

# Long Knife News

ISSUE 6

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## THE HUNTER



# Commander's Corner

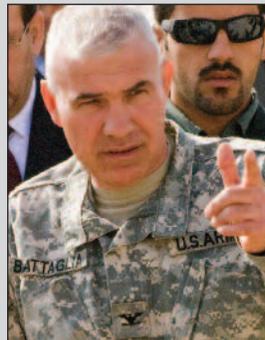
*By Col. Philip Battaglia  
4th BCT Commander*

I can't even begin to tell you how proud I am of each and every one of you and the great work that you continue to do here in southern Iraq.

It is inspiring to see the enormous impact you have made on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Security Forces in such a relatively short time. Senior leaders take note of your great efforts and are impressed by your professionalism.

The holiday season is upon us and we have planned events and special meals to help us celebrate these memorable days as a 'deployed Family' and as a band of brothers and sisters.

I encourage you to keep in touch with your Families back home, but also keep your focus as we continue our operations to achieve our nation's goal in Iraq.



**Col. Philip Battaglia**

Remember the enemy knows it's our holiday season and are looking for you to let down your guard. Maintain your vigilance

and continue to watch out for each other.

We are in the middle of our leave period and I want you to make the most of your days back home. During your leave, enjoy yourself, but be safe and act smartly -- don't take unnecessary risks.

Both speeding and drinking make you more vulnerable on the roads in the United States than driving on the roads of southern Iraq.

Keep working with and im-

proving the ISF everyday. They are the future to a stable Iraq and the key to our mission accomplishment. They benefit greatly from your expertise and skills.

The senior Iraqi leaders I interact with are envious of your discipline, courage, skill and professionalism.

I am impressed to see how your efforts have improved their effectiveness thus far. There is no doubt we are on the right path in our partnership with the ISF.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the mission and service to our nation. I am extremely proud to lead this brigade because of all of our efforts.

You're doing a great job, Long Knife Troopers!

Long Knife!  
First Team! 🇺🇸

## Long Knife News

### FROM THE SHEATH



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Kenneth Young  
Pfc. Ken Young checks his weapon before leaving the gate Nov. 1.



Long Knife photo by Cpl. Jonathan Floria  
Soldiers assigned to C Troop, 1-9 Cav. Regt., patrol a river Oct. 25.

- Col. Philip Battaglia ..... 4th BCT Commander
- CSM Edwin Rodriguez ..... 4th BCT CSM
- Maj. Chad Carroll ..... Public Affairs Officer
- Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore ..... PAO NCOIC
- Spc. Creighton Holub ..... Editor
- Spc. Rebekah Lampman ..... TV Journalist
- Pfc. Terence Ewings ..... Photojournalist

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Long Knife photo by Cpl. Jonathan Floria

**A team of boats loaded with Long Knife Soldiers assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, patrol a river in their unit's area. The troops are using rubber boats to stop smugglers in the Maysan province.**

## Hunters use boats to halt smugglers

*By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenk  
1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.*

**FOB HUNTER** – The Long Knife Brigade not only replaced an airborne brigade, but has one-upped the previous unit by conducting waterborne operations in the Maysan province since late October.

In the early morning, Soldiers assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, took their squadron on its first tactical boat mission, during Operation Shoemaker.

The waterborne mission is a new task the Soldiers completed in order to facilitate the combat smuggling in the diverse landscape and terrain in the Maysan province. The province's terrain varies from mountains in the north to swamps and marshes in the south. Maysan also has the massive Tigris River and canals that stretch across the entire area.

"I like the fact that our mis-

sions are so varied," said Pfc. Robert Marquise a combat medic assigned to the squadron's C Troop from Troy, Ohio. "Its nice to be able to go from mounted patrols to working in boats, it changes the whole dynamic of my job, that's for sure."

The tools that the troopers have to patrol these bodies of water vary from the large dual outboard motored Boston Whaler armored boats with radios and high tech equipment that are in the unit's ground vehicles, but for water operations to the inflatable RB-15 rubber boat with a small outboard motor which was used in small shallow water areas during Operation Shoemaker.

The squadron's partnered Iraqi Security Forces have several large fan boats they use to patrol the swamps along the Iranian border to stop smuggling and other illicit activities.

The Iraqi Department of Bor-

der Enforcement's troops were supported by D Troop's mechanics that fixed their boats. The American troops used their vast knowledge of the boats' motors that are small block V-8 engines.

The operation was conducted near the village of Mushara with two RB-15 boats and a squad of Soldiers from C Troop. They patrolled in the boats with the help of a dismounted patrol that gave them security from the shoreline.

"The boats worked great, I did a little training on them in Ranger School," said Chicago native, 2nd Lt. Thomas Pierczynski. "It was nice to use my infantry skills in a combat zone."

The boats add an additional element to the unit that gives them the flexibility to take the fight to the enemy no mater where they are, or what surface they are on. 🇺🇸

# Long Knives, White Sharks teach Iraqis artillery

By Maj. Chad Carroll  
Long Knife PAO OIC

**COB ADDER** – The Iraqi Army conducted indirect fire training in the Dhi Qar Province Nov. 25 with U.S. and Romanian counterparts.

The 10th Iraqi Army Division Special Forces teamed with 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and the 341st Romanian In-

fantry Battalion to develop their artillery and mortar capabilities.

The troops fired rocket-assisted projectile systems from Contingency Operating Base Adder while an observation team from each of the three units observed the impacts from a safe distance.

“This was a great initial step for the Iraqi Army to build their indi-

rect fire capability,” said Maj. Christopher Robbins, Long Knife Brigade assistant operations officer. “They are ready to field their own artillery and mortar systems.”

The training was the first piece of a foundation building toward a live fire exercise with the Long Knife Brigade and the 10th Iraqi Army Division. 🇺🇸



Courtesy photo

**Soldiers from the 10th IA Div's Special Forces, the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., and the 341st Romanian Infantry Bn. prepare to conduct indirect fire observation training in the Dhi Qar province Nov. 25.**



Courtesy photo

**Soldiers from the Long Knife Brigade, the 341st Romanian Infantry Bn., and 10th Iraqi Army Div. Special Forces pose for a group photo in the Dhi Qar province Nov. 25.**



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

**A woman from Majarr al Kabir, Iraq, thanks the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, for assisting during the food handout. The Al Yaq Dha Al thaka Pia foundation and the Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team helped provide food to local citizens.**

## Troopers assist in food delivery

By Pfc. Terence Ewings  
Long Knife PAO

**FOB GARRY OWEN** – Waiting in line, Ahmed al Zahra, a citizen of Majarr al Kabir, a city in southern Iraq, looks to his left and right as he views the numerous amount of individuals in front of him also waiting to receive their fair share of food.

He questions one of the Iraqi soldiers and asks if there is enough food for everyone, considering that he is clearly at the end of the line, but the soldier reassures Zahra that there is plenty of food for everyone at this non-governmental organization food distribution by the Al Yaq Dha Al thaka Pia foundation.

“The organization has a schedule and keeps records on all the poor families that could benefit from some additional help,” said Zahra, who is the sole provider of his family of seven. “It’s a huge benefit because we don’t have the money to purchase food for our families.”

Currently unemployed, Zahra finally gets to the front of the line where he is greeted by American Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment.

“I am very happy these Soldiers could be here to help out today,” said Dan Foot, Maysan’s Provincial Reconstruction Team leader. “I think this is a very positive step for us.”

Foot explains that this is the first time the Americans have been in this part of the Maysan province for a NGO food drop.

“Even though they had little American influence before today, they’ve accepted our smile and hand-

shakes as if we were old friends,” Foot said.

This is the second NGO food drop where the 4th Brigade ‘Long Knives’ have assisted the PRT in the

four months the brigade has been deployed to southern Iraq..

Lt. Col. Edward Bohne-mann, the commander of the Garry Owen troops, believes the people of the Maysan

Province appreciate the efforts of the coalition forces here.

“This food distribution went well, just like the previous one,” said Bohne-mann, from Bronx, N.Y. “We are going to continue to do good things to improve upon the conditions for the people here.” 🇺🇸

*“I am very happy these Soldiers could be here to help out today. I think this is a very positive step for us.”*

**Dan Foote**  
Maysan PRT leader

# Convictions put away 10 Amarah criminals

By Maj. Chad Carroll

Long Knife Public Affairs Office OIC

**COB Adder** – A few years ago, Soldiers could complain that criminals they apprehended in Iraq were back on the streets the next week.

However, those days are gone – especially in the Long Knife Brigade.

On Nov. 5, the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, apprehended 11 individuals who were suspected of conducting indirect fire attacks against Camp Sparrowhawk and Forward Operating Base Garryowen.

On Nov. 24, 10 criminals were convicted in the Iraqi judicial system under Code 401 – Terrorism. They are now awaiting sentencing.

Not only have the Iraqi Security Forces improved but also the Iraqi judicial system is now much more effective at putting these criminals in prison for a long time.

The arrests and convictions represented a collective effort of many agencies: 2-7 Cav., the Iraqi Security Forces, civilian law enforcement professionals, intelligence assets, analysts and judicial system officials. 🇮🇶

# Hunters, Iraqi Border Patrol visit north Maysan

By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenk  
1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – The 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, and 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, units set out on Operation Greenville, a four-day mission to partner with units from the Iraqi department of border enforcement, and the 2nd Iraqi Commando element that operates in the northern Maysan province.

The mission was unique for everyone because it was the first time the groups had worked together, and ventured into the most northern portion of Maysan since the Long Knife Brigade arrived to Iraq in late June. "A hugely successful first encounter with great potential to further develop our relationship with some outstanding Iraqi Soldiers" said Lt. Col. Daryle Hernandez, the squadron commander

from Muscatine, Iowa.

The Soldiers departed Forward Operating Base Hunter before sunrise, and quickly set up their headquarters in the sandy northern desert where the Head Hunter and 5-82 Bulldog Soldiers could perform area reconnaissance. This was an important step, as the Long Knife Soldier and Iraqi elements searched houses and buildings as one team to build partnerships in the area.

The terrain was quite diverse in the desert, with mountains to the south, reminding the Soldiers of their mission readiness exercise last winter at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. The major difference being the fact that along many roads in northern Maysan, you can see the Iranian soldiers guarding their territory on the other side of the Iraq-Iran border.

The population of the area was extremely sparse, with the majority of

the local nationals being oil field workers, who perform the tasks required to bring the vast natural resource to market, which helps the country become stable economically.

Though Operation Greenville was mainly designed to locate improvised explosives in the area, the Long Knife and Iraqi soldiers were also expecting to uncover bombs and land mines left over from the Iran-Iraq war. "We wanted to make sure we were looking not just for IED's but also other unexploded ordinances, which is just as dangerous" said Staff Sergeant Jessie Sample, the platoon sergeant of the squadron commander's personal security detachment and cavalry scout from San Antonio, Texas.

The Coalition Forces patrolled more than 1000 miles, visited 12 Iraqi Border towns and acquired loads of valuable information that should be useful in future joint missions. 🇮🇶

# Thunder Horses teach Iraqi Army bomb disposal team

By Capt. Robin Worch

2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

**COB ADDER** - An explosives ordinance disposal team, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division traveled to Combat Outpost 6 to train a newly-formed 10th Iraqi Army EOD team Nov 7.

The Iraqis have relied primarily on the Coalition Forces to provide ordinance disposal over the past five

years. Iraq is now building its own EOD units in each of the provinces, with assistance from the Long Knife Brigade, to ensure the units are trained and equipped to handle such dangerous missions.

"This is another step for the Iraqi Security Forces in Muthanna," said Capt. Michael Flynn, commander of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cav. Regiment and a native of Cleveland. "It makes them more self-sufficient and en-

*Thunder Horses continued on page 13*

# Frontier base gets new shoppette

By Capt. Kevin Wolf  
2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE GARRY OWEN** — ‘We go where you go’ is the Army and Air Force Exchange’s motto, and AAFES lived up to every word when it opened a new Post Exchange shoppette.

The new facility brought a smile to the face of Spc. John Hail, a native of Clovis, N.M., as he purchased a case of Monster brand energy drinks, marking the shoppette’s first transaction.

The process to get those energy drinks to Hail began approximately three months ago when Joel Kelso, the AAFES retail business manager for southern Iraq, conducted a site visit to begin the process of establishing the store on the remote base, which is occupied by Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

“AAFES is working hard to improve the quality of life for every

Soldier here in Iraq,” Kelso said.

The new store has toiletries, drinks and snack food items that troops can readily purchase. Before the new PX Shoppette opened, Soldiers stationed at FOB Garry Owen could only obtain these items via mail or from the AAFES store at Contingency Operating Base Adder, located more than 120 miles away.

“This shoppette is boosting the morale of every Soldier here by giving them a little taste of home,” Hail added. 🇺🇸



Long Knife photo by Capt. Kevin Wolf

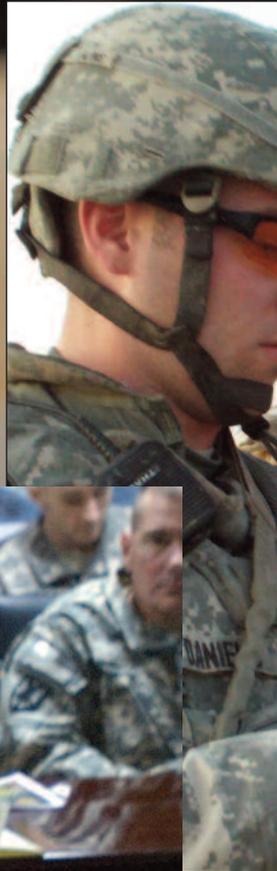
Joel Kelso, Cheri New, and Command Sgt. Maj. George Zamudio, the top enlisted Soldier in 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, cut the ribbon for the grand opening of Forward Operating Base Garry Owen’s Post Exchange shoppette Oct. 26.



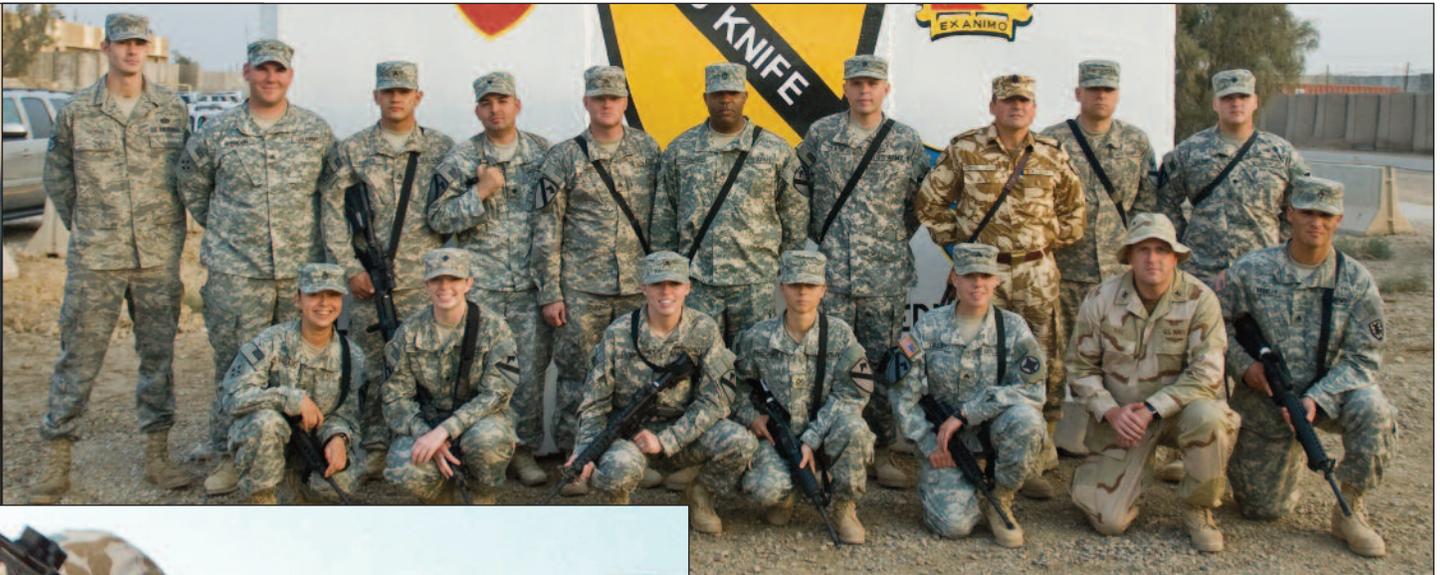
Long Knife photo by Capt. Kevin Wolf

Spc. John Hail, a Soldier assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and a native of Clovis, N.M., makes the first purchase, a case of Monster brand energy drinks, at Forward Operating Base Garry Owen’s new Post Exchange Oct. 26.

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[www.dvidshub.net/units/4bct-1cd](http://www.dvidshub.net/units/4bct-1cd)



Long Knife photos by Spc. Creighton Holub



**Above: Troops assigned to the Long Knife Brigade, 570th Sapper Company, Romanian 341st Infantry Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade, U.S. Air Force's 407th Air Expeditionary Group, pose for group photo before receiving challenge coins from Gen. Raymond Odierno, the top commander in Iraq.**



**Left: Sgt. Will Daniels, a forward observer, revamps his plan with the guidance of Romanian Lt. Col. Vasile Vreme, the commander of the 341st Infantry Battalion, for a nighttime observation mission Nov. 4, near Nasiriyah.**

**Far left: Cpl. Amanda Higdon, a personnel specialist, throws the pigskin during a pickup football game at COB Adder.**

**Below: 10th Iraqi Army Division troops and American Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, move on foot during an air assault mission near Amarah.**

**Below left: Gen. Raymond Odierno, Multi-National Force - Iraq and former III Corps and 4th Infantry Division commander, visits with Col. Philip Battaglia, Long Knife Brigade commander, and his staff Nov. 22.**



Long Knife photo courtesy 5-82 FA Regt.

## Romanians, Long Knife artillerymen light up Nasiriyah sky

By Spc. Creighton Holub  
Long Knife PAO

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – Surveying the landscape for criminals in the outskirts of Nasiriyah has become a team effort for the Long Knife Brigade and its Romanian White Shark Battalion partners.

A small team of American forward observers and support Soldiers went outside the wire with Romanian troops from the 341st Infantry Battalion and their commander the evening of Nov. 4.

The group travelled down long highways for an hour before leaving the main roadways for dirt roads and small villages filled with children and farm animals being attended to by the adults in the area.

The American and Romanian team found an opening in the desert where they could easily maintain security and watch the area for criminals looking to do harm to the citizens of Nasiriyah or the Iraqi and Coalition Forces based out of COB Adder south

of the major city.

“(At this location) we can see all around us,” said Romanian Lt. Col. Vasile Vreme, the commander of the 341st Infantry Battalion stationed at COB Adder. “I think this is a good place.”

And see the forward observers could.

The Long Knife artillery team of Sgt. Will Daniels and Pfc. Justin Dreyer brought a thermal imaging rangefinder that pierced the night with the ability to easily see hundreds of meters away.

They said there are proud to work with the Romanians and that being among the few forward observers to work directly with another country’s troops is an honor they will always wear.

Just after nightfall the two artillerymen from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, set up their equipment and had pinpointed several individuals enjoying the evening and a small herd of sheep

staying with their owners.

The first illumination artillery rounds, launched from COB Adder, illuminated the sky and a vehicle with a handful of suspicious-looking men.

“I wanted to get a better look at those guys to see exactly what they were doing,” said Daniels, a forward observer in the Long Knife Brigade’s combat observation and lasing team. “I have to be sure of what they’re doing before I can call for a lethal artillery round.”

The illumination rounds did their job – detouring criminal actions – as the suspicious group fled the scene before a second volley of illumination rounds could arrive for Daniels to confirm whether the group was preparing to do harm or if they were just joy-riding outside of town.

The multinational team spent the night observing the area and building the esprit de corps that has made Coalition Forces a stronger, more cohesive team during the Long Knives’ time in Operation Iraqi Freedom. 🇺🇸



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Sgt. Will Daniels and Pfc. Justin Dreyer, forward observers in the Long Knife Brigade's combat observation and lasing team, scan the horizon for possible criminals using night vision goggles and a thermal imaging rangefinder as an illumination artillery round floats from the night sky Nov. 4. The pair went on a mission with the Romanian army's 341st Infantry Battalion stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder, near Nasiriyah, Iraq.



Long Knife photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenk

**Sgt. 1st Class Ted Landry of Lubbock, who retired from active duty in 1995, and his son Spc. Eric Landry, a Soldier assigned to 1-9 Cavalry Regiment, share a moment before heading out on a combat patrol from FOB Hunter.**

## Father, son share Long Knife combat experience

*Family members run patrol, open FOB Hunter's new PX shoppette together*

*By Sgt. 1st Class Mark L. Schenk, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.*

**FOB HUNTER** – A father and son got the rare chance to visit and work together in a combat zone.

Sgt. 1st Class Ted Landry of Lubbock retired from active duty in 1995, and his son Spc. Eric Landry, a Soldier assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, were able to do just that.

Ted was working for the Department of Homeland Security when he was recalled to active duty and now works as a liaison between the Army and Air Force Exchange System and the Department of Defense.

"I am (involved in the) interface between the military and AAFES," Ted explained. "I help teach the units how to request and get AAFES' services and coordinate with AAFES for delivery."

Eric is a scout in B Troop who did not think for a second that he would get to see his dad during the de-

ployment.

Once the battalion's mission changed and the squadron began to build FOB Hunter, they were able to see each other several times and even went on a combat patrol together.

"It's something very few other people will get to experience," Eric said. "It makes me really proud."

The new PX shoppette is a huge hit at this remote base. Prior to the grand opening the only way Soldiers were able to get items like energy drinks and other snacks were to

have it mailed to them, or to get lucky enough to go to a more established base such as Contingency Operating Base Adder. Adder is about 120 miles away.

"The best thing about doing this is seeing the smiles on the faces of these guys," said Joel Kelso, a Plano, Texas, native and an AAFES retail business manager. An AAFES employee for 30 years, he has went to remote Iraqi locations and opened three new stores in the past six months. "I'm just giving them a little bit of home." 🇺🇸



Long Knife photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenk

**Lt. Col. Daryle Hernandez, the 1-9 commander, cuts the FOB Hunter PX shoppette grand opening ribbon with Joel Kelso, AAFES retail business manager, while Sgt. 1st Class Ted Landry and AAFES employee Dave Davidson look on.**

# Hunters building new leaders

By Sgt. 1st Class Mark L. Schenk,  
1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

**FOB HUNTER** - Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, attended a leadership course very similar to the Warrior Leaders Course that is offered in America to develop future military leaders.

The Head Hunter Battalion's version of the course was a shortened version of what the junior non-commissioned officers will still have to attend when they get back to Fort Hood, Texas.

The courses focused on military history, leadership and military counseling. The course is shortened to four nights so as not to affect the non-commissioned officer, unit or junior Soldiers that depend on their first-line leaders to accomplish their mission in Iraq.

"What we want to do is give them a little taste of the WLC so when the time comes they are better prepared not only for the school, but also as Soldiers who lead others in difficult times," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brouston Hale Jr., the battalion's sen-

ior enlisted NCO from Pensacola, Fla. The syllabus was developed based on what the base's senior NCO leaders saw as the most important and necessary skills for their younger lead-

cused because they are adding important skills to their repertoire.

"I got more from the instructors because I know them and they speak from the heart – not some

canned program," said Cpl. Jason Brenic, a native of Copperas Cove, Texas, who attended the course with his wife, Sgt. Victoria Brenic.

Sgt. 1st Class Julie Arellano, a maintenance platoon sergeant in the Head Hunter Battalion, was a former WLC small-group leader and

brought a wealth of knowledge to the program.

"Just because we are deployed is no reason for Soldiers not to have the most trained and competent leadership available," Arellano said. "I hope this helps not only our students, but the Soldiers that they lead everyday also."

With the addition of the leadership course to their arsenal, FOB Hunter's up-and-coming non-commissioned officers are sure to inspire and lead their charges with not only confidence, but with the caring and nurturing way that will develop great warriors. 🇺🇸

*"When the time comes, they are better prepared not only for the (Warrior Leaders Course), but also as Soldiers who lead others."*

*Command Sgt. Maj. Brouston Hale Jr.  
Senior Enlisted Leader of the 1st Bn., 9th Cav. Regt.*

ers to learn.

The attendees' ranks ranged from private first class to sergeant. Some of the troops had very little time in Army compared to troops on their second or third deployment, such as Sgt. Eric Davis, a forward observer who currently works in the squadron's intelligence section.

"This is important for me as I haven't yet gotten to go to school because of the operation tempo being what it is," Davis added. "I hope to have a chance when we get home."

Despite the need to complete the official course back home, the non-commissioned officers are staying fo-

## Rough Riders give Iraqi a smooth set of wheels

By Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Long Knife Public Affairs Office

**COB ADDER** - Two Long Knife Soldiers assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, went above and beyond their combat medic duties to help an Iraqi man living in Nasariyah.

Hussein Zabr Qaz came to the visitor control center at Contingency Operating Base Adder because of bedsores he had on the back of his thighs due to his paralysis from the waist down.

Spc. Jenny Bowers and Pfc. Melissa Gonzales

treated his injuries.

"While we were treating him, we noticed he had a very old wheelchair and had a hard time getting around," said Bowers, a native of Columbus, Ohio. "He said he couldn't afford a new one and that's when we both knew we had to help him."

Bowers and Gonzales called their company's medical supply office, which had extra wheelchairs that were donated by various medical supply companies in the United States. It only took three days for them to fill out the paperwork and get the wheelchair up to the VCC.

*Rough Riders continued on page 13*

# Black Dragons training newest Iraqi Army brigade

By 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop  
5-82 FA Regt.

**COB ADDER** - The Iraqi Army's newest brigade completed its latest soldier training rotation with the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at the 10th Iraqi Army Division's headquarters in Camp Dhi Qar Nov. 26.

The graduation marked a key event in the 41st Iraqi Army Brigade's short history as the Black Dragon Battalion's American Soldiers transitioned from being the primary instructors to the supervisory role they now hold. This last rotation marked the first time that Iraqi trainers were in charge of teaching all the classes.

"You could noticeably see the new generation of Iraqi soldiers eager to take charge and serve their country," said Sgt. Howard Acoff, a native of Birmingham, Ala., and an Iraqi trainee platoon sergeant. "Every day the trainees were ready and motivated, which made my job easy."

In addition to conducting vigorous combat-oriented physical training, Acoff led a daily block of instruction on U.S. Army Combatives, which is the hand to hand combat taught to American Soldiers, and the Iraqi trainees seemed to enjoy most.

The curriculum consisted of basic rifle marksmanship, vehicle maintenance, physical training as well as instruction on the duties and responsibilities of commissioned and noncommissioned officers.

"This was especially rewarding for us because it is rare to have the opportunity to train the same Iraqi unit that we will be training with in the near future," said 1st Lt. Dave Collins, of Vero Beach, Calif., the officer-in-charge of the training at Camp Dhi Qar.

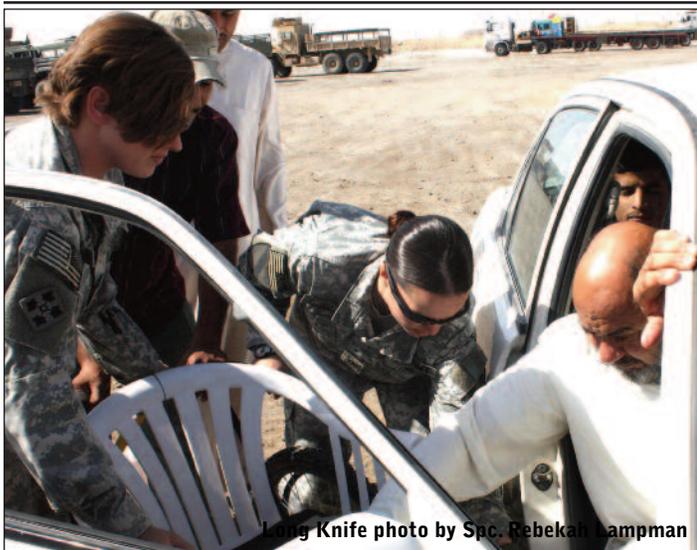
By the end of each eight-day training cycle, the commissioned and non-commissioned officers were visibly taking ownership of their soldiers, taking additional time during off-hours to drill the soldiers on the tasks

learned earlier that day.

The final day of training consisted of a soccer match between Iraqi Army platoons and an obstacle course competition. The Iraqi troops' spirits were high during the competition with the trainees loudly cheering on their platoon-mates and cadre. The winner of the obstacle course race was hoisted onto the shoulders of his teammates as he crossed the finish line.

While outstanding performers were acknowledged during each graduation, the top Iraqi trainees of the multiple classes were recognized in the final ceremony.

Capt. David Kitzman, the commander of Battery A, 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., commended the class on its progress and motivation throughout the training. Upon receiving a certificate and patch of completion, the newly trained Iraqi troops marched back to their temporary quarters with a confident swagger, eager to share this knowledge with the rest of their unit. 🇮🇶



**Spc. Jenny Bowers and Pfc. Melissa Gonzales help Hussein Zabraq into his new wheelchair at COB Adder.**

*Thunder Horses* from page 6

courages them to take on greater responsibility and tougher missions, without coalition support."

The training started with classroom instruction, then elevated to hands-on practical exercises and culmi-

*Rough Riders* from page 12

"As medics, we know it's our job to help out our fellow Soldiers when they get injured," said Gonzales, originally from Bangor, Penn. "But it's also very rewarding for us when we get the chance to do something more to help the local nationals here in southern Iraq. The look on his face when we gave him the wheelchair was proof enough for me that we're really making a difference."

As Hussein was helped into his new wheelchair, he smiled and shook hands with the two medics who took time out of their day doing their normal duties at the VCC to help him in his time of need.

"I appreciate everything the (Long Knife Brigade) is doing here for us," he said. "I especially thank my two new favorite medics; from the first day I came up here they've been so helpful to me."

Bowers added, "I wouldn't trade being here, and having moments like this one for anything in the world." 🇮🇶

nated with a live detonation of TNT previously confiscated during a cache find.

The event provided another step on the road to a trained, professional Iraqi security force able to carry out stability operations in southern Iraq. 🇮🇶

# Tell your part of the Long Knife story

*Commentary by  
Maj. Chad Carroll  
Long Knife PAO - OIC*

Did you know stories about you and your fellow troopers have appeared in hundreds of news outlets around America in such places as New Orleans, St. Louis, Nashville and Miami?

Long Knife troopers have appeared in newspapers, online, on television and on radio stations.

Troopers just like you have been in media outlets from morning radio shows to the huge Jumbotron screens of the Chicago Bears' Soldier

Field.

Have you ever wondered how to get you and your unit a piece of the spotlight?

The Long Knife Public Affairs Office works to do just that. Since we are only a handful of Soldiers telling 4,000 other Soldiers' stories, we can benefit greatly from your input. Send us your stories, photographs and story ideas so we can pitch them to appropriate media outlets!

Additionally, when you see our crew out taking photos, videos or taping "shout outs" to Family and

friends, come see us!

Each battalion and squadron has a unit public affairs representative, or UPAR, to help us communicate how great of a job their Long Knife troopers are doing. Contact your UPAR today and assist in telling our story.

Your UPAR by battalion is:  
1-9 Cav: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenk  
2-7 Cav: Capt. Kevin Wolf  
2-12 Cav: Capt. Todd Worch  
27th BSB: Capt. Kimberly Jennings  
4th STB: 1st Lt. Aileen Farrell  
5-82FA: 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop. 🇺🇸

## From the Judge's chambers

*From the Long Knife Legal Office*

What exotic location are you going to travel to during environmental morale leave or upon re-deployment?

Tahiti, Mexico, a Caribbean island, the Greek Isles or Canada?

While these locations are very unique and have interesting sites to see, they all have one thing in common: You must have a passport to travel to them.

A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer.

A valid U.S. passport is required to enter most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue or verify American passports.

Luckily, the 4th Brigade Combat Team's Legal Center is available to assist you with obtaining a passport.

### **New Application for a U.S. Passport**

A new passport application must be processed if you are applying for the first time, your previous passport is expired and was issued more than 15 years ago, if your passport was issued while you were under 16-years-old, or if you have a valid passport but it is lost or has been stolen.

For assistance with processing a new application, you need to go to the Alamo, Building 209, located at the corner of COB Adder's 6th Ave. and Main Street.

Be sure to bring your DS-11 form (application), two photographs of yourself, a certified copy of your birth certificate from the office of vital records in your state, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification, such as a military identification card.

### **Renewal Application for a U.S. Passport**

Renewal applications can be processed by mail. To qualify, your most recent passport must be returned and be undamaged, the passport that you are returned had to have been processed within the past 15 years, you were over 16-years-old when the passport was issued to you, and you have the same name or have legal documentation of your changed name.

Renewal applications are available at the 4th Brigade Combat Team's Legal Center. Remember, if your passport has been altered or damaged you cannot apply by mail.

For more information, please visit <http://travel.state.gov/> or the Long Knife legal office. 🇺🇸



# From The Pulpit

*By Chap. (Capt.) Walter Marshall  
STB Spartan Battalion Chaplain*

What if Christmas doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?

Many people, regardless of the thought process or how much is understood, try to find Christmas in a store as we search frantically for the best gifts to purchase that perfect gift for that one person that is love so dearly.

But is that what Christmas is all about? Do we lose the real meaning of Christmas or the real reason for the season? Is it meant to be about the gifts we give to each other? Or, is it about something more?

Could the something more be the birth of a specific promised child which brings with Him hopes,

peace, prosperity, holy and righteous government, great counsel and prosperity for the future?

Could it be that with the birth of this promised child comes hope that there will one day be no more poverty, no more homeless people, and no more starving children?

Could it be with the birth of this promised child comes hope for future peace on earth that there will be no more fighting and killing, no more war, no more shootings and terrorism such as we have seen all over the world and most recently in India.

Could it be that with the birth of this promised child comes hope that justice will rule the world once again and righteousness will

be its counterpart?

If this is possible, it is also possible that it is this hope that causes enemies to become friends, that causes the rich to give to the poor, and Families to come together and reminisce about old times, both good and bad.

It is possible that this hope is what produces an atmosphere of forgiveness, mercy and grace towards one another. It is possible that this hope causes many strangers to come together and sing songs of the season; songs of Joy, of Christmas and New Years.

It is possible that these hopes and many more come with the birth of the Messiah, For in the book of Isaiah chapter nine we

— continued on page 16

## In Memory of Our Fallen

Pvt. Charles Yi Barnett, 19, of Bel Air, Md., died from injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident in Tallil, Iraq, Nov. 20.

Barnett joined the military in July 2008, as a combat engineer and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division since March 2008.

He deployed with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in June 2008, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Barnett's decorations and awards include a National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon and an Army Commendation Medal.



# Long Knives slash Air Force for title

By Spc. Creighton Holub  
Long Knife PAO

**ALI AIR BASE, Iraq** – The Long Knife basketball team took its rival next-door neighbor, the 407th Air Expeditionary Group's Security Forces team, for a 51-38 championship ride Sunday night.

Spc. Reshard Hicks, a mechanic assigned to Company B, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, was the overall scoring leader and led the Long Knives with 20 points. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith led his team with 15 points.

"This was pretty much a rivalry game," said Sr. Airman Demetrius Brooks, a force protection specialist and the Air Force team captain. "From the (start of the season) we wanted to meet up in the championship. They ended up beating us – they out hustled us – but it was a good hustle on both ends."

The Air Force team kept pushing the envelope, but the Long Knives' defense kept the Air Force grounded.

"We played defense, we pressed and we hustled for every ball," said Spc. Reggie Camp, an equipment calibrator assigned to the 542nd Maintenance Company from Fort Lewis, Wash.

"We didn't let them settle for a jumper, we made them work for it," Camp added. "We actually got in there and challenged them instead of waiting for them."

Camp, a former C-5 crew chief in the Air Force reserves, pointed

out that he knows how both the military branches work day-in and day-out.

"It's very special for me, considering that I used to be in the Air Force," Camp added.

Although the Long Knives' cobra-like offense sapped the 407th, both squads knew they would be back on the same team the following day.

"Not too many people get to deploy and actually get to play in a basketball game," Brooks added about the championship. "There are other people who are outside of the wire and actually putting their lives on the line, so I appreciate having the time to play

and represent the Air Force.

"This is an outlet for me," according to Brooks. "(Once I) get on the court, I just zone out. It's kind of like being back home and playing basketball on the playground back home."

Hicks led the Long Knives with 20 points. Camp scored 12, Spc. Terrance Anderson scored 11, Sgt. Rickey Mayo had 4, while Laron Jolly and Sgt. 1st Class DeMarcus Rucker scored 2 each.

Smith led the Air Force team with 15 points. Staff Sgt. Roderick Martin scored 11, Brooks made 6, Airman 1st Class Asante Duncan had 4 and Staff Sgt. Eric Ross had 2. 🏆



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

**Spc. Reshard Hicks, a Soldier assigned to Company B, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, dribbles down court during the Long Knife basketball team's victory over the Ali Air Base Air Force basketball team 51-38 on Ali Air Base, adjacent to COB Adder, Nov. 30.**

From the Pulpit from page 15—

read, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace."

He is the promised child and we call him Jesus

Christ.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 🏆

Merry Christmas from the Long Knife PAO! 🏆