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# THE RALLY POINT

Serving the needs of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and its units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

## GHOST SQUADRON

TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN  
ABU T'SHIR



# THE RUCKSACK

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## THE RALLY POINT

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Significant contributors to the June 1, 2008 edition include: MND-B PAO, Capt. Warren Hummel, and the men and women serving in support of the Global War on Terror. Thank you!



**Staff Sgt. Jason Hellums, a platoon sergeant and cavalry scout, and 1st Lt. Isaac Hedtke, a platoon leader from Monticello, Minn., both assigned to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad, plan their route May 22 during a combat patrol through Abu T'shir.**  
(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B)

# LEADER'S BOOK



**Col. Ted Martin**

*Soldiers of the 1st Raider Brigade Combat Team,*

The Raider BCT is on the ground and well on its way toward achieving a lasting victory for the people of Baghdad.

Our units have made significant achievements since arriving in the Iraqi capitol in March; it is hard to believe that we have been operating here for little more than one month.

Our Soldiers continue to work with the Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi citizens in Baghdad to combat an enemy that is not bound by conventional law, does not support a free society, and ultimately has no honor ... and our vigilance is paying dividends.

The service members of the Raider Brigade Combat Team, working with the Iraqi Army, National Police and Police officers in Rashid, have captured more than 100 weapons caches, removing roadside bombs, improvised explosive devices, explosively formed projectiles, rockets, mortars and ordnance from the streets of southern Baghdad.

We have detained more than 200 suspected criminals, thugs and terrorists, muting the violence that was once so readily visible. In short we

have reduced the violence in our district by more than 50 percent.

We have made successful efforts to maintain a relative peace in our environment, and nowhere is that more apparent than with the Iraqi people. I travel throughout the Raider Brigade's area everyday, and see the people carrying on with the routine of their daily lives made possible by the combined efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces and the 1st BCT.

I see a continuing change in the levels of security and stability in Rashid. This is due in no small part to your efforts and the work of those who serve by your side. We must not take that for granted, as we continue to serve the Iraqi people.

Our Soldiers are also doing an outstanding job in maintaining security from the forward operating bases to the combat outposts and throughout the Rashid district. Good Job! I could not be prouder of your efforts, especially our units who sustain the battle and ensure that we always remain a combat-ready, mission capable force-at-the-ready. Keep up the good work.

We have enjoyed great first successes, as well as loss during this past month. We will recognize the achievements of those who paid the last measure of devotion by remaining vigilant in our duties. We will never forget their lives nor their sacrifices.

I would also like to thank the dedication of our Families and friends back home, and thank them for the support that keeps us on point everyday. You are one of the many reasons we serve.

**RAIDERS!**

Raiders Soldiers:

Much has happened in the last 30 days, and we continue to make significant strides in securing the Rashid district for the Iraqi people of southern Baghdad.

I travel throughout our operating environment daily, and I am proud to say that the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade Combat Team are taking the fight to the enemy. We are supported in our daily operations by a growing Iraqi Security Force that continues to prove itself a competent force, capable of serving and protecting the people of Iraq.

We work daily in the muhallas, side-by-side with the Iraqis, and I must remind the Raiders deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom: the American Soldier is a living testament to the Soldiers to their left and right; this brigade; the U.S. Army; and our Nation, which we serve.

It is important to remember that as we continue to maintain a presence in the streets of Baghdad, you represent what it means to be a trained professional Soldier, a member of an all-volunteer Army that has made a decided commitment to serve something greater than any single one of us.

It is important that our Soldiers recognize and respect the culture and society they have sworn to protect -- Iraqi and American. Realize that your actions have an immediate and lasting effect on every single Soldier, American and Iraqi, involved in this endeavor.

Raiders, we fulfill more than security for the Iraqi people; we provide them hope for a better future, a better life.

Foremost, I expect NCOs to maintain accountability



**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb**

of their Soldiers and their equipment at all times. Maintain your standards and appearance in accordance with Multi-National Forces – Iraq policy and regulations, and work to convey a level of professionalism that is characteristic of a Raider Soldier and the 1st BCT standards of excellence.

By standards of excellence, I mean we set the standard; Raiders exceed the standard.

Whether on a forward operating base or a combat outpost, enter every day with a strong, professional attitude; maintain your physical fitness and don't forget to write home. Keep in touch with the ones you love.

Keep up the good work and continue to Raider Safe!

Steadfast and Loyal – Raiders!





## *Comanche Troop maintains 24-hour presence in Baghdad's Abu T'shir*

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

Where once a U.S. Soldier stood guard, an Iraqi National Police officer removes a chain to the entrance of an NP Patrol Base. The cordoned check point is the next stop for the Soldiers of Comanche Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, who have come for reinforcements.

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers of the 7th “Ghost” Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are working side-by-side with the Iraqi National Policemen of the 7th Bde., 2nd NP Div., in Abu T'shir to assist the Iraqis in their ongoing efforts to provide security for the predominately Shia community in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Each element of the platoons that live at the Combat Outpost in Abu T'shir, collocated with the Comanche Troop Command Post, conducts checkpoint inspections, meets with ISF commanders, and links up with NP dismounts twice-a-day to conduct combined operations, checkpoints and patrols throughout Abu T'shir, said 1st Lt. Isaac Hedtke, a platoon leader assigned to Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

“It depends on the Iraqi noncommissioned officer leadership that takes charge of the patrol; but we are getting a really good experience with this group of National Police,” said Hedtke, a graduate of Loyola University in Chicago, Ill.

“We kind of police each other up and help them out with the little things, and they are a tremendous asset to us, especially overcoming the language barrier,” said Hedtke, who hails from Monticello, Minn. “They are pretty squared away.”

On this particular day, the Soldiers of Comanche Troop have thrown up a hasty traffic control point with a squad of National Policemen from the 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Div., the principal Iraqi Security Force responsible for southeastern Baghdad, to include the well-known communities of Al Doura and Abu T'shir.

A'areef (Sgt.) Ahmed, a National Policemen worked four years in the Iraqi Police before transferring over to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior

National Police.

“My job is to enforce the Rule of Law and ensure that the rights of Iraqis are protected,” Ahmed said. “I work as a police officer, because there are really not any other jobs in Iraq, but really, there is a need for security forces until Baghdad is made safe for the Iraqi people like before.”

Staff Sgt. Jessie Rickey, a section team leader, assigned to Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, said that it is critical for the Iraqi people to build confidence in their security forces.

“To the Iraqi people, it's really important,” said Rickey, who hails from Walnut Ridge, Ark. “It's not just a (Public Relations) thing. Our presence allows the Iraqi people to be able to feel confident about their security. They want to feel secure that their military and their security elements are able to take care of the people.”

The Soldiers of Comanche Troop conducts two to five hours of combined patrols and operations with the ISF in the area, maintaining a 24-hour presence in sector everyday, explained Rickey, who is on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“They are doing our job, and they are doing it right – mirroring us,” said Staff Sgt. Gregory Wright, a section team leader assigned to Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. “The National Police seem to be very capable, seem to need very little instruction from us; and go out there to do the job.”

An average day in sector for the Soldiers of Comanche Troop includes at least eight hours of patrol and approximately eight hours of serving as the troop quick reaction force, ready to assist at a moment's notice, said Wright, who hails from Mulvane, Kan.

The platoons conduct atmospherics or quality of life surveys with civil affairs teams in the area to make assessments for areas of southeastern Baghdad that need improvement.

The Soldiers also perform “Close Encounters,” a term used for interviewing local residents and entering their personal identification information into computer databases for Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces records, said Wright, a combat veteran of ten years.

“The ‘Close Encounters’ portion of our task is basically going door-to-door to talk with

the local Iraqis at their homes, and ask basic questions about demographics to get an idea of what the people need or what they are lacking,” he explained.

The local Iraqis are more aware of the militias and extremists in their communities trying to pit the Sunni and Shia sects against each other, said Wright.

The Soldiers of Comanche Troop are finding that the people of Abu T'shir live in a combined environment with both Sunni and Shia living together without incident, he added.

“It's not like before when we were focused on the fighting,” he explained. “Now, we are focused on the people, the infrastructure of Iraq and trying to create solutions to helping people get back on their feet.”

Wright said that he believes there is progress in the security situation, but it is important to remember that it will take more time and more work to make the change a lasting one.

“I mean it's an odd role for a combat Soldier to play,” Wright said. “We're just trying to show the people that yes, we're here as a security element; we're here to protect the people of Abu T'shir, but we work very hard to go out there and show these people that we care.”

The biggest challenge for the Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces working in Abu T'shir is getting the Iraqi people to recognize that there are leaders who represent them and are working in their best interest, said Wright.

“The (7th Bde., 2nd NP Div.) are good men, these National Police,” said Mark, an Iraqi translator, who has worked for U.S. Soldiers and with the ISF for approximately one year and accompanies the Soldiers of Comanche Troop on their daily patrols and combined operations in the muhallas.

“They talk with more respect, not just to me but the people in my country,” he explained. “With more respect – I really appreciate that.”

The 7th “Ghost” Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., part of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., is currently deployed to the Rashid district of southern Baghdad for a 15-month deployment in support of MND-B and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Soldiers of Ghost Squadron replaced the 2nd Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt. in April.



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

Staff Sgt. Gregory Wright, a section team leader and cavalry scout from Mulvane, Kan., and Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Yaudas, platoon sergeant, both assigned to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, link-up with Iraqi Policemen from the 7th Bde., 2nd National Police Division May 21 to conduct combined patrols. The Soldiers of Comanche Troop also took the opportunity to inspect the checkpoints in the Abu T'shir community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad and assist Iraqi Security Forces leaders with providing security for the predominately Shia community.

A first sergeant assigned to the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, records a report from a local Iraqi citizen of the Abu T'shir community, during a combined patrol May 22 with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.



Iraqi National Policemen of the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, man a hasty traffic control point in Abu T'shir May 21 during combined security patrols with Soldiers of the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad. The National Police conduct security patrols with their coalition counterparts daily in support of the Baghdad Security Plan.

Staff Sgt. Jason Hellum, platoon sergeant, and Sgt. Joshua Cartee, a section leader, both cavalry scouts assigned to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad, clear a house, looking for weapons, contraband or anything out of the ordinary during a security patrol May 22 in the Rashid district of Southern Baghdad.



# IRON KNIGHTS BATTALION MAKE TRACKS IN NEW BAGHDAD

1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt. joins ISF in Baghdad Al-Jidida

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

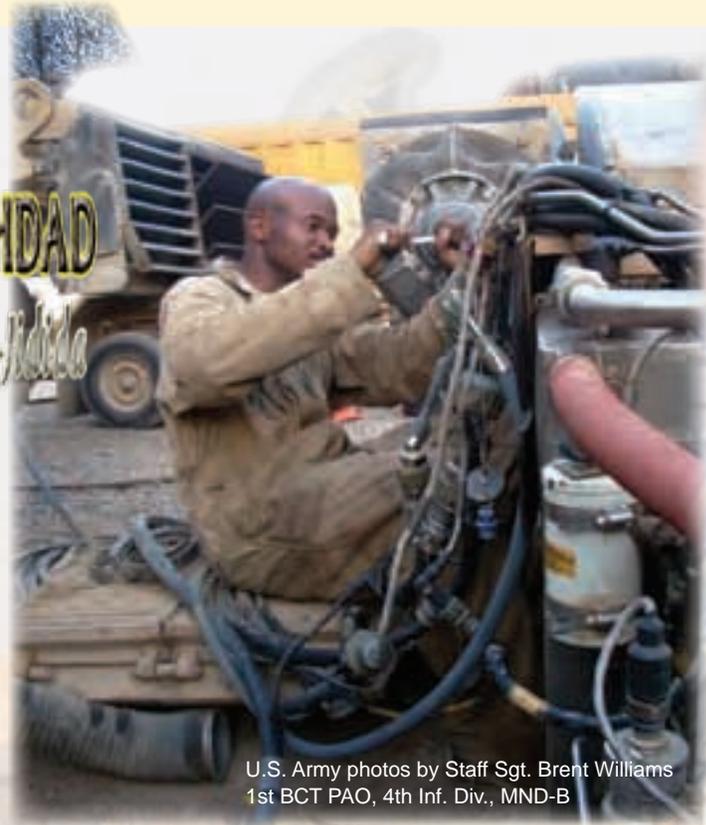
The Soldiers of the "Iron Knights" Battalion arrived in Baghdad al-Jidida (New Baghdad) in early March, eager to start a new mission – fit to fight, and fight they did.

The 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, began its mission – to transition control to Iraqi Security Forces by providing security and stability for Baghdad al-Jidida – while under fire from enemy forces, said Lt. Col. Scott McKean, commander, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt.

"Iron Knights Soldiers responded with aggressive and disciplined actions that answered the so-called testing of new units," McKean said. "Most important, the Soldiers have adapted to the environment, some seeing more engagements in their first 30 days than some Soldiers see during their entire tour."

Taking the lead of Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Mitchell, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., the noncommissioned officers are using their leadership and experience to accomplish the mission while company commanders and their platoon leaders learn their surroundings, all the while working alongside Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Iraqi National Police in a very busy and hostile environment, he said.

"The Soldiers have



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

demonstrated character and courage under fire and in taking the fight to the enemy," said McKean, a graduate of West Point, Class of 1990.

Even though the battalion joined the 10th Mtn. Div.'s newest brigade combat team, the 4th BCT, out of Fort Polk, La., during a volatile and violent uprising in eastern Baghdad, the Iron Knights Soldiers immediately established a successful relationship with the ISF, who are leading many operations in the predominately Shia and Christian-mixed community that is home to an estimated 1.3 million Iraqis, explained McKean.

"During the Shia uprising in March 2008, there were large numbers of desertion and collusion with the militia; but within days, the ISF policed up their ranks, arrested those who were complicit with militia or that did not perform their duties, and re-established security within their respective areas of operations," said McKean, who describes the ISF as a resilient force.

The ISF are conducting routine missions, such as clearing operations, with the Iron Knights providing physical support with outer cordons and tactical support coaching Iraqi company and battalion commanders in the decision-making process, said Capt. Roman Izzo, commander,

Company C, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., MND-B.

"The IA soldiers working in Baghdad al-Jidida are miles beyond any Iraqi unit we have seen out here in all my time deployed," said Izzo, who is currently on his third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"But there has been plenty of turmoil – not the level of hand-off we would have like; and especially when the enemy gets his vote, and we get the uprising in March," said Izzo, a Houston-native.

The 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., is a combined-arms battalion comprised of seven companies, including armor, infantry and combat-support Soldiers, headquartered at Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah and operating out of combat outposts and joint security stations in eastern Baghdad, said Izzo, a graduate of West Point, Class of 2000.

Most of the battalion's Soldiers stay at the COPs instead of on the FOB, said Izzo, and conducting daily operations from within the district allows the "Crazy Horse" Soldiers of Co. C to build relationships and safeguard the Iraqi people.

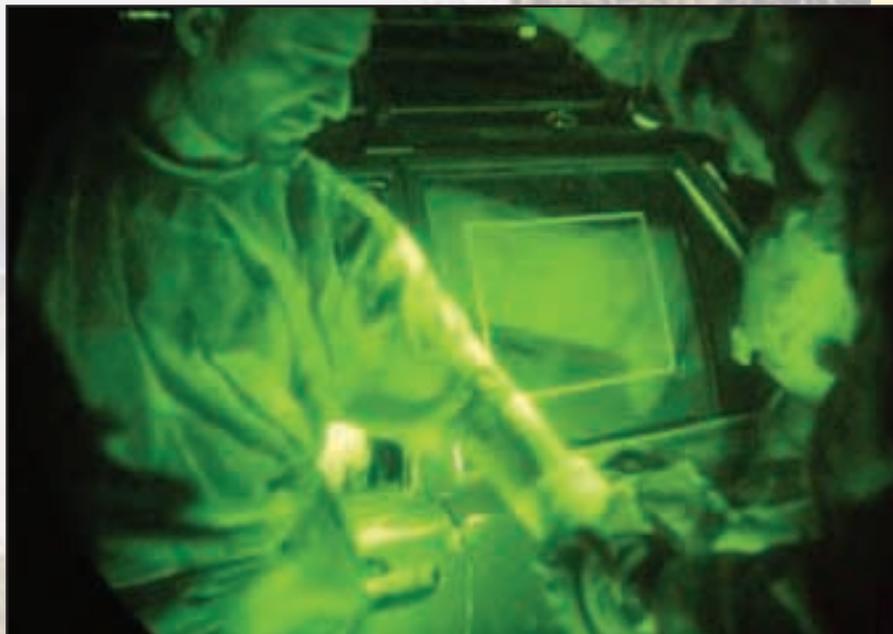
The IPs, INPs and MND-B Soldiers are centralized at the JSS, working from a common operating picture, updating checkpoints and patrolling to secure 18 of the 36 muhallas, or



Lt. Col. Scott McKean, commander of the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, discusses future operations with Brig. Gen. Amir, commander of the 1st Brigade, 1st National Police Division responsible for the security of Baghdad al-Jidida (New Baghdad). McKean commands the seven companies of infantry, armor, engineers and combat support Soldiers that comprise the combined arms battalion responsible for transitioning control of New Baghdad to Iraqi Security Forces.

Spc. Josiah Quinton, a native of Baltimore, Md., and an M1 Abrams Tank maintainer assigned to Forward Support Company F, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, conducts Level-20 maintenance to the engine of an M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank May 1 at Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah.

Cpl. Jeffrey Alexander, a combat medic assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, treats the injuries of an Iraqi resident who was attacked May 2 by a group of criminals in his neighborhood in Baghdad al-Jidida (New Baghdad). The combat medic applied bandages to the Iraqi man's wounds and assessed another man, ordering Iraqi National Police to call an ambulance for the man who had a broken nose and fractured eye orbit.



neighborhoods, in Baghdad al-Jidida, said Izzo.

In addition to conducting daily dismounted patrols with ISF in the neighborhoods and making face-time with the Iraqi people, the Soldiers also provide COP security, where they live and work for at least six days straight before returning to the FOB for a day to refit, said Izzo.

"If I can send a platoon in overnight to the rear where they can take 16 consecutive hours off – 16 consecutive hours with me not bugging them for anything – and they can get two hot KBR meals and a hot shower and just chill in their room and then come back out; that gets a Soldier's mind back in the game," said Izzo.

Despite the long hours, the Soldiers, who walk the streets day and night, love their work, especially the patrols, but not so much the COP security, said

Izzo.

"If their feet feel like mine, then I need to back off a little bit but right now we're managing; and honestly, the wear and tear on the vehicles is worse than the wear and tear on the guys," he explained.

Pfc. Sean Keeler, a native of Saint Paul, Minn., and an armor crewmember assigned to Co. C, said that sometimes time at the COPs goes by so slow it seems to move backwards.

"Usually though, time just seems to fly by. Working the radios during the day, 12-hour shifts, and then 12 hours doing whatever: sleeping, guard duty, maintenance and whatever details we have to do," Keeler said.

Keeler, a member of the company's tank platoon, added that his job is very important to the company's day-to-day accomplishment of its mission

as he monitors all radio traffic from his station in the command post, tracks significant activities in the area and relays mission critical information to his commander.

Security in Crazy Horse's area of responsibility that is home to an estimated 200,000 Iraqis is good, according to Staff Sgt. Christopher Jordan, an infantry squad leader assigned to Co. C, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., who said that most of the attacks in the area are between special interests groups competing for power on the other side of the district.

"So far they're not fighting with us, but they're not fighting against us either," said Jordan, who hails from Columbus, Ohio, and is responsible for the health and welfare of eight Soldiers as he leads his teams on daily operations in Baghdad al-Jidida.

Jordan, who is beginning his third deployment with the 4th Inf. Div. since 2003, said that his platoon routinely visits Iraqi Army checkpoints to better assist the Iraqi soldiers,

bringing them amenities, such as water, cots and discussing issues and working to facilitate ISF operations.

"My initial impression of the Iraqi Army: they're hard workers," he said. "They are just like anybody else, but I can't really judge them because I have to look at what if the shoe was on the other foot."

When he is not pulling duties as sergeant of the guard, monitoring the video cameras posted around the perimeter of the COP or overseeing maintenance issues for the vehicles and equipment, Jordan said that he is patrolling the streets, learning the maze-like terrain of the neighborhoods and interacting with the Iraqi people.

"If they're happy, I mean, that makes for a great day," he said. "Security is good, and the ISF seem to have a handle on it – so far so good."

Jordan said that he looks forward to the time when the ISF and the Government of Iraq are self-sufficient and controlling security by their own means; but until then, his Soldiers have a job to do.

Capt. Roman Izzo, a native of Houston and the commander of Company C, "Crazy Horse," 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, as part of Multi-National Division - Baghdad, completes a claims card May 2 for an Iraqi citizen whose car was damaged in a fire fight between Coalition Forces and criminals in Baghdad al-Jidida (New Baghdad) the night before.



# OPERATION TUSKERS CHAMBERLAIN COMMENCES

*4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt. Soldiers take pride at being the best on the line*

Pfc. Brandon Leigh, an infantryman from Bonne Terre, Mo., assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, searches a room for any weapons or contraband May 12 as part of Operation Tuskers Chamberlain, a combined operations alongside Iraqi Security Forces from the 5th Bde., 2nd National Police Division. The focused clearing operation that began with a series of point raids during the early morning hours of May 11 is targeting suspected leaders and members of special groups criminals and terrorists in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., is part of the 4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division stationed out of Fort Stewart, Ga.



Spc. Carlos Morales, a combat medic from San Diego, assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, assists an elderly man into a living room May 11 as National Policemen of the 1st Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd National Police Division and U.S. Soldiers search the house for weapons and materials linked to special interest groups and terrorists operating in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The concentrated clearing operations, combined with point raids and tactical questioning, is part of the ongoing Operation Tuskers Chamberlain mission in support of the 1st "Raiders" BCT to integrate ISF into the local community and increase security efforts for the estimated 1.2 million people in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

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

**T**he second night of Operation Tuskers Chamberlain differed from the previous night's order of events in one major aspect. Iraqi National Police of the 1st Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, were operating apart from the Soldiers of Company B, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment.

The operation, which began during the early morning hours of May 11, is the battalion's primary effort to disrupt special groups criminals and terrorists working in the area around the Risalah beladiya in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad, said 1st Lt. Justin Anderson, a platoon leader assigned to Company B of the "Tuskers" Bn., 64th Armor Regt., attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

The battalion began security operations upon arriving in Iraq's capitol in November 2007 to build upon security and stability for the Iraqi people living in West Rashid and to empower Iraqi Security Forces to take the lead in

maintaining and enforcing the Rule of Law, said Anderson, a graduate of West Point.

During the first six months of operating in support of MND-B, Tuskers Soldiers conducted clearing operations throughout portions of West Baghdad, setting up T-wall Barriers and ISF checkpoints, said Anderson, a native of Fort Meyers, Fla.

The current operation is modeled after the unit's previous successes, he explained.

"This is really the first battalion-level operation that we have done in Risalah since we have been here," Anderson said. "We're hoping by targeting all the high-level ... extremist groups, we can drive them out of the area."

The operation is already a success, said Sgt. Brent Grable, an infantry team leader assigned to Co. B, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt.

"Last night (May 11), we caught guys with blueprints of Bradley Fighting Vehicles and how to attack them," exclaimed Grable, who hails from Phoenix, Ariz. "I guarantee that we saved lives. Whether it was Iraqi or American – that is why we're here."

In recent months, the companies of the Tuskers Battalion have discovered significant weapons caches, to include Iranian-made munitions, in the southern Baghdad communities that comprise greater West Rashid, said Grable.

Operation Tuskers Chamberlain is not much different than the daily routine for the Bandit Company, except that the Soldiers are operating on better intelligence of specific areas and possible targets as part of a concentrated battalion effort, working with ISF to secure the area, said Grable, adding that he loves being in the service and has a long-term goal of becoming an infantry sergeant major in the next 12 to 14

years.

"The scenario we're actually seeing: people who were once Al-Qaeda members, that used to fight Americans, are now manning checkpoints because they are tired of people getting pushed around by special groups and Al-Qaeda in Iraq," he said. "That is what it is going to take to change the attitude (of American Soldiers and ISF): more Iraqis stepping up and doing the right thing."

The Soldiers of Bandit Company like going out to make a difference for the ISF and the people of Baghdad, said Grable, who explained that he has been blessed with good leadership during his two deployments and four years in the Army and is hoping to impart some of his experiences on both his Soldiers and the ISF.

"There are a lot of guys out here who are out here for the right reasons," Grable said. "They are putting their lives on the line to try and make a difference. Soldiers are out there doing the right thing."

Spc. Ricky Phillips, an infantryman from Allentown, Pa., assigned to Co. B, is one of those Soldiers, said Grable.

"My mission, as an infantryman, in my team is to supplement my team leader," said Phillips, whose father is currently serving in the U.S. Navy and is also deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. "As he gives an order, my job is to make sure that it is carried out to the fullest."

Phillips said that his job is to maintain and provide security for his squad out in sector and make sure that everyone is doing their job – even the Iraqi National Police and Iraqi Army soldiers.

"I definitely am able to assist in making this a reality by integrating them into what we do – being the example," said Phillips, who is serving his first deployment since he

joined the Army in 2006.

Phillips stated that he has seen a lot of improvement in the ISF in his area since he first arrived in Iraq six months ago.

"I think coming into this area, we saw that IA and INP in the area are a lot more developed than in our last sector," he explained. "For instance, when the INPs actually enter and clear a house, they work formations, searching for weapons and intelligence and diligently questioning personnel. They are pretty much doing most of the work."

"Iraqi Security Forces are in the lead during this operation," said Capt. Sean Chase, commander of Co. B, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt. "The 1st Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd National Police Division, has performed very well during this operation thus far. They operate as an entirely autonomous element and require very little support from us for their operations."

The ISF is not turning a blind eye to the activities of special groups criminals in the area, and the only way that certain factions will continue to exist is for local leaders to cooperate and reconcile with the Government of Iraq, the ISF and the Iraqi people, said Chase, who hails from Seattle.

Reconciliation means that the Iraqis must recognize the violence and the killing that has occurred in the country during the past five years and take steps to prevent it from happening again, explained Chase, a graduate of Washington University, with a bachelor's degree in economics.

"The more that the ISF establishes its legitimacy as an even broker and peace keeper, the more people will realize that they can either stop the violence and reconcile with U.S. and INP forces or they will be detained," he added.

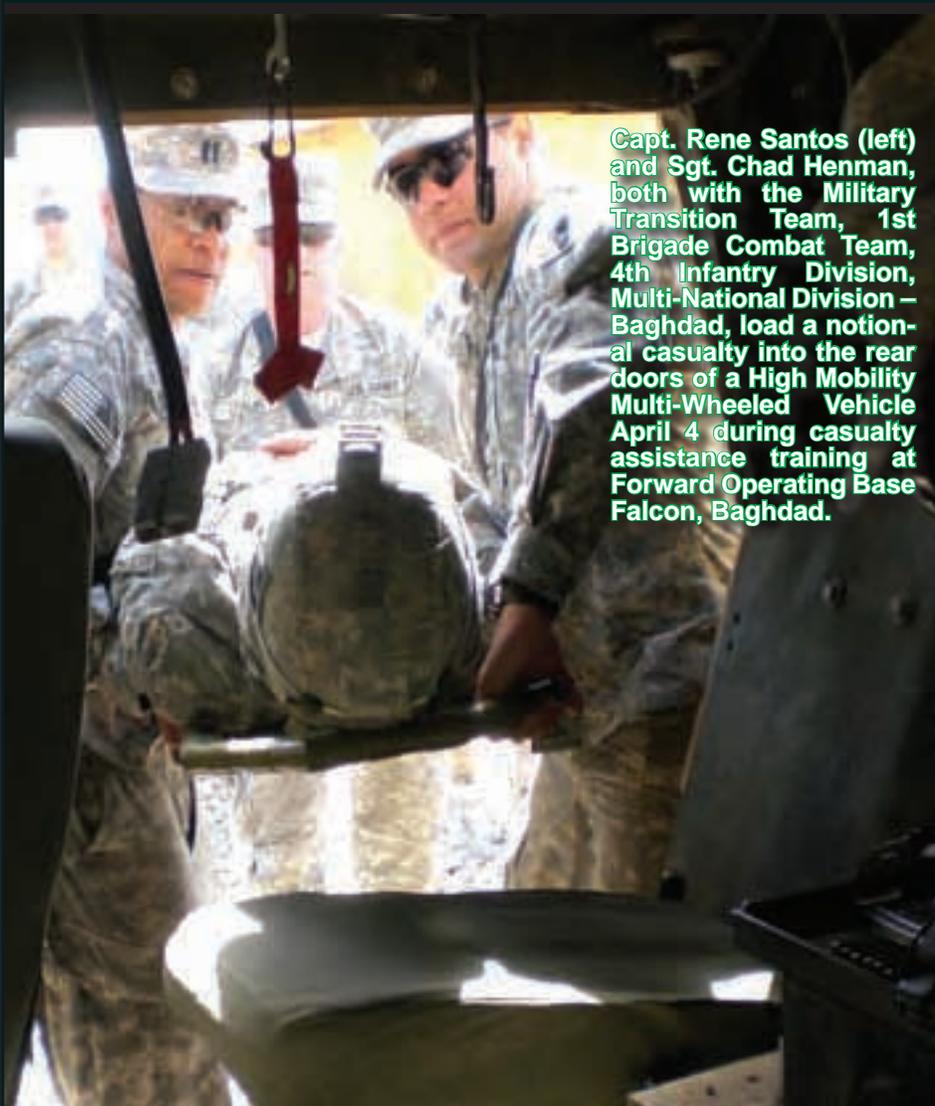
As security operations, such as Operation Tusker Chamberlain, continue in support of the 1st "Raider" BCT, Soldiers of Co. B, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., continue to support the battalion in its mission to increase security in west Rashid, said 1st Sgt. Thomas Price, Co. B.

"The Soldiers have done an extraordinary job," said Price, a combat veteran of 20 years, from Valdosta, Ga. "I'm amazed at what they've done. They're knowledgeable, well-trained and prepared. They're rehearsed, and I don't see any issues."

The 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt. is part of the 4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., and currently deployed for a 15-month rotation in support of MND-B and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**An Iraqi citizen living in the Risalah community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad hands over his AK-47 rifle May 12 to Sgt. Brent Grable, an infantry team leader from Phoenix, Ariz., assigned to Co. B, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., currently attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.**

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



**Capt. Rene Santos (left) and Sgt. Chad Henman, both with the Military Transition Team, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, load a notional casualty into the rear doors of a High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle April 4 during casualty assistance training at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad.**

how they actually function,” said Sgt. Christopher Hardt, a tanker from Dallas, assigned to the 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div. MiTT. “We are making a difference for them by making them step-up to the plate and take responsibility for their actions.”

When training is not scheduled by the 43rd Bde, it is scheduled by the 11th IA Div. or the Ministry of Defense and on occasion, the MiTT Soldiers provide training for the IA, said Caya.

The training events are first taught to the IA lead instructor by the MiTT Soldiers. Then, the MiTT takes a step back and provides over-watch as the lead instructor teaches the battalion and company instructors, who in turn teach the material down to the lowest level, the jundis.

In the near future, Caya said, the IA will be conducting Warrior Leaders Course training, combat life saver training and weapons training on the M16, which are now being issued to the IA.

With the ISF gaining more control of Iraq, the U.S. Army will slowly be able to withdraw its forces, leading to the ultimate goal of Iraq defending itself with no assistance, added Caya.

“I love having a job that is tactically and strategically important, where the team can have a large influence on the unit’s future success,” Rawlings explained. “The Iraqis are a fascinating and wonderful group of people and work extremely hard to make their unit better.”



**Spc. Michael Sabia, 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, Military Transition Team, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, demonstrates the proper way to disassemble an M16 rifle April 23 to Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div., during weapons familiarization training at Joint Security Station Jihad, Baghdad.**

# RAIDER BCT MiTT provide oversight to ISF in Rashid

## 1st BCT's senior leaders take administrative approach to security training

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

**M**ilitary Transition Team Soldiers play an integral part in helping form the future of Iraqi Security Forces in the Multi-National Division – Baghdad operational environment by assisting and providing guidance daily to the staff sections at the brigade and battalion levels.

These select officers and enlisted Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, operate from Joint Security Station Jihad and interact daily with the staff sections of the 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division.

“The whole purpose of us being here is not to make the brigade MiTT successful, it’s to make the Iraqi brigade successful,” said Lt. Col. Rick Caya, the MiTT chief and executive officer with 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div., who is assigned to 1st BCT.

In the past, MiTT teams dealt more with hands-on training but now focus on the staff sections because the Iraqi Security Forces have become a more self-sustainable entity, added Caya.

“It’s important for the staff to work together properly because that is how it works in a military organization,” said Caya, who hails from Waterloo, Iowa. “There are some things that the IA does not do our way – and that’s fine. We try to figure out how they operate and help them make it better.”

When the MiTT assumed the area of northwest Rashid April 13, the IA staff had coordination issues with each other, said Caya.

It is vital that the staff and commander have to work together to make sure the unit functions properly over periods of months and years, he said, adding that each staff section leader’s goal is to provide information to the IA commander to reach the best decision possible given a time constraint.

That is why Caya and his team of 15 1st BCT “Raider” Soldiers spend hours each day with individual engagements among the staff members and their sections and offer suggestions when the IA soldiers, or jundis, have any issues.

“We coach, teach and mentor our counterparts in our respective areas to enable them to operate smoothly in this

**“The Iraqi soldiers are willing to fight and perhaps die for their country ... I owe them my efforts, expertise, and if necessary, my life as well.”**

**Capt. Nate Rawlings  
2nd Bn., 43rd Bde.  
MiTT Instructor**



(U.S. Army photos courtesy of Warrant Officer Paul Franks 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, Military Transition Team)

**Pfc. Brian LaMountain, 43rd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, Military Transition Team, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, shows Iraqi Army soldiers from the 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div., the proper procedures on assembling an M16 rifle April 23 during training at Joint Security Station Jihad, Baghdad. Currently, the M16 rifle is being issued to all Iraqi Army soldiers.**

difficult environment,” said Warrant Officer Paul Franks, effects trainer, 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div., MiTT. “It is the interpersonal relations between the American team member and his counterpart that will make them successful.”

During his interactions with the IA, Franks said he believes that it is imperative to conduct himself in a professional manner at all times.

“The Iraqis look to us as the most professional army in the world,” said

Franks, a Phoenix native. “The IA wants to duplicate the qualities they see will work to make them a better organization.”

Franks has been deployed to Iraq three times and said he has seen great strides toward improvements in the IA and Iraq over the last five years.

“I am quite impressed with the IA unit’s

nationalism and pride,” Franks explained. “The soldiers and officers are dedicated to their country and brigade regardless of their religious sect or where they come from.”

Also at JSS Jihad, a battalion-level MiTT team works to assist all operations for their Iraqi counterpart, the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div.

Similar to Caya’s team, the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT MiTT assesses and evaluates its battalion counterparts in every aspect of their tactical and administrative performance, said Capt. Nate Rawlings, maneuver trainer, 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div., MiTT.

“We coordinate combined operations and accompany the units on patrols and raids to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the battalion,” said Capt. Nate Rawlings, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Rawlings and his six fellow “Regulars” Battalion Soldiers enjoy developing strong working relationships with the Iraqi soldiers and often eat some local foods with the jundis at lunch time.

“I enjoy working with the IA and seeing

# FRONT SIGHT POST

An Iraqi National Policeman, or shurta wadaniya, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, enters a "glass house" during training May 19 at Joint Security Station Doura in southern Baghdad. The NPs trained for four days at the platoon battle course within the JSS. The glass house is a training term that refers to a structure with invisible walls so that onlookers may view the techniques for a better critique.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, discard the remnants of an Iraqi Army checkpoint May 1 at Forward Operating Base Rustamiya in the Al-Jadida district of Baghdad.



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

Pfc. Aaron Virkler, a cavalry scout assigned to Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, uses a biometric automated toolset on an Iraqi resident in the Abu T'shir neighborhood May 11 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.



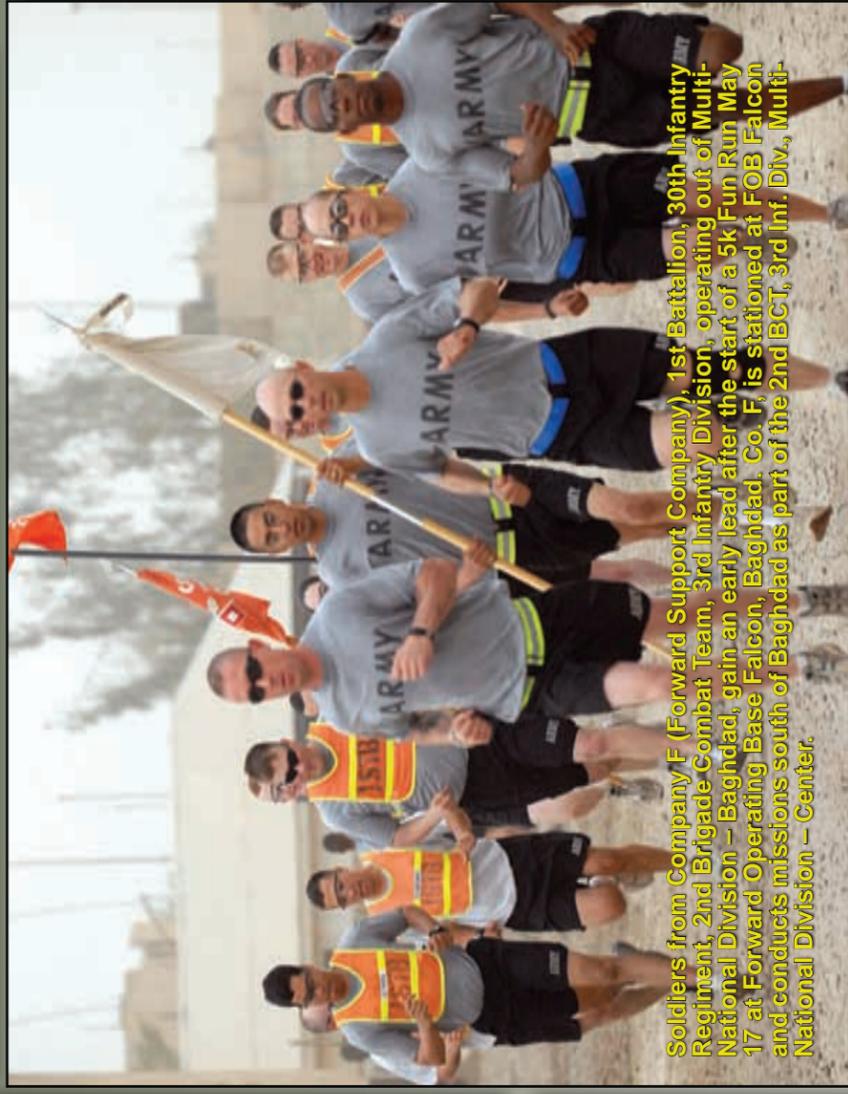
U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

2nd Lt. Michael Rutecki, an operations officer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad tries to steal the soccer ball from an Iraqi Army soldier May 3 at Forward Operating Base Rustamiya in the Al-Jadida district of Baghdad.



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

Soldiers from Company F (Forward Support Company), 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, operating out of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, gain an early lead after the start of a 5k Fun Run May 17 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Baghdad. Co. F, is stationed at FOB Falcon and conducts missions south of Baghdad as part of the 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., Multi-National Division – Center.



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

Pfc. Robert DeVitto and Pfc. Steven Beare, both cavalry scouts assigned to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, hook a tow rope to a dead-lined humvee May 21 before returning to Forward Operating Base Falcon in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The Soldiers towed the disabled vehicle from Abu T'shir to the nearby base for repair.



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

# Raiders commemorate new additions, breaking new ground in Rashid district

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

**I**n efforts to improve stability for the people of Iraq, leaders from across Multi-National Division—Baghdad and the Rashid district of southern Baghdad are looking to Iraqi citizens to create permanent solutions to the problems that have plagued the nation's capital before and after the war.

Rashid district community leaders held a special gathering, alongside the leadership of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B and local Iraqi Security Forces, April 26 to demonstrate a joint commitment to improving the quality of life for Iraqi citizens during the commemoration of a new building for the Rashid District Council Hall.

"This building provides the leaders and citizens of Rashid a place to voice their concerns to their elected officials, to plan, and with wisdom, map out the way of progress for all Iraqis here in Rashid," said Col. Ted Martin, commander, 1st BCT.

The Rashid District Council is a self-governance program, where community leaders are working with the estimated 1.2 million people of the Rashid district to help restore order to local neighborhoods and communities in Baghdad.

"It promises to serve as a meeting place where great people share ideas for improving security, fostering cooperation and responding to the voice of those who need help," said Martin, a native of Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

The DC Hall was first opened by Coalition Forces and the Coalition Provisional Authority in the fall of 2003. Since then, the building has hosted meetings and events for local leaders and council members for more than 20 Neighborhood Councils operating in Rashid.

"When terrorism attempted to halt creativity and progress, our efforts were pulled together to repel all forms of terrorism for the purpose of moving forward and rebuilding," said Ya'aqob Yosif, head chairman of the Rashid DC.

The meetings are an opportunity for community leaders to develop real solutions for problems within the neighborhoods, he said during the commemoration.

"Today we are here to open the (DC) building and we are hopeful that it becomes the first of many projects in our beloved Iraq in general and in Al-Rashid district in particular," Yosif explained.

The local council leaders are responsible for working with the Iraqi neighborhood advisory councils and leaders in the various muhallahs to address concerns about public health, education, electricity, water and sewage programs, and Iraqi Security Forces operating in southern Baghdad.

"As we stand here today, we would like to thank the efforts of the friendly forces and their cooperation with us in this project and helping our wounded country – Iraq," Yosif said.

The 1st "Raider" BCT continues to work with Iraqi Security Forces to provide improved security in Rashid, said Lt. Col. Paul Hossenlopp, deputy commanding officer, 1st BCT.

With improved security, the 1st BCT will work with local leaders and the Government of Iraq with essential services and projects to improve Iraqis' quality of life, he said.

One example of the brigade's ongoing efforts to stabilize

everyday life for the people of Rashid, MND-B and 1st BCT leaders met April 25 for the unearthing of a new construction project to build a headquarters for the Civil Services Department in the Jihad community of Rashid, said Hossenlopp.

"The CSD Building will be the first community services building in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad," explained Hossenlopp, a native of Cincinnati.

The CSD project once complete will eventually operate with the support of the Government of Iraq and provide permanent jobs for local communities by creating and sustaining an Iraqi workforce employed to rebuild Baghdad's infrastructure and eventually restore essential services to the citizens of Rashid, said Hossenlopp.

The construction project currently employs an estimated 400 Iraqis, providing vocational tutoring combined with on-the-job training for the unskilled laborers, who will help local contractors create the new civic center in southern Baghdad, said Maj. Timothy



A team of engineers conducts a site survey April 25 for the new Jihad Civil Services Department headquarters to be built in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The new building will be a center for managing and servicing essential services and construction projects for the district which is home to an estimated 1.2 million Iraqis.

Reed, civil affairs officer, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

“Stability plays a big part in the work that we are accomplishing,” Reed said, about the \$1.6 million project to create a civic center for essential services and public works in southern Baghdad.

The intent is that once the Iraqis are trained, the crew of construction workers and civil engineers will eventually lead their district in reconstruction efforts in Baghdad, said Reed, a native of Las Cruces, N.M.

“It is a great concept for the people to create a headquarters for a new civic services department to better service the needs of the people of Rashid and Baghdad,” he added.

Based on the program’s success, other CSD Buildings will be planned for the Rashid district and Baghdad, he added.

Capt. Ryan Gavin, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, meets with the construction site manager and foreman to discuss progress made and issues for the building of the new Civil Services Department Building, an ongoing project to provide stability for the people of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.



Lt. Col. Paul Hossenlopp, deputy commanding officer of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, discusses plans for the first civil services building in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad April 25, with project supervisors: Thomas Lynch, Provincial Reconstruction Team (left); Maj. Timothy J. Reed, brigade civil affairs officer, 1st BCT; and Lt. Col. Matthew Elledge, commander, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. The CSD project once complete will eventually operate with the support of the Government of Iraq and provide permanent jobs for Iraqis, said Hossenlopp, who hails from Cincinnati.

# IRAQI NATIONAL POLICE GRADUATE DOURA WARRIOR LEADERS COURSE



**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, senior enlisted advisor, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, presents Iraqi National Policeman Sgt. Moshtaq Thiab, instructor at the Warrior Leader Course, 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, with a 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. coin for excellence, May 8. Jawad served as one of the instructors for 24 students attending the 5-day WLC at Joint Security Station Doura.**



U.S. Army photos by Maj. Dave Olson, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

**Brig. Gen. Sa'ad, deputy commander, 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, presents a diploma to an Iraqi Policeman from 7th Bde., 2nd NP Div., during a Warrior Leader Course Graduation Ceremony at Joint Security Station Doura, May 8. The 5-day course trained 24 students on close-quarter combat techniques, leadership skills, first aid medical skills, map reading, establishing and maintaining check points, and lessons in human rights.**

Maj. Dave Olson  
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

**B**ehind every good military leader is a host of noncommissioned officers, who worked hard to teach, coach and mentor the young leader. In the U.S. Army, the Warrior Leader Course serves as the initial military leadership course in a series of challenging courses in the NCO Education System to prepare young leaders to become professional NCOs and consummate leaders.

It is a system that has proven its value over time for the U.S. Army – and now, it is one that is beginning to pay dividends for Iraqi Security Forces, who are striving to develop their growing forces – in particular, their fledgling NCO Corps.

And so it was on May 8 when military leaders from the 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division, and 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-

National Division – Baghdad, gathered to recognize the accomplishments of 24 Iraqi National Police students during the Warrior Leader Course graduation ceremony at Joint Security Station Doura.

Master Sgt. Donald Sherman, the senior enlisted advisor for the 7th Bde., 2nd INP Div. transition team, served as the master of ceremonies during the graduation ceremony.

During the course, the policemen learned many skills, which will make them a better policeman, said Sherman. Some of the skills include leadership techniques, troop-leading procedures, First-Aid medical tasks, establishing and maintaining a checkpoint, map reading, close-quarter combat techniques and lessons in applying human rights.

Sherman challenged the graduates to “apply the skills and lessons learned” during the WLC and to share them with their fellow policemen.

Brig. Gen. Sa'ad, the deputy commander of the 7th Bde., 2nd INP Div., was the guest speaker for the event.

He congratulated the policemen for their hard work during the training and thanked the Coalition Forces for their support in facilitating the WLC. He challenged the graduates to follow the Rule of Law and help build a new Iraq without terrorism.

“Work hard in the Al Rashid district to protect the civilians,” Sa'ad charged the police graduates.

Sa'ad closed his speech by thanking the American instructors for their time and expertise in training the policemen, which, he said, will assist them greatly in providing a safe and secure environment in Rashid.

After the speeches, the graduates filed individually across the stage. Each stopped about one meter in front of the general, stomped their right foot and came to the position of attention before rendering a smart salute to the general with

their right palm facing outward. They then shook his hand as Sa'ad presented them their diplomas.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, the senior enlisted advisor of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., presented Raider Brigade coins to two INP sergeants, Mahmud Jawad and Moshtaq Thiab, who were assistant instructors during the course.

“On behalf of the Raider Brigade, I present this coin to you for excellence,” Bobb said, referring to the excellent training they provided to the other shurta (Iraqi policemen).

Six of the graduates were local Iraqi Policemen from Doura, while the others were from the division's other battalions: the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions.

The graduation ceremony marked the culmination of the fifth WLC conducted at JSS Doura by the 7th Bde., 2nd INP Div.

Following the ceremony, Sherman led Bobb on a tour of the facility and the medical clinic at JSS Doura.

# Reconstruction in Rashid

## Iraqi civil leaders, Soldiers join forces

Maj. Dave Olson  
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

**I**raqi civil leaders met May 13 with the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, to select and prioritize reconstruction projects for the Rashid district in southern Baghdad for the benefit of the Iraqi citizens.

Leaders of the Rashid District Council, Doura and Rashid Beladiyas, and representatives of the Ministry of Education met at the Rashid Project Prioritization Meeting at Forward Operating Base Falcon in Baghdad to discuss, select and prioritize the civil and construction projects the Iraqi leadership want MND-B assistance with during the upcoming year.

“The intent of the meeting was to receive Iraqi feedback on prioritizing projects nominated by our predecessors, 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div., so we could better synchronize Coalition-sponsored projects to fill funding gaps in their government’s master plan,” said Maj. Tom Clark, the 1st BCT chief of the Infrastructure Coordination Element and the operations officer for the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT.

Officers from the 1st “Raider” Brigade presented a briefing on the future method of improving essential services in Rashid to the Iraqi civil leaders. This method will help in developing a master plan for Rashid synchronized with Government of Iraq’s future projects.

The Raider Brigade presented information to the Iraqi leaders about how the



Photo courtesy of Capt. David Beskow, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

**Yaqoub Yosif Al Bakhaty, the Rashid District Council chairman, gets to see where the button is located that controls power to his district at the Rashid Electrical Sub-Station, during a tour of the facility May 13 as part of the Project Prioritization Meeting with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad leaders.**

Iraqi Commander’s Emergency Response Program worked, explained Clark.

I-CERP is the procedure the Iraqi Government uses to spend its oil revenues to complement a similar successful U.S. program known as CERP, he said.

The Iraqi leaders brought a list of projects they wanted to nominate at the meeting, he said.

“The Iraqis joined together to express their wishes in solidarity on common programs,” said Tom Lynch, a na-

tive of Fairfax, Va., and the Provincial Reconstruction Team leader, who works closely with 1st BCT and served in the U.S. Foreign Service for 33 years, including 18 months in Afghanistan.

The Iraqi leaders discussed and prioritized 44 projects during the meeting, said Clark.

During the conference, the leaders also toured the Central Baghdad electrical sub-station here to monitor progress on the facility.

The Central Baghdad electrical sub-station is a project built with Iraqi money, by Iraqi labor, using Iraqi and foreign experts, said Clark, who hails from Copperas Cove, Texas. The sub-station will improve efficiency and reliability of the electrical distribution, not only to the people of Rashid, but to all of Baghdad, he said.

The sub-station is scheduled to open in June.



Photo courtesy of Capt. David Beskow, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

**Hashem Mahmood Dahash, the Rashid District Council deputy chairman (right), and other Iraqi civil leaders tour the Rashid Electrical Sub-Station May 13 during a Project Prioritization Meeting with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, May 13. The Rashid Electrical Sub-Station will supply power to the national grid to support Baghdad.**



1st Lt. Adam Moore  
4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

**T**he Convoy Escort Platoon of Company A, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is a unique element that executes all of the 1st "Raider" BCT's combat support missions outside of Forward Operating Base Falcon.

Deployed for a 15-month tour in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the platoon of Soldiers cannot be found on any Modified Table of Organization and Equipment because it was formed by Soldiers from each company within the battalion – Soldiers who contribute their special skills to ensure mission success.

A key element for the leaders of the platoon was ensuring their Soldiers follow the appropriate steps to maximize the safety of their troops while out on mission.

"First, last and always, security is what protects you from the enemy, and there is more to it than having 360 degrees established," said Staff Sgt. Johnnie Martinez, a motor transport operator from Okeechobee, Fla., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Supt. Bn. "It is imperative that you understand your enemy and all the threats and where they occur in your operating environment."

Fundamental to every operation the platoon conducts is the IRONHORSE BIG 8, which consists of operations orders, graphics, pre-combat checks and inspections, rehearsals, security, reconnaissance, time management and risk management.

Every mission begins with an operations order. The platoon leader or platoon sergeant work in coordination with the battalion intelligence and operations personnel to prepare an executable mission that integrates the enemy situation into all planning considerations.

Once the battalion commander approves the plan, the order is then issued to the Soldiers; thorough back-briefs are

petroleum supply specialist assigned to Company A, 4th Supt. Bn. "They are situational training exercises that allow us to perform our actions on the objective prior to execution."

Pre-combat checks and inspections are the focus of the platoon's preparation. Every Soldier and vehicle is checked, rechecked and checked again.

"If a piece of equipment fails or is overlooked, then it is a failure at the squad, platoon, company and battalion level because they are all involved in the pre-combat inspection process," said Capt. John Friel, commander of Co. A, 4th Supt. Bn., who hails from Warrensburg, Mo.

Graphics play an important role in the platoon's operations. Graphics are issued prior to every mission to provide a visual aid on the enemy and civilian situations, to include historical and predictive threat locations. Also included are primary, alternate, evacuation routes and overlays of all battle space owners.

"The graphics are a great tool that helps bring the mission to life prior to execution," said Sgt. Paul Royar, a native of Alba, Texas, and a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Co. B, 4th Supt. Bn. "It makes it easier to conceptualize the mission if you have materials to reference after the briefing."

Integrated into every operation is a security plan. The patrol leader, with the assistance of the battalion's military intelligence team, conducts engagement area development and thorough enemy analysis to determine what considerations must be taken. Different movement formations and techniques are used to counteract potential enemy threats.

"Our primary mission is not to seek and destroy the enemy; however, if we can provide actionable intelligence to the maneuver guys in their battle space, then it's a big bonus," said Spc. Dexter Clingan, a petroleum supply specialist from Halleyville, Ala., assigned to Co. A, 4th Supt. Bn. "We get updates from

Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Mora, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, and a platoon sergeant for the Convoy Escort Platoon, Company A, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, supervises preventive maintenance, checks and services daily before combat logistics patrols depart the base camp in support of the Soldiers of the 1st "Raider" BCT operating at Combat Outposts and Joint Security Stations throughout the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

conducted to ensure each Soldier understands all aspects of the operation.

"Our rehearsals are intense," said Spc. John Brewer, a native of Tallulah, La., and a

in specific areas, and we serve as an extra set of eyes and ears on the ground."

The final step to the IRONHORSE BIG 8 is composite risk management. No operation takes place without a completed risk assessment and risk brief. Control measures are developed, disseminated and continuously refined. Updates are based on the tactical situation as it develops, and accidental risk is continuously evaluated and mitigated.

"I never want to be the leader whose Soldier gets injured due to my negligence or lack of prevention," said Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Mora, senior wheeled vehicle mechanic and platoon sergeant of the convoy escort platoon, who hails from Corpus Christi, Texas, and is assigned to Co. B. "Our Soldiers are too valuable and too important not to take the proper steps to ensure their safety."

The platoon's leaders ensure these standards are adhered to at all times, and the Soldiers are always prepared to execute the mission, said Mora.



Sgt. Paul Royar, a light-wheeled mechanic from Nashua, N.H., assigned to Company B, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, instructs Spc. Bobbie Wyble, from Amarillo, Texas, and Spc. Steven Taylor, from Bakersfield, Ca., light-wheeled vehicle mechanics assigned to Co. B, 4th Supt. Bn., on how to properly conduct preventive maintenance, checks and services on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

# *Iraqi National Police raid mosque*

*Combined raid with 2nd Squadron, "Cougars" nets EFP cache*



14-inch EFP

11-inch EFP

**Iraqi National Police from the 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, unearthed a large weapons cache at a mosque in Abu T'shir May 1 during a combined raid with Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, working in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. Since arriving in Baghdad, the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, and its attached units confiscated more than 100 weapons caches and detained over 100 criminals and terrorists reducing violent attacks in Rashid by more than 50 percent in April and May.**



**Munitions found in the caches were, 10 Explosively Formed Penetrator Improvised Explosive Devices, 26 155mm mortar rounds, over 100 pounds of homemade explosives, 19 60mm mortar rounds, 47 rocket propelled grenades, seven RRG boosters, seven sticks of TNT, two blocks of plastic explosives, four claymore mines, one 107mm rocket, a bag of mortar boosters, binoculars, and rounds of loose ammunition.**



# Community Medical Engagement

## Outreach program provides medical care to Iraqi civilians in Doura community

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

**M**ulti-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers enjoyed a backseat ride as the Iraqi National Police led a community medical engagement at Joint Security Station Doura May 18-21 to treat all sects of Iraqis in the Doura community, located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Soldiers from the 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, NP Transition Team, have worked continuously to enable the Iraqi Security Forces to complete CMEs, from start to finish, and now provide little oversight throughout the operation.

“This event is unique in the fact that the ISF led, planned, coordinated and operated the CME event,” said Lt. Col. Charles Allen, 7th Bde., 2nd NP Div., NPTT chief. “We are really getting to see the fruits of our labor.”

Through the course of working with local ISF, Allen said the NPTT has slowly backed off and provides less guidance in all areas of operations.

“I’ve watched everything transfer over, and now we’re in an oversight position,” said Allen, who hails from Auburn, Neb. “We provide guidance and instruction as needed.”

The National Police medics assist in screening patients, operating the pharmacy, and escorting patients around the clinic,



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

**Dr. Luoqman Mohammed Sulayman, who specializes in gastro-intestinal medicine, discusses a medical prescription with a pharmacist during a Community Medical Engagement May 19 at Joint Security Station Doura in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. “I’m happy to help the people,” said Sulayman. “They are all my friends, brothers, and Iraqis.”**



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge said Allen. The 2nd NP Div. also employs doctors at the medical exams during the CMEs.

Dr. Luoqman Mohammed Sulayman, a gastro-intestinal specialist, is one of the doctors employed by the National Police at JSS Doura. Sulayman also owns a private practice in north Baghdad.

“I’m happy to help the people,” said Sulayman, a graduate of Baghdad University and Bilkent University in Greece. “They are all my friends, brothers and Iraqis. I do it for the sake of humanity.”

The medical visits are open to all Iraqi residents.

“The staff working at the clinic treat people regardless of their religious beliefs,” explained Allen, an infantry officer with 20 years of military service. “That’s progress.”

The goal of the medical outreach program was to treat as many patients as possible during the four-day operation. By the end of the second day, approximately 57 patients had been screened, treated and released.

Yass Thdoier, a medic assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Bde., 2nd NP Division, screens patients when they enter the clinic. He takes the blood pressure, pulse rate and temperature readings for every patient before seeing a doctor.

**An Iraqi National Policeman assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, sticks an intravenous needle into the forearm of a patient May 19 during a Community Medical Engagement at Joint Security Station Doura, located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.**

Treating people comes natural to Thdoier, who said he believes that helping the Iraqi people makes a positive difference in their minds.

“When the civilians see us treating them, they thank us for it,” Thdoier explained. “They will give more respect to us out in the city.”

Medical engagements such as these help to build confidence and trust between the Iraqi citizens and the police, said Capt. Yuri Rivera, a physician’s assistant assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B.

“We are going to be gone at some point, so they have to rely on themselves,” said Rivera, a native of Hollywood, Fla.

The CMEs have great potential, explained Rivera, and hopefully, in the near future, the clinic will see more than double the amount of the patients they are seeing now.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge

**Iraqi National Policeman, Yass Thdoier, a medic assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, places an oral thermometer into the mouth of a patient May 19 during a Community Medical Engagement at Joint Security Station Doura, which is located in southern Baghdad.**

# Regulars captain earns 2007 MacArthur Leadership Award

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

A 15-pound bronze bust stands atop its walnut pedestal – majestically glowing in the morning sunshine outside the nation’s military headquarters in Washington. It bears the face of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the honored World War II leader, and serves as a prestigious honor for effective military leadership awarded to outstanding junior officers in the U.S. Army.

Each year, 28 Soldiers gather at the Pentagon to be presented the prestigious MacArthur Leadership Award for their demonstrated professional and for displaying the ideas for which the former General of the Army stood for: duty – honor – and country.

Among those honored May 14 was Capt. Edward Kennedy, the commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, who said he was as surprised as his Family when he discovered he had been named as one of the awardees for this prestigious honor.

“I tribute this award to the NCOs and officers who have trained me over the years and made me the officer I am today,” stated Kennedy, a graduate of West Point Class of 2000. “I was honored to be chosen, but I was not aware of the selection process until after the fact.”

Kennedy’s packet was submitted without his knowledge by Lt. Col. Matthew Elledge, his commander, who serves with 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., and it continued up the chain of command. A Department of the Army Headquarters selection board announced his selection for the award.

Fourteen awardees are chosen each year from the active Army component, and seven are selected from both the Army Reserve and Army National Guard.



Photo courtesy of Bob Kennedy

**Mary Kennedy accepts a 2007 Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award on behalf of her son from Gen. George Casey, the Chief of Staff of the Army May 14 at the Pentagon in Washington. Mary’s son, Capt. Edward Kennedy, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., Multi-National Division, Baghdad, is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

Kennedy is currently deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he leads his infantry company on various missions to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Iraq.

Because it was not feasible for Kennedy to leave his Soldiers and return home to re-

ceive his award, his mother, Mary, became the only member of the awardees group to accept the award on someone’s behalf.

“I am exceedingly proud of him for his devotion to serving his country,” Mary said. “I wish he could have accepted the award in person, but I am honored to do it for him.”

After receiving the award, Mary went on a tour of the Pentagon, where she met with Gen. George Casey, the Chief of Staff of the Army. Later in the day, she attended an Association of the United States Army luncheon, where she was presented a commemorative watch for her son.

“I am happy my mother was able to receive the award,” said Kennedy, who hails from Danbury, Conn. “She, along with my father, brought me up right and tried to instill a solid work ethic.”

Kennedy’s father, Robert, lost his life to cancer while his son served in support of OIF in 2006.

Kennedy wished his father could be next to his mother’s side during the ceremony, but Mary said that she knows her husband was there in spirit, adding that she knows that his father is looking down on him from heaven with “a big, beaming smile, watching out for him and his Soldiers.”

“Ed is a very modest person,” Mary said. “I know he credits this award to the many wonderful people he has served with.

Family members and friends accompanied Mary to Washington for the ceremony so she would not be alone.

“Overall, I just try to do my best, and I feel like I have achieved a lot over my lifespan,” Kennedy said.

“There are a lot of accomplishments, friendships and moments – like the birth of my daughter and graduating from West Point – which I am proud of,” he explained.

Kennedy said that his success as a leader is a direct reflection of the countless accomplishments of the many leaders, subordinates and peers he has had the honor to serve with since enlisting in the Army.



Photo courtesy of Capt. Edward Kennedy

**Capt. Edward Kennedy, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, recently won a MacArthur Leadership Award May 14 for being an effective military leader amongst his peers. Kennedy is currently leading his company of infantrymen while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad.**

REGULARS BY GOD

# Ghost Squadron of Iraqi secures piece of history



U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Steven Stover

Lt. Col. Troy Smith (left), speaks with Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond, the commanding general of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and the 4th Infantry Division, about the main chapel of the St. Peter Seminary of Chaldean Patriarchate, which is located in the predominantly Muslim community of Abu T'shir. The chapel represents a piece of Iraq's cultural history in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. Smith is the commander of 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

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

**S**oldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, safeguard a piece of Iraqi religious history while operating from a combat outpost adjacent to a Christian-based seminary in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

The Soldiers of Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, ensure the preservation of the seminary, college and chapel that encompass the St. Peter Seminary of Chaldean Patriarchate in the predominantly Muslim community of Abu T'shir.

“Due to the proximity of the seminary to the COP, it became necessary to conduct clearance

operations within the seminary and chapel to ensure it was not being used by criminals for attacks against Coalition Forces,” said Capt. David Lombardo, commander, Troop B. “Also, ‘Bulldog’ Troop conducts scheduled patrols within the seminary grounds to lock access points and prevent vandalism.”

The seminary opened in Baghdad in 1960; in 1991, the Pontifical Babel College for Philosophy and Theology was added to the compound.

“In 2006, Coalition Forces obtained permission from the Chaldean Bishop in charge of the property to use the college as a patrol base,” said Lombardo, a native of Waynesboro, Pa. That year, the seminary had relocated outside the country and the college became a combat outpost for Coalition Forces.

U.S. forces found, collected and salvaged numerous religious artifacts, such as books and documents dating back to the 17th century, which helps to preserve a piece of Iraq's history, said Lombardo.

“We make sure all the religious valuables inside the church are safe,” said Pfc. Shane Nerenberg, a forward observer from Riverside, Calif., assigned to Troop B.

The Soldiers said it is not a duty they take lightly.

“It's an honor to be charged with the duty of securing the church,” added Spc. Michael Lavelle, a mortarman from Pittsburgh, assigned to Troop B.

Just like the previous four units that operated out of the COP, the Bulldog Soldiers will continue to provide security in their operating environment and preserve a small piece of Iraq's renowned history.

The library at the Pontifical Babel College for Philosophy and Theology is preserved by the Soldiers of Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, in the Abu T'shir community of southern Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Hodge



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

A view inside the main chapel of the St. Peter Seminary of Chaldean Patriarchate located in the predominantly Muslim community of Abu T'shir represents a piece of Iraq's cultural history May 13 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

# FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Chaplain Maj. Trenton E. Lewis  
Raider Brigade Chaplain

In our military world, we prepare for all possible contingencies when we plan for war. What strikes me as odd is that military personnel often fail to do in their personal lives what they do so readily when fighting our nation's wars. They fail to plan for all the contingencies that they may need to employ in order to fight against and win the daily internal struggles they face.

Even more astonishing is that many military personnel confidently go into battle against national political enemy forces without a second thought but often timidly resist going into battle against the internal personal enemy they continuously battle everyday.

Some even turn to the use of self-destructive tools to resist battling that which they feel they cannot overcome to avoid making plans that will positively impact their ability to defeat the enemy within. Taking the path of least resistance, many people succumb to the excessive use of alcohol, illicit drug use, illicit sexual behavior and so on.

Such behavior leads me to believe that many people do not know how to effectively fight against the enemy within.

Romans 7:7-25 describes the enemy we face within ourselves. We must fight against the internal force that seeks to cause us grave harm.

This article is aimed at helping you to properly equip yourself to combat and defeat the enemy within. For those Soldiers who have been putting up a valiant fight against internal demons, I hope this article encourages you to continue your fight. As well, I pray it offers deliverance for those who feel paralyzed by the battle.

The contingency plan for Christians fighting against the

enemy within is found in the Holy Bible. There one finds, in similar fashion to the military, the commander's intent, the mission statement, and the purpose for the mission along with key tasks required to set the stage for a successful operation. GOD's intent is that "everyone be saved and understand the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3 NLB).

HIS mission statement directs that HE becomes "... sin for us who knew no sin ..." (2 Corinthians 5:21). HIS purpose includes HIS occupying your hearts in such a manner that you feel worship and serve HIM of your own volition.

To achieve GOD's purpose requires the performance of the following key tasks: exhibiting love for one another; recognizing that you are a sinner saved by grace; following the biblical mandates to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the imprisoned; dying daily to your sin nature, as the Apostle Paul directs; and accepting GOD and HIS SON into your life.

When performed to standard, GOD's end state becomes reality: a person who worships and serves HIM for who HE is, has been and will be a person that works for you.

A person defeats the enemy within by asking the Lord, as David did, to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you (Psalm 51:10). We defeat the enemy within by acknowledging that we can not do it by ourselves: but thanks to GOD who gave us HIS SON. Soldiers defeat the enemy by surrendering their all to GOD.



Bob Topolewski  
Raider Safety Officer

Part of being safe is being prepared for unexpected events. It is easy to know how Soldiers should react when time is on their side, but reacting to a situation correctly when there is little time and a Soldier only has one chance to get it right, takes planning.

On a continuous basis Raider Combat Patrols are traveling through the 1BCT area of operations conducting various types of missions. Because of this constant flow of patrols, it is easy to forget that each one is a COMBAT MISSION, and must be treated as such. This process must start with an in-depth operations order that covers all essential items that every patrol member must understand.

The order should follow the standard five-paragraph format and not simply be; "we are going to the Combat Outpost again."

It is vital that up-to-date

intelligence is included, specifically any improvised explosive device or small-arms fire activity along the route of movement within the past 24 hours.

Every member of the patrol needs to know the route and where the checkpoints are located. Each Soldier must be able to take charge of the situation and bring their vehicle to safety. Leaders must ask tough questions and receive answers which indicate a true understanding of how to react to IEDs, roll overs, casualties, lost communications, breaks in contact, and the confusion that comes from enemy contact.

Rehearsing until each patrol member knows not just their job, but how to function in other roles will pay dividends when time is critical.

Taking the extra time to plan each patrol in detail and insure that all patrol members are fully mission ready is the best way to stay safe on the roads of Iraq.



# INDEPENDENT IRAQ

