carter.

The lead contract manager for the opening of the Rashid Community Bank, Ahmed al Hadad, knew that the residents would be surprised when the rumor of the bank reopening spread around.

"All the people are very happy," Hadad said. "We



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

The bank will stay open past its normal business hours to ensure all customers are provided for, stated an Iraqi Security Forces Soldier. Dozens of citizens flocked to the reopening of the Rashid Commercial Bank in the Doura community of southern Baghdad April 20.

Local Iraqi ladies become the first customers of the newly reopened Rashid Commercial Bank April 20 in the Doura community of southern Baghdad. The bank is located a block from the renowned Doura Market, a center of commerce for many Iraqi residents.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge



invited everyone that lives in the community to the opening."

"It was a pretty monumental event," said 1st Lt. Justin Chabalko, mortar platoon leader, HHC, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. "Since security has been good, there has been a lot of progress in the area."

"Monumental" because it shows there is stability in the region, and also that the government can provide for its people, stated Chabalko, who hails from Hazleton, Penn.

In the afternoon, when the bank's business hours were near completion, a nearby vehicle's loudspeaker announced the bank would stay open until all the customers outside had been served.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

A crowd of Iraqi citizens awaits the opportunity to use the newest edition in the Doura community, the long-awaited reopening of the Rashid Commercial Bank, April 20 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Prominent Sheik meets with RAIDERS

Local leader encourages progress, unity and peace

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

A key figure in the community and a respected local leader for the Iraqi people living in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad, Sheik Jabbar Maaluf Al Jabouri arrived at Joint Security Station Doura with a procession of local leaders and family members.

The Sunni leader called for a meeting with Col. Ted Martin, the commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, to offer his gratitude April 22 for the Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces' ongoing efforts to bring stability and progress to the people of the Doura and Abu T'shir beladiyas.

Jabouri spoke directly to the senior leaders gathered in the room and said that the quality of life that the people of Al Doura enjoy today is due to the hard work and the sacrifices made by both the American and Iraqi people.

"Thank you for helping with all the Iraqi forces and American Forces who have made this area safer," Al Jabouri said to the brigade commander. "We're also happy that people are trying to reduce the military and work on providing community services for the people."

Ongoing projects to repair roads and recent business endeavors, such as the opening of the Al Rashid Commercial Bank in Doura, signify a much needed improvement for the local community, said Jabouri.

Brig. Gen. Karim Hoseinee, the commander of the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, coordinated and hosted the event that brought the leaders together for the very first time.

"It is always a good indicator of progress and more important, things to come, when leaders bring issues to the table, look for solutions and act for the common good of their people," said Martin, a native of Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

"We are committed to assisting the people of Rashid in making this community a better place in which the Iraqi people can carry on their work and build upon their futures," Martin said.

Al Jabouri personally thanked Martin, who attended the meeting as the new MND-B representative for coalition operations in Rashid and the commander of more than 3,900

service members deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jabouri, a figurehead in the predominately Sunni populated Doura community with a reputation for standing up against terrorists and criminals, said that he believes that security has improved enough in the area to bring families back into the neighborhoods, regardless of their differences.

"Doura was once a very bad area and a very dangerous area; so I will tell you, Abu T'shir and Doura are like brothers," Jabouri said to Martin. "The joining of these two is like reuniting brothers."

Jabouri also said that he would like to create a support committee that would work with the Government of Iraq to relocate Iraqi citizens displaced by years of violence.

"I have 40 families invited to move back to Doura," he said. "These families need support financially to help them stand up and get back on their

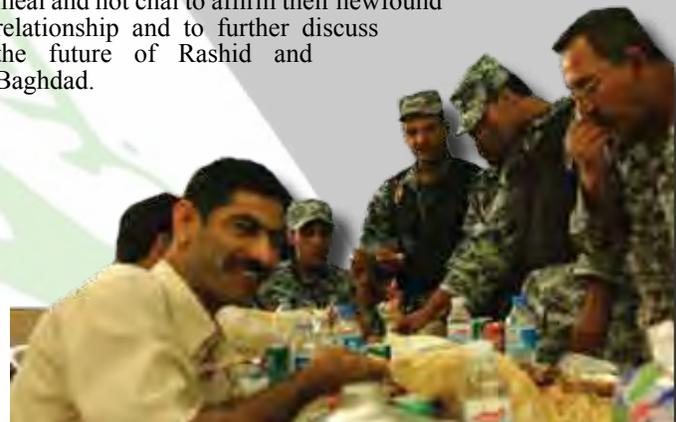
feet. It should not matter that they are Shia."

The leaders concluded the meeting with a meal and hot chai to affirm their newfound relationship and to further discuss the future of Rashid and Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Prominent local community leader, Sheik Jabbar Maaluf Al Jabouri (left) met with Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, April 22 at the Joint Security Station Doura. Brig. Gen. Karim Hoseinee (right), the commander of the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, coordinated and hosted the event that brought the leaders together for the very first time. Jabouri acknowledged the ongoing progress occurring in the Doura areas and called for Martin to help facilitate a reconciliation between the communities of Doura and Abu T'shir.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Iraqi National Police Officers of the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, come together for a special meal at the Joint Security Station Doura April 22. The meal signified the start of a new relationship between a local community leader, Sheik Jabbar Maaluf Al Jabouri and Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

A tan MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle is shown in a conflict zone. A soldier in camouflage is standing on the back of the vehicle, pointing towards the left. The vehicle is heavily armored and has a large front grille. In the background, there is a damaged building and another soldier crouching on the ground. The word "MRAP" is written in large, yellow, italicized letters in the upper right corner.

MRAP

**New vehicle provides MND-B
added protection against IEDs**

Raiders own the road with the MRAP

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers are patrolling the streets of the Rashid District in the Department of Defense's latest defensive measure to defeat the Improvised Explosive Device, the number one threat against Soldiers in Iraq.

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stationed at Forward Operating Base Falcon, are trading their up-armored gun trucks for the Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicles, recently issued to U.S. Armed Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Pfc. Shaun Landers, personnel security detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., said he prefers the MRAP over the High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle.

"The MRAP was built around the Soldiers," stated Landers, a cavalry scout from Anchorage, Alaska. "I feel very safe and confident operating this vehicle. It gives us that tight turning radius we desperately need."

In October 2007, the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, became the first unit in Iraq to receive the MRAP vehicles, said Sgt. Marquis Dawkins, a mortarman assigned to the PSD, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th IBCT.

"I'm impressed with the MRAP," said Dawkins. "The first time I saw it, it was intimidating. It was striking."

During the last six months, Dawkins said the MRAP

has proven itself effective in the war on terrorism.

"If a bad guy sees the MRAP coming down the road, he would probably turn and go in the opposite direction," said Dawkins, who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y.

The better the protection, the better Soldiers can pay attention to the mission at hand, said Spc. Christian Schmidt, an infantryman assigned to the PSD, HHD, 1st BCT.

"The MRAP makes it easier for us to focus on the mission outside the wire," said Schmidt, who hails from Ponce, Puerto Rico.

According to the International Mine-Protected Vehicle Student Guide the v-shaped hull of the MRAP is designed to deflect the force from explosions that originate underneath the vehicle, which increases the survivability for Soldiers.

Sgt. Michael Banaszak, infantryman assigned to the PSD, HHD, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., is the truck commander for the 1st "Raider" BCT's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb.

"The Army has adapted to the ever-changing war climate here in Iraq," stated Banaszak, a native of Roseville, Calif.

The height of the MRAP is substantially higher so Soldiers must be safety conscious when operating the vehicle on the battlefield.

"The drivers and gunners have to consistently communicate," Banaszak explained.

The gunner is the only Soldier in the vehicle with a 360-degree view, he added. The driver and gunner must effectively communicate to successfully navigate low-hanging obstacles on the road.

"Overall in a combat zone, the MRAP should stand the test of time," explained Banaszak.

Banaszak said that the fielding of the MRAP vehicle shows the U.S. Army's commitment to protecting its Soldiers and the 1.2 million residents of the Rashid District.

"As long as the vehicles are safer and prevent Soldiers from sustaining injuries, I'd have to say it's a definite improvement," Banaszak said.

Pfc. Shaun Hoffman, an infantryman assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, exits the Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicle, April 5, during a patrol in the Rashid District of Southern Baghdad. The MRAP vehicle is the Department of Defense's latest technological achievement to defeat the Improvised Explosive Device threat in Iraq. The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, will assume responsibility of the new vehicles as they join Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

FRONT SIGHT POST

SCENES FROM THE RAIDER BRIGADE
FROM KUWAIT TO BAGHDAD



BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR COUGARS

2nd Squadron, 2nd STRYKER Cavalry Regiment kicks off RAIDER TYPHOON



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Stryker Infantry Soldiers of Company F, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad, search a pool hall for evidence that could lead to the apprehension of high-profile terrorists and criminals operating in Baghdad's Abu T'shir and Saha communities in the southeastern Rashid District April 17. The MND-B Soldiers deployed out of Vilseck, Germany, last year as part of "surge forces" called to reinforce the Baghdad Security Plan, detained several suspects April 17 to include a suspected cell leader believed to be one of MND-B's most wanted individuals responsible for committing crimes and acts of violence in Baghdad. The pool hall was one of many objectives Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces raided during clearing operations April 16-17.

**Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.**

Knocking on doors; greeting the family; talking about politics, the neighbors, or just the weather, over a hot cup of overly sweet chai – a pleasant side of business for Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers who have operated in the southeastern Rashid district for the past eight months.

For Soldiers of "Fox," Company F, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B, interpersonal relations, consensus information and the pictures they create are the biggest contributors to the safety and security of the citizens living in the Saha and Abu T'shir communities of southern Baghdad.

"We want to build a relationship to give the people a normal life – to bring the resources into the community," said Lt. Col. Myron Reineke, commander, 2nd "Cougars" Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt., MND-B.

"This is about building relations in Abu T'shir and Saha," said Reineke to his commanders and staff officers during

the unit's final rehearsal for a three-phase operation that began April 16 in support of 1st BCT's Operation Raider Typhoon.

Stationed at Vilseck, Germany, and deployed as part of the "surge" force sent to reinforce security in support of MND-B and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Stryker infantry unit, will handover their areas of



Iraqi Police from the Bilat Police Station with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers, conduct combined patrols within the Saha neighborhood of Baghdad's southeastern Rashid district April 17.

responsibility to the troops of 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., in May.

In the meantime, the Soldiers of Co. F, occupying a Combat Outpost in northeast Rashid, want to take a few more bad guys off the streets before they leave Baghdad, even if they have to kick in a few doors to make it happen.

"We are conducting point raids to improve security for the people of Iraq," said Capt. Kevin Ryan, commander, Co. F, 2nd Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt. "Once security improves, we can focus on improving the quality of life for the people of Abu T'shir and southeastern Rashid."

The ongoing clearing operations are part of 1st "Raider" BCT's first effort since assuming its mission April 13 to deny terrorists and criminal elements a safe haven in the area that is home to approximately 1.2 million citizens in Baghdad.

The three-phased operation is reminiscent of the same work that the squadron has undertaken since the unit assumed responsibility for the area in August, said Ryan, a native of Quincy, Mass., and a graduate of the Citadel Military College, S.C.

Soldiers conducted pinpoint raids April

16-17, acting on military intelligence and information from concerned Iraqi citizens, to capture some of MND-B's most wanted terrorists and criminals, said Ryan, who is on his third deployment to Iraq.

The units then transitioned into the second phase of their operations, conducting ongoing atmospherics in the neighborhoods, working with the Sons of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq), the sheiks, and members of the local community, to gather data with the intent to build better relations with the predominately Shia and mixed Sunni-Shia communities, he explained.

"People who are sitting on the fence, and don't know which way to go, will go our way just because we talked with them," Ryan explained. "If we do this right, we will build relationships with the people which will empower them to be able to keep these bad guys from coming back into their neighborhoods."

Conducting census operations, checkpoint inspections, joint patrols, combined operations and traffic control points with Iraqi Security Forces is nothing out of the ordinary for the Stryker Soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Huie, a platoon sergeant assigned to Co. F, 2nd Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt.

"Us walking through the neighborhoods – that is an everyday thing," he explained.

Early morning raids hunting down 1st BCT's most wanted criminals is just an added bonus for the Fox Soldiers, said Huie, a 19-year veteran, who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y.; and is the company's acting first sergeant while his senior noncommissioned officer is on environmental leave.

"Our preferred method is to knock, and 90 percent of the people are more than willing to let us in," stated Huie. "Conversely, if we find a house that looks suspicious to us, or a family that looks suspicious to us, and they don't want to let us in their house, sometimes we have to cut



Staff Sgt. Koke Pomele, an infantry squad leader assigned to Company F, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, answers questions of a resident Son of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq) April 16 during cordon and search operations around the Saha Apartments in the southeastern Rashid district of Baghdad.

their locks.

"We may not see the results in the next three weeks, but I think this (operation) is going to generate a lot of tips and a lot more leads ... and eventually we will get them," added Huie. "Whether the people like it or not, we are coming through their whole neighborhood to get these criminals off the streets."

The company's mission has varied greatly during their time as a "surge unit" operating in southern Baghdad since August of 2007, said Huie.

The Fox Soldiers have worked throughout Saha and Abu T'shir in southeastern Rashid to assist with essential services, force protection for Iraqi contractors to fix sewage or electricity issues in the Iraqi muhallas (neighborhoods),

as well as providing over watch for ISF and SOI manning checkpoints, providing security for the local communities, he said.

Staff Sgt. Scott Campbell, squad leader, Co. F, 2nd Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt., said that he hopes to see more changes for the better as the unit prepares to leave Baghdad for its future mission in Ba'qubah.

"There's a better peace now, than there was before the 'surge,'" said Campbell, a native of Orlando.

Campbell a veteran of 11 years, said that in three deployments in support of OIF, from 2003 to today, he has seen many changes, especially in the security situation around southern Baghdad.

"I think that when we go around and meet the locals and get to know them better on a personal basis, they become more at ease with us," he explained. "The more we get to talk with them the better they trust us; the more they like us."

"I am not going to say that I have figured out how to make a permanent peace – it's not my job to, but I think that whatever we're doing, it is working," he added.

Campbell said that in addition to improving security, units must continue to work to improve the infrastructure to better meet the needs of the Iraqi people.

"They need to improve faster," he said. "Iraqis need to start pushing a lot more effort into rebuilding their infrastructure; power, water, medical treatment, jobs, ways to create jobs. Stuff that could be making them money is not making them money right now, and I believe that we need to pursue those endeavors more."

The Cougars will begin their third phase of the operations in May, as they begin to transition the Abu T'shir and Saha neighborhoods to 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.



1st Lt. Brady Cowan, a platoon leader assigned to Company F, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad sits down at an Iraqi family's request April 16 to discuss any concerns or issues they might have regarding security within their local community of Saha, a Shi'a and Sunni-mixed community in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Freedom + Stability + Security = Doura

Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Warriors Battalion helps Iraq's citizens reclaim their lives

The Raider Brigade Combat Team has a new ally in its mission to help the Government of Iraq and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers build upon the Doura beladiya, a predominately Sunni neighborhood located in Baghdad's Rashid District.

The 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, "Warriors," became attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division, April 13, when the Raider Brigade began its mission to assist the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi people.

"It is our intent to create a safe and stable living environment for the people of the Doura district," said Lt. Col. Timothy Watson, commander of the 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., part of the 10th Mountain Division's newest brigade combat team, the 4th BCT, which is based out of Fort Polk, La.

The battalion's current mission is to work with Iraqi Security Forces and the local district councils responsible for the community, which is home to the Doura market, a social, cultural and economic center in southern Baghdad, explained Watson.

"This area has all the potential to flourish economically and contribute to the proud cultural heritage of the Iraqi nation," Watson said. "Much of our time and effort has been devoted to facilitating the growth of the market complex while providing a non-intrusive yet highly effective security presence."

The units of the 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt. have partnered with the local Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police Forces, as well as the Sons of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq), to better secure the Doura muhallas (neighborhoods) from criminal and terrorist activity.

Soldiers maintain a presence in Doura 24 hours-a-day to better assist local ISF providing security for the



An Iraqi Army Soldier assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, mans a checkpoint, April 5, outside a Combat Outpost in Doura. Iraqi Army, Police and the Sons of Iraq, a volunteer-based Neighborhood Watch Program, maintain a 24-hour presence in the community located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

approximately 5,000 homes in the local community, said 2nd Lt. Jay Parsons, a platoon leader assigned to Company B, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt.

Units conduct joint and platoon-sized operations with their Iraqi counterparts everyday, operating out of Combat Outposts and Joint Security Stations in Doura, he explained.

"I try to ensure that we conduct some type of combat operation everyday," said Parsons, who calls Wichita, Kan., his home. "Be it cordon and search, or dismounted and mounted patrols – it's a constant thing."

"There are still a small group of criminal elements within the district that we are weeding out, but I do not see a major threat."

Security is not the platoon's only function, said Parsons, a graduate of

Wichita State University with a bachelors degree in history and criminal justice. He said his Soldiers also conduct daily atmospherics meetings with the Doura residents and visit local community businesses.

"There is still a lot of potential for growth in there," Parsons said. "There is a need for community services and there are definitely capable people within the district to run all that."

Company commanders of the 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt. are also working to stimulate the local economy and assist local business owners with micro grants, a small business loan to help revitalize areas, such as the Doura Market, he added.

Sgt. Keith Fosmire, a native of Cloversfield, N.Y., and a team leader in Parsons' platoon, said that in the short time since his unit began working with the Doura

residents, he has seen an improvement in the quality of life and an increase in the people's respect for their community.

"We had a big problem with garbage," said Fosmire, who describes himself as being devoted to the military and the mission.

"Now we're actually seeing the guys in the yellow jump suits and garbage trucks going around picking up the trash," he explained. "And we're seeing more jobs and more activity in the area than before."

Fosmire, who is on his fifth deployment of his 11-year career, said that he accredits the unit's success to the squared away and dedicated Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., as well as the extensive training the battalion conducted last year prior to its deployment.

He also attributed the progress made in Doura to the cooperation between the Iraqi people and coalition forces, as well as the work accomplished by previous units such as the 4th Inf. Div.'s 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Regt., from Fort Carson, Colo.

The Warrior Battalion arrived at Baghdad in December 2007 to become part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, which finished its 14-month mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April.

For more photos and video of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and the 4th Infantry Division visit:

<https://www.dvidshub.net>

2nd Lt. Jay Parsons, a platoon leader assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, inspects a busted main spewing water into a Doura muhalla, April 5. Parsons, a native of Wichita, Kan., conducts daily patrols and meets with local Iraqi residents to enhance relations with the local community and Iraqi people living in the Rashid district in southern Baghdad. Parsons reported the problem to his commander, who will work with local Iraqi leadership to ensure that the problem is fixed.

Sgt. Keith Fosmire, a team leader assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, part of Multi-National Division -- Baghdad, registers a Doura resident with a Biometric Automated Toolset System April 5.



Sgt. Fosmire takes point, April 5, during a combined patrol with the 3rd Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division. The Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces patrolled Doura's industrial commercial 5th Street and surrounding areas as part of efforts to provide stability and security for the 1.2 million people in the Rashid District, located in southern Baghdad.



Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad, help a resident of Doura push his car into his carport. The Soldiers conduct daily dismounted patrols to assist Iraqi Security Forces in their efforts to protect the Iraqi people.

4-64 ARMOR REGIMENT

4TH BCT - 3RD INF. DIV.

Commanded by Lt. Col. Johnnie Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Greene, the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, stationed out of Fort Stewart, Ga., deployed in October 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 4th Bn, 64th Armor Regt. became attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad. In April, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, assumed responsibility of southern Baghdad, but the "Tuskers" Battalion's mission of securing the Sadiyah and Bayaa areas of the Rashid district has stayed the same.



Seventeen Soldiers from the 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., recite their Oath of Re-enlistment April 18 before Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Inf. Div., and Multi-National Division - Center, during an awards ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad. "It's a true honor and privilege to re-enlist these fine Soldiers today," Lynch said. The "Marne" Division met their yearly retention goal in less than six months, thanks to 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers like the "Tuskers" Battalion.



Lt. Col. Johnnie Johnson, commander, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Greene, command sergeant major, 4th Bn., 64th AR, proudly display their newest possession, a 3rd Inf. Div. coin, presented to them by Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Inf. Div., and Multi-National Division - Center, April 18 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.

Photos by Spc. David Hodge
Raider Public Affairs Team, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

08-Faced S

08-Faced S

Always a Dog-Faced Soldier

Staff Sgt. Carlo Desantis, infantryman, Company A, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., sings the 3rd Inf. Div. song before receiving his Purple Heart from Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Inf. Div., and Multi-National Division - Center, April 18 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.



Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Inf. Div., and Multi-National Division - Center, pins a Purple Heart on the chest of Spc. Eric Stephens, an infantryman assigned to Company B, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., April 18 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad. "It is a true privilege to be here with the Tuskers," said Lynch, who hails from Hamilton, Ohio. "Once a dog-faced Soldier, always a dog-faced Soldier."



Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Inf. Div., and Multi-National Division - Center, takes a break from the stress of being a two-star general by switching rank with Pfc. Terry Blanford, an M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer assigned to Forward Support Company E, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., April 18 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.



Pfc. Robert Pogue, a tanker assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., receives a pat on the back from Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Inf. Div., and Multi-National Division - Center, after reenlisting April 18 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.

Tusker 6: Lt. Col. Johnnie Johnson
Tusker 7: Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Greene



Every Army needs a strong backbone 'Packhorse' trains NCOs



Warrant Officer Juan Sala, battalion maintenance officer, Company B, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, teaches Iraqi National Policemen about the principles of braking systems for their various trucks April 15 at Joint Security Station Doura in Baghdad's Rashid district. Sala, who hails from Corpus Christi, Texas, and two other "Packhorse" Soldiers teach Iraqi Security Forces different maintenance procedures every visit.

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Soldiers from the 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, know that the key to success in Iraq lies within well-trained Iraqi Security Forces.

These Soldiers take great pride in their duties of training the National Police in some of the areas necessary for self-sustainment.

"I really enjoy teaching the Iraqi Police because they are always really motivated," said Spc. Vicente Ayala, a medic assigned to Company C, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. "I believe the best way to get the Iraqi people on their feet is to teach them."

"Packhorse" Soldiers conduct convoys to different Joint Security Stations weekly to train Iraqi policemen, referred to by the locals as shurtas.

Soldiers currently provide instruction in three areas; basic medic course, weaponry, and mechanical maintenance.

"I really believe in this mission down to my very bones," said Ayala, who hails from San Antonio. "Deep down in my heart it's what I want to do."

The Iraqi policemen have not yet developed a reliable supply and parts system, said 2nd Lt. Gabby Canceran,

executive officer, Company B, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

"It is our goal to make them able to get supplies and parts in a quick manner," said Canceran, a native of Chicago.

Canceran's lead instructor, Warrant Officer Juan Sala, battalion maintenance officer, Co. B, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, teaches a different maintenance topic each week with the help of two other Soldiers.

"Today our mission was to get the police trained on the principals of braking systems for their different vehicles," said Sala, who hails from Corpus Christi, Texas. "If they are familiar with the systems, it will improve the mechanic's productivity."

"With this training, we are trying to set up a maintenance program for the (Iraqi) police so they can maintain themselves efficiently," he added.

To accomplish this, Sala and his team must ensure the police are able to sustain a functional motorpool.

Sala said the maintenance team frequently checks to ensure parts are ordered, inoperable vehicles are repaired, dispatching procedures are followed, and units maintain property book accountability.

This training is something the ISF can build upon until they can start running their own systems, said Sala. Then they will gain



Spc. Vicente Ayala, a combat medic from San Antonio assigned to Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, instructs a class on proper medical trauma care to policemen from the 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division April 15 at Joint Security Station Doura in southern Baghdad.

confidence in themselves to continue the mission.

The policemen, with aid from Coalition Forces, continue to accomplish their mission in Iraq by providing a safe and secure environment for the 1.2 million residents of southern Baghdad.



Capt. Jim Silverstrim, commander, Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, completes a walk-through inspection of a pharmacy April 15 at Joint Security Station Doura located in southern Baghdad's Rashid district. Silverstrim heads a group of medics offering medical trauma training to Iraqi National Police medics.

U.S. Army photos by Spc. David Hodge.

FIRST AID: Raider Brigade Soldier's quick actions, decisiveness save man's life

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

A Soldier from the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provided emergency medical treatment for a U.S. Army Contractor involved in a head-on collision, March 25, on a main supply route in Kuwait's Udairi Desert.

Staff Sgt. Michael Blake, a scout section sergeant assigned to Troop A, 7-10 Cav. Regt., was the first to render life-saving medical care to the critically injured man who crashed a sports utility vehicle into a light pole.

Blake was part of a convoy bound for port operations in Kuwait City to download the unit's cargo and equipment destined for combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, when the accident occurred.

"The second the pole hit the ground Blake veered the vehicle onto the side of the road and jumped out," said Maj. Lesley Ortiz, the 1st BCT Supply and Logistics Officer, who was traveling with the Soldiers when the accident occurred.

"He told me to contact emergency officials while he grabbed his Individual First Aid Kit and rushed over to the injured man," she said.

When Blake reached the vehicle, the injured man lay sprawled on the ground beside the SUV. Blake immediately provided the first aid, the same emergency medical trauma care that he has learned throughout his 11 years of service.

"I conducted all medical assistance in accordance with what I learned in (Combat Trauma Casualty Care)," said Blake, who hails from Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass.

"He took control of the situation," stated Ortiz, a native of Atlanta. "It was just amazing to watch him direct everybody around the scene."

Blake ordered one of his scouts to redirect the blocked traffic on the road as a medic platoon leader helped him with the casualty.

"As a scout section leader I get paid to make decisions on the spot," stated the former lifeguard. "I knew what I had to do. In this situation, I had to make sure he was stable until emergency services arrived."

Blake placed a makeshift splint on the casualty's wrist.

"I used two magazines to splint, what I believed, was a possible fracture to his wrist," Blake explained. "I also dressed and cleaned some lacerations on his forearm."

After Blake's initial assessment, the man said he tasted blood. Blake's instinct told him that the man had internal injuries.

All the noncommissioned officer could do was comfort the stranger until a higher echelon of care arrived.

Blake poured a small amount of water into the individual's mouth for his thirst and positioned himself so that his shadow would cover the injured man.

When the emergency medical services arrived, Blake assisted the emergency medical service workers with the spine board and neck brace.

In the days that followed, Blake consistently visited the provost marshal office to check the status of the gentleman, said Ortiz.

"The next day, I talked to the officer at the provost marshal, and the guy had a damaged aorta valve," Blake said.

Every Soldier should take the Army's Combat Lifesaver training, said Blake.

"That stuff really works," added the squad leader who credits his training for his performance that day.

Staff Sgt. Blake is one of those Soldiers that is always willing to help, said 1st Sgt. Shannon Boldman, first sergeant, Trp. A, 7-10 Cav., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"His actions on that day exemplify what an 'Assassin' Troop NCO should do in that situation," Boldman said. "He is a great leader and I look forward to serving with him during this deployment."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Staff Sgt. Michael Blake, a scout section sergeant from Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass., assigned to Troop A, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, provided life-saving emergency medical treatment, March 25, after a head-on collision left a Department of the Army Civilian critically injured outside of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Raider Soldiers maintain physical and mental fitness at FOB FALCON, Baghdad

Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

As the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, arrived at Forward Operating Base Falcon in Baghdad's Rashid District, the U.S. Army's greatest asset, Soldiers, are forced to adhere to a new standard in living conditions.

The "Raider" Brigade joined forces with Multi-National Division – Baghdad in March for its mission to assist the Government of Iraq and provide security and stability for the 1.2 million residents in the district. Soldiers on and off the base work hard to achieve this by staying physically and mentally fit during their 15-month deployment.

"There are a number of measures Soldiers take to stay safe in this new, harsh environment," said Bob Topolewski, Raider Brigade Safety Officer.

"I call it mastering the environment," he added. "Because if Soldiers don't, the environment will master them."

Iraq is a dusty, hot environment, and Soldiers must make every effort to maintain situational awareness in this climate, said Topolewski.

Soldiers can achieve this by following a few rules, such as eating properly, staying hydrated, and getting the appropriate amount of rest.

"I don't give Soldiers tips regarding safety," stated Topolewski, a native of Savannah, Ga.

"I give them the standard operating procedures. This is the best way, based on our experience, to keep Soldiers safe in this environment."

Topolewski said that many Soldiers lose attentiveness at some point during deployments, and some of the seasoned combat veterans might become complacent.

Soldiers must maintain situational awareness and look to their chain of command for guidance to battle complacency, he added.

"A safety program is only as effective as the noncommissioned officers in the unit make it," Topolewski explained.

Soldiers entering this new environment should pay attention to their surroundings and conduct pre-combat checks and



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Varcasia, an intelligence analyst from Pasadena, Calif., and Sgt. Braulio Ramirez, a human resource specialist from Caguas, Puerto Rico, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, carry their laundry, March 30, to the laundry facility at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad. Soldiers must maintain a level of personal hygiene and cleanliness in order to stay physically and mentally alert.

inspections on all equipment, said Staff Sgt. Charles Vincent, a topographic analyst from Lampasas, Texas, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

For Soldiers to sustain an acceptable level of mental and physical fitness, they must remain hydrated by drinking water.

"I need water to keep moving," said Sgt. Dustin Cole, a topographic analyst from Oberlin, La., assigned to HHD, 1st BCT. "If you become dehydrated then you become complacent."

"Hydration is important because we have yet to begin the summer months, and it keeps Soldiers mentally alert," said Staff Sgt. Denise Vail, medical clinic noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

"I'm looking forward to helping out the Soldiers," added

Vail, who hails from Fort Hood, Texas.

Lower back pain, upper respiratory infections and dehydration are the most common problems Soldiers bring to the clinic, said Vail.

"Physical fitness is very important to accomplish the mission in Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Aldwin McLean, an M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanic assigned to 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., Multi-National Division – Center. "It's our edge against our enemy."

For the last 15 months, the Raider Brigade has prepared to begin its mission in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad by training Soldiers to maintain their fitness levels in environments, such as Iraq.

For more photos and video of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and the 4th Infantry Division visit:

<https://www.dvidshub.net>



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

A Soldier from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, ground guides a Light Mobile Tactical Vehicle into the motor pool, April 2, at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad. The 1st BCT Soldiers of the Raider Brigade will replace 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in April to conduct security and stability operations in support of the Baghdad Security Plan.

RAIDER SAFE

Bob Topolewski
Raider Safety Officer

The Raider Brigade is one month into its deployment and our safety record has been excellent.

Now begins the process of transitioning from tenants to owners; accepting responsibility for all that is right or wrong with our area of operation and making it better.

Everyday each of us needs to ask ourselves three basic questions:

1. What does right look like?
2. What needs to be made safer?
3. What can I do to make it safer?

In many cases the answer is a simple adjustment that any of us can make independently; in other cases it will require a report through the chain of command and engineer support. Each case starts with the individual asking himself the right questions. We all know what right looks like regarding safety whether it involves preventing electrical fires or removing slip, trip and fall obstacles. In the end it takes the pride of ownership to do something about it.

We have started a 15-month marathon not a training exercise sprint. Everyone must take the time to do what is required to go the distance; this means eating a

proper diet, exercising five days each week, personal hygiene and rest. Without taking this marathon type approach you will become an accident looking for a place to happen.

Safety is about creating a cumulative effect; making small adjustments everyday and not waiting for someone else to make it happen.

Continuous safety improvement must be one of the daily missions of every member of the Raider Brigade. If we each embrace this attitude we will grow stronger and safer as our deployment progresses.

Chaplain's Corner

Maj. Trenton E. Lewis

Raider Brigade Chaplain

Coming into our present area of operation a month ago jolted me into a new reality. A reality I had only known notionally from the train up at the National Training Center. The initial attack on the chopper we flew in on, and the subsequent bombing attacks on Forward Operating Base Falcon, proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that I was in the throes of war, with no recourse but to endure and exercise prudent judgment in seeking cover from incoming rounds the enemy of human freedoms launched our way.

As I made the necessary adjustment to appreciate the danger that surrounded our FOB, my resolve to minister out of confidence and not fear was steered by the words from a verse in Psalm 23: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (Psalm 23:4)."

My fellow Soldiers, I offer these same words to you as you steel your resolve to soldier out of confidence and not out of this atmosphere of war. To successfully navigate through this atmosphere of war requires placing your trust in GOD and concomitant with your warrior skills and training GOD will help you to soldier with confidence and not out of fear as you journey through this valley of the shadow of death.

From the *Leaves of Gold* I leave you with an additional thought.

Courage: an independent spark from heaven's bright throne, by which the soul stands raised, triumphant, high, alone.

Sunday

- 0900 Contemporary Service
- 1030 Catholic Mass
- 1200 Inspirational Worship Service
- 1400 Latter Day Saints Service
- 1930 Intercessory Prayer

Monday - Friday

- 1145 Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- 1900 Traditional Protestant Worship Service
- 1900 Bible Study @ Velvet Camel

Wednesday

- 1900 Inspirational Bible Study

Thursday

- 1900 Catholic Bible Study (R.C.I.A.)

Friday

- 1230 Jumah Prayer - Islamic
- 1915 Inspirational Choir Practice

Saturday

- 1800 Inspirational Choir Practice @ Fallen Heroes Room
- 2000 Episcopalian Worship Service

COUNTERFIRE

ON POINT WITH COMBAT CAMERA



U.S. Army Spc. Lester Colley, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Lt. Col. Myron Reineke, commander, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment gives a backpack to an Iraqi orphan April 8 in Abu T'shir area of southern Baghdad.



U.S. Navy MC2(SW) Greg Pierot

An Iraqi girl looks on as U. S. Army Soldiers speak with her parents about insurgent activity in Abu T'shir community in the Rashid district of Baghdad on April 19.



U.S. Navy MC2(SW) Greg Pierot, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command

A tribal leader sits with U. S. Army Staff Sgt. Rob Rouleau of 312th Tactical Psychological Operations Company to discuss recent insurgent activity in Abu T'shir, Baghdad on April 19.



U.S. Army Spc. Lester Colley, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

An Iraqi National Police Officer reviews paper work at a check point on April 19 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.



U.S. Army Spc. Lester Colley, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

A group of Iraqis plant flowers and grass on April 19 in the Rashid district of Baghdad to help beautify their country.