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THE RALLY POINT



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



The
Rashid
Special
Olympics



The Rucksack

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Members of the Iraqi Wheelchair Fencing Federation, Rana Alawi scores a hit on Daha Sala during the first match of the Girl's Fencing Competition during the Rashid Special Olympics Aug. 22 at the Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. Daha defeated Rana in two sets; 10-7, 10-6, to take home the Gold Medal for the Fencing Event.
(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B)

THE RALLY POINT

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LEADER'S BOOK



Col. Ted Martin

Brave Soldiers of the Raider Brigade Combat Team!

As we look forward to the month of September, we will mark the changing of the seasons, the observance of the Muslim holiday Ramadan and the continued liberation of the Iraqi people.

Iraqi Security Forces are making a significant difference in the daily lives of the people. They are being successful because of your hard work during combat and training exercises you conduct with them. I salute you for this very hard and dangerous work.

We are enjoying a relative decrease in enemy activity because of your hard work on the battlefield. I could not be more pleased with the results of recent combat operations in the Rashid district. You have decisively defeated the Special Group Criminals and driven them from the battlefield. Well done!

The departure of Special Groups Criminals and Al Qaeda in Iraq senior leaders is the direct result of our combined offensive efforts to provide stability and security for the Iraqi people. The enemy is demoralized; their leaders have run away, and the foot soldiers have lost their will to fight.

We must remain vigilant as the enemy is trying to regroup and counter attack. If and when they return to Rashid we will take the fight to them again just like we did in the early summer. My guess is that the bulk

of enemy forces will choose to fight someplace else. They do not want another whipping like you gave them the last time they reared their ugly heads. Thanks for everything that you do!

Many of you have participated in "Information Attacks" these past few weeks. We are posting pictures, banners, bill boards, and wanted posters throughout Rashid; putting a sizeable price tag on the heads of those who continue to threaten the security and stability of Rashid. Our objective is to make Rashid the last place in Iraq that they want to come to. We will not let up the pressure on these thugs and criminals. Time spent on these operations is well spent; your hard work and sweat will pay off.

In the following weeks, the Raider BCT will witness Ramadan, the most important month in the Muslim calendar. Ramadan is a time of prayer and fasting for the Iraqi people. It is also a time for fellowship, camaraderie and celebration. I have directed the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade to respect the Iraqi people and the religious observance of the month of Ramadan.

On the "non-lethal front lines" we are pursuing several projects to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi communities and just recently have begun to distribute micro-grants to the small businessmen and women in Rashid. These small one-time grants give Iraqi business owners the opportunity to improve their workplaces and stimulate the Iraqi economy.

We have already paid \$1.2 million in micro-grants and have much more to give. We have received 3,250 applications from small business owners. This is a relatively small price to pay to give these men and women hope for the future, and to show them that American Soldiers are here to help. Hopefully, we will see continued improved relations with the people of Rashid. We estimate that these grants will positively impact more than 300,000 Iraqis in Rashid alone.

When Special Groups Criminals return looking for a fight, the Iraqi people will be there to let us know. They are tired of the gangs and militias and desire a state of normalcy in their lives. We are setting the conditions now for success in the future. Thanks for all that you are doing!

Finally, I want to say hello and thank you to the Raider Families at Fort Hood. We love you and miss you more than words can describe. We will see you soon!

Steadfast and Loyal, Raider Brigade!



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb

Raider Soldiers.

Most recently, there has been an increase of combat patrols at the platoon level not in compliance with Multi-National Division - Baghdad's Iron Horse "Big 8." This complacency will lead to senseless loss of life or limb of the Army's most valuable and complex resource - the Soldier.

Platoon Sergeants, as the lowest level senior noncommissioned officers, have an enormous effect on the discipline and morale of their platoons. Platoon Sergeants who consistently enforce standards are simultaneously instilling discipline that will pay off in critical situations. Disciplined Soldiers will take the right action, even if they do not feel like it. True discipline demands habitual and reasoned obedience, an obedience that preserves initiative and works, even when you are not around or when chaos and uncertainty abound.

You must convey your knowledge and experience to

your Soldiers and your first concern should be to provide the best possible leadership for the platoon while caring for them.

Lead your Soldiers with a moral conscience and a compassionate heart, the moral conscience to discern right from wrong by strictly enforcing the standards, making them wear their vehicle safety restraints and Personal Protective Equipment and adhering to IH "Big 8," because it will save their lives; a compassionate heart because you promised their parents, their children, husbands and wives, that you will do everything within your ability to bring them back home safe.

Platoon Sergeants are trainers, mentors, communicators and advisors. When lieutenants make mistakes, you must step in and guide them back on track, doing so ensures mission accomplishment and Soldier safety, doing so will also form professional and personal bonds based on mutual trust and common goals.

You must have the attitude that it is your duty to train and develop your lieutenant to be the best in the battalion.

Finally, "Taking care of Soldiers" must be more than just words. Taking care of Soldiers means creating a disciplined environment. It means holding Soldiers to high standards and refusing to cut corners. It does not mean coddling or making it easy or comfortable. Comfort always takes second seat to the mission and safety of our Soldiers.

Raiders celebrate spirit of Rashid's Special Athletes

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

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers attended the Rashid Special Olympics Aug. 22 to show their support for disabled athletes at the Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club, located in the Al Thura Disabled Veteran's Community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

Soldiers of the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, applauded Rashid's disabled athletes during the annual youth sports event that showcased tennis matches, table tennis and fencing in the spirit of camaraderie and competition for trophies and medals.

"It's a great event," said Capt. Thao Reed, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "It shows that we can unite Iraqis and endorse teamwork and build camaraderie."

The club is one of five youth sports centers for disabled athletes in Iraq, and the second such club in Baghdad, said Reed, who hails from Fort Worth, Texas.

The Al Thura Club was first established in 2004 within a community in southern Baghdad and was created for disabled veterans of the Iraq-Iran War more than two decades ago, she said.

The youth center and sports events, such as the games, are indicators that the mindset of Iraqi society is changing, said Reed.

"I think the Iraqi Government is realizing that disabled citizens can be integrated into society and can play a productive role in society," Reed said.

Activities such as the Rashid Olympics are great rehabilitation programs, integrating Iraqis into sports to build confidence and physical recovery for disabled athletes and citizens, said Reed.

With the help of non-governmental organizations, Iraqi leaders are also working to identify and treat youth suffering from the trauma of war, opening clinics to address mental health issues, such as depression, said Reed.

"They are providing special education classes meant to help increase awareness and wellness to reach the population,"



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

Mohammed al Kaabi accepts his Gold Medal for placing First in the Rashid Special Olympics Tennis Match held Aug. 22 at Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The day-long event hosted Baghdad's disabled athletes in tennis, table tennis and fencing events to foster camaraderie and celebrate the spirit of the disabled athlete.

she said. "The NGOs are doing their part to help educate Iraqi men and women, using programs such as the youth sport centers to help address those needs."

Mohammed al Kaabi, a disabled athlete, said that the youth center provides opportunities for the disabled community to come together and build camaraderie and is a good thing for the athletes and the community.

"This kind of sport is kind of like a psychological treatment for me as I am disabled. It's like a visit to the doctor – the same as a medical sitting," Kaabi said.

"It's a good thing for me and helps me get through," said Kaabi, who is one of six disabled athletes in Baghdad who compete as part of the Iraqi national select team for handicapped youth.

There are approximately 36 such players in all of Iraq, said Kaabi, who practices tennis 8 to 10 hours per day.

Sgt. Andrew Glover said the opportunity to attend events such as the Rashid Olympics shows an improvement in the security situation for Iraqis in Baghdad.

"It also shows great leaps and bounds in the fact that they have become self-sufficient as a whole and want to better themselves and their community," said Glover, a squad leader from Somerville, S.C., assigned to personal security detachment for HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

As the Iraqi people worry less about security in their communities, the people are returning to a sense of normalcy in their lives, explained Reed.

"All of the hard work of the last

five years is paying off in the form of something that is tangible and productive, and they can see it," she said.

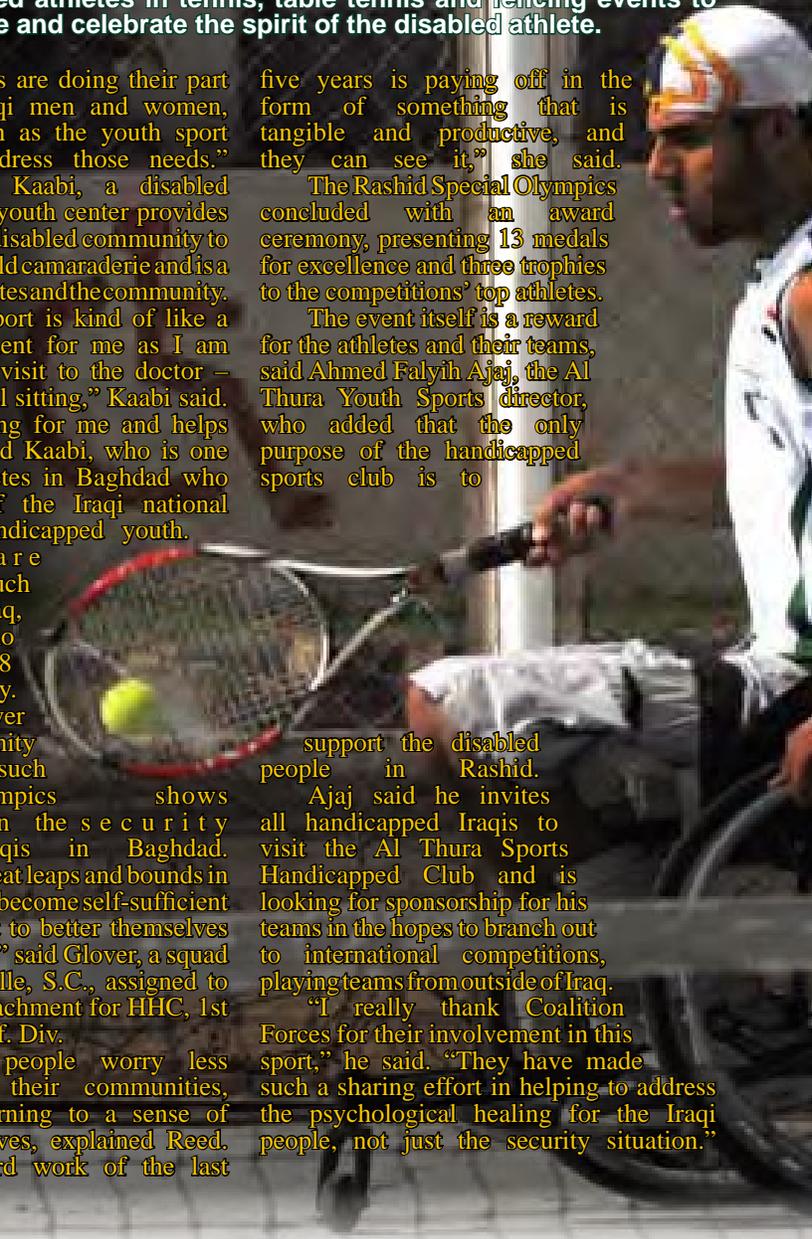
The Rashid Special Olympics concluded with an award ceremony, presenting 13 medals for excellence and three trophies to the competitions' top athletes.

The event itself is a reward for the athletes and their teams, said Ahmed Falyih Ajaj, the Al Thura Youth Sports director, who added that the only purpose of the handicapped sports club is to

support the disabled people in Rashid.

Ajaj said he invites all handicapped Iraqis to visit the Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club and is looking for sponsorship for his teams in the hopes to branch out to international competitions, playing teams from outside of Iraq.

"I really thank Coalition Forces for their involvement in this sport," he said. "They have made such a sharing effort in helping to address the psychological healing for the Iraqi people, not just the security situation."





Members of the Iraqi Wheelchair Fencing Federation, Ali Zhati parries with Mohammed Taliq during the first game of the Boys Fencing Competition part of the Rashid Special Olympics Aug. 22 at the Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. Ali defeated Mohammed in two sets; 10-0, 10-4, to win the Gold Medal for Boys Fencing during the competition that celebrated the spirit of competition for the disabled athletes.

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



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO

Sgt. Joseph Scheerer, a team leader from Peoria, Ill., assigned to the personal security detachment, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, joins an Iraqi disabled citizen, Theer, in a game of ping-pong while attending the Rashid Special Olympics at the Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

Nasir, a disabled athlete, returns a serve during the first tennis match of the Rashid Special Olympics Aug. 22 at the Al Thura Sports Handicapped Club located in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The couples match paired each disabled athlete with another tennis player to compete for points to earn medals at the end of the day-long event. Dozens of disabled athletes from across south Rashid participate in the club, which is one of two community centers for disabled youths in Baghdad. Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, attended the event to show their support for the disabled athletes and the community.

E O D Company defeats IEDs, EFPs in Rashid

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

Soldiers of the 752nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, are on call 24 hours per day to defeat improvised explosive devices and mitigate the threat of the explosively-formed penetrators in southern Baghdad's Rashid district.

"The mission of the 752nd EOD Co. is to help reduce the damage caused by explosive devices in southern Baghdad, to render safe and provide technical expertise to ground force commanders, when it comes to anything related to explosives or improvised explosive devices," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Graham, a platoon sergeant from Orange County, Calif. assigned to 752nd EOD Co.

According to a 2006 U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center Report, "Practical Bomb Scene Investigation" by Maj. Gen. James Thurman, the explosively-formed penetrator, first experimented with in World War II, is an explosively formed petard that has a special shape guard designed to generate the Miznay-Schardin Effect, a platter effect explosion capable of penetrating armor, making the EFP the number one threat to Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces in Iraq.

Since assuming its mission in late April, the EOD unit stationed at Fort Hood Texas, deployed to Forward Operating Base Falcon in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad, has seen a melting pot of devices, ranging from sophisticated explosively-formed penetrators to rudimentary and simple IEDs and UXO hazards, Graham

explained.

Whether confiscating unexploded ordnance or dismantling an IED-making cell, the Soldiers of 752nd EOD Co., run full-spectrum operations in support of asymmetric warfare to assist patrol leaders and commanders on the ground, said Graham.

"Our job is to support the warfighter," he explained. "We are there to clean up their movement. We are there to support and facilitate them in their fight against special groups or any type of IED manufacturer."

Graham said that while the enemies have become more sophisticated in their use of the weapons, and the IEDs have become more sophisticated, complicated and lethal in their design, the Soldiers of the 752nd are ready to respond at any place, any time.

"These guys, they're all about protecting the lives of the Soldiers on the ground and the Iraqi populace," said Graham, a veteran of 14 years and two previous deployments to Iraq. "That's their intent and always will be their intent."

During the past three months, the number of violent attacks in Iraq remain at an all-time low, but the Soldiers of the 752nd remain busy, confiscating weapons caches, defusing roadside bombs and collecting UXOs for controlled detonation, planned

Soldiers from the 752nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, and Soldiers from the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, assess the site of a cache find after a small ordnance detonation inside an abandoned house in Abu T'shir Aug. 21.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Graham, an explosive ordnance disposal platoon sergeant from Orange County, Calif., and 1st Lt. Michael Clark, a platoon leader from Dallas, both assigned to the 752nd EOD Company, attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, layout land mines and measure C4 plastic explosives in a demolition shot pit Aug. 21 outside Forward Operating Base Falcon, located in southern Baghdad's Rashid district.

demolitions, which make for long days and big booms, said Spc. John Jeffcoat, an EOD specialist from Chiloquin, Ore., assigned to 3rd Platoon, 752nd EOD Co.

Jeffcoat admits there are slow days; however, he said, "Some other days, it's so busy, it just drains us. We get 30-hour days where we're on our way back to the FOB, or just get back to the FOB, and have to go right back out again."

An EOD team is responsible for any explosives or ordnance on sight, ranging from a .50-caliber round to nuclear explosives, said Staff Sgt. Stephen Cunningham, a team leader from Los Angeles, assigned to 752nd EOD Co.

Their primary function is to render explosive hazards safe, safe guarding all Soldiers, ISF and Iraqis on site, said Cunningham.

"We have a job that we do," he said. "It is pretty technical, but we are trained well; and we perform to standard."

Cunningham explained that statistics play a big factor in how an EOD technician approaches an IED or EFP.

"What's most likely to happen as opposed to what's least likely to happen; I'm going to take the better road," he said. "Whatever increases my chances of survival."

Working with explosives is a team effort, said Cunningham, who is in charge of a two-man team. Each member of the team provides a different perspective, which contributes to avenues of

approach.

"They won't let me do anything that's unsafe, and I try my best to run everything I do by them to give myself a second and third opinion of what I am going to do, which there again increases my chances," he explained.

EOD technicians are trained in electronics and explosives and fuses, said Cunningham, and when they're not disposing of ordnance, their learning about new types of tactics and techniques to prepare them for any threat.

"Hollywood is probably the most inaccurate portrayal for EOD," he laughed. "Cutting wires, if I went off of color-coded wires, especially for something human built, that's just not smart."

Responding to, finding and rendering safe IEDs, EFPs and UXOs is not the only role that the EOD Soldiers play while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Cunningham.

"Team Leaders are capable of giving an analysis of a post blast site," he explained. "We may also offer IED and ordnance identification training to personnel who request it."

Post blast analysis provides leaders a good idea of what device was used and which criminal group probably deployed the device, he said.

"People are being arrested and being held accountable for what they're doing because of EOD's ability to determine what to dispose of and what to bring back for forensics," Cunningham said.

The Iraqi Army is working to stand up a bomb squad, said Graham, but it takes time to train a bomb technician.

"It's over a year of school just to have a troop out of school with zero experience, just to be proficient, to stay alive, to work around UXO or IEDs," he explained.

Graham said that it is the interest of the 752nd EOD Co., to protect Soldiers and the Iraqi populace, and if there is any doubt on the battlefield, Soldiers should call EOD, whose primary job is safety and protecting the force.

"It may be nothing, or it could be a hazardous piece of ordnance," he said. "That's not wasting our time. That's what we're here for."

Soldiers of the 752nd Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company drive a Joint Explosives Ordnance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicle.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams, 1st BCT PAO

APACHE SOLDIERS

ARE

Story and photos by
Sgt. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

TUSKERS BRED

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers operating in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad continue to work with the Iraqi Security Forces and citizens to improve the quality of life for the district's residents.

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, MND-B, work side-by-side with their ISF counterparts to ensure security for the citizens of Saydiyah and to stimulate local economy by providing business owners the money to improve their shops and stores.

Soldiers from the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., spend much of their time working directly with the Iraqi Army, providing much needed guidance and mentorship for any type of operation.

"The IA in our area are starting to develop with tactical scenarios in mind," said Sgt. 1st Class Renato Zappala, a platoon sergeant assigned to HHC, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. "Their (noncommissioned officers) and officers' educational level in military tactics is not yet on par with ours. That's what we are trying to develop with the combined patrols."

During combined population engagements Soldiers from Scout Plt., or "Shadow," follow the IA soldiers through houses and residential neighborhoods ensuring every room is cleared and the resident is in possession of only one rifle and magazine, as prescribed by law, said Zappala, who hails from Alhambra, Calif.

"We alternate combined patrols with close encounters introducing the IA to the populace," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Brooks, section sergeant, HHC, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt. "We let them lead the way to show the people that the Iraqi Army soldiers are legitimate."

Sgt. Adam Arena, a forward observer assigned to Shadow Plt., HHC, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, believes it is imperative the IA learn to take the lead.

"The combined engagements act as a presence patrol to make sure the citizens know who the IA are," said Arena, a

Chicago-native. "I think that shows the Iraqi people that the IA is there to help."

Arena also said that he believes there has been definite improvements in the ISF since his last deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, said Arena.

Outside a combat outpost in Saydiyah, more than 80 Iraqi businessmen line up, awaiting the opportunity to turn in their microgrant application.

Microgrants are a U.S.-funded program that gives \$1,000 - \$3,000 to local business owners to help stimulate the Iraqi economy and provide the Iraqi entrepreneurs with the means to revitalize their enterprise.

"We passed out 85 applications for microgrants a couple of days ago," said Staff Sgt. Steve Wadleigh, the company fire support noncommissioned officer assigned to Company A, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. "We told the business owners when and where to turn in the applications and, we have had 100 percent of those applications turned in today. The fact is microgrants boost the economy."

This was the second iteration of microgrants initiated by the Soldiers of Co. A.

There were 107 applications turned in last week, said Wadleigh.

Comparing the atmosphere on Saydiyah's Tejara Street to when "Apache" Co. arrived in Rashid in Sept. 2007 has been like night and day, said Wadleigh, a native of Santa Rosa, Calif.

"When we first got to Saydiyah not many shops were open along Tejara Street," Wadleigh explained. "There has been a pretty dramatic change. I would estimate there has been an economical turnaround of about 80 percent."

Wadleigh estimated 90 percent of those awarded microgrants improve their shops, which in turn, stimulates the economy.

He believes the biggest drawback to microgrants is the 10 percent that do not spend the money correctly because it is difficult to enforce how the store owners spend the money.

"Some people have packed up and completely moved away after getting the grant," Wadleigh stated.

Apache Soldiers do their best to make regular visits to business owners, who provide feedback to Coalition Forces and ISF.

"We check a lot of shops on Tejara Street," Wadleigh explained. "We go into each shop and ask them how the money helped them out."

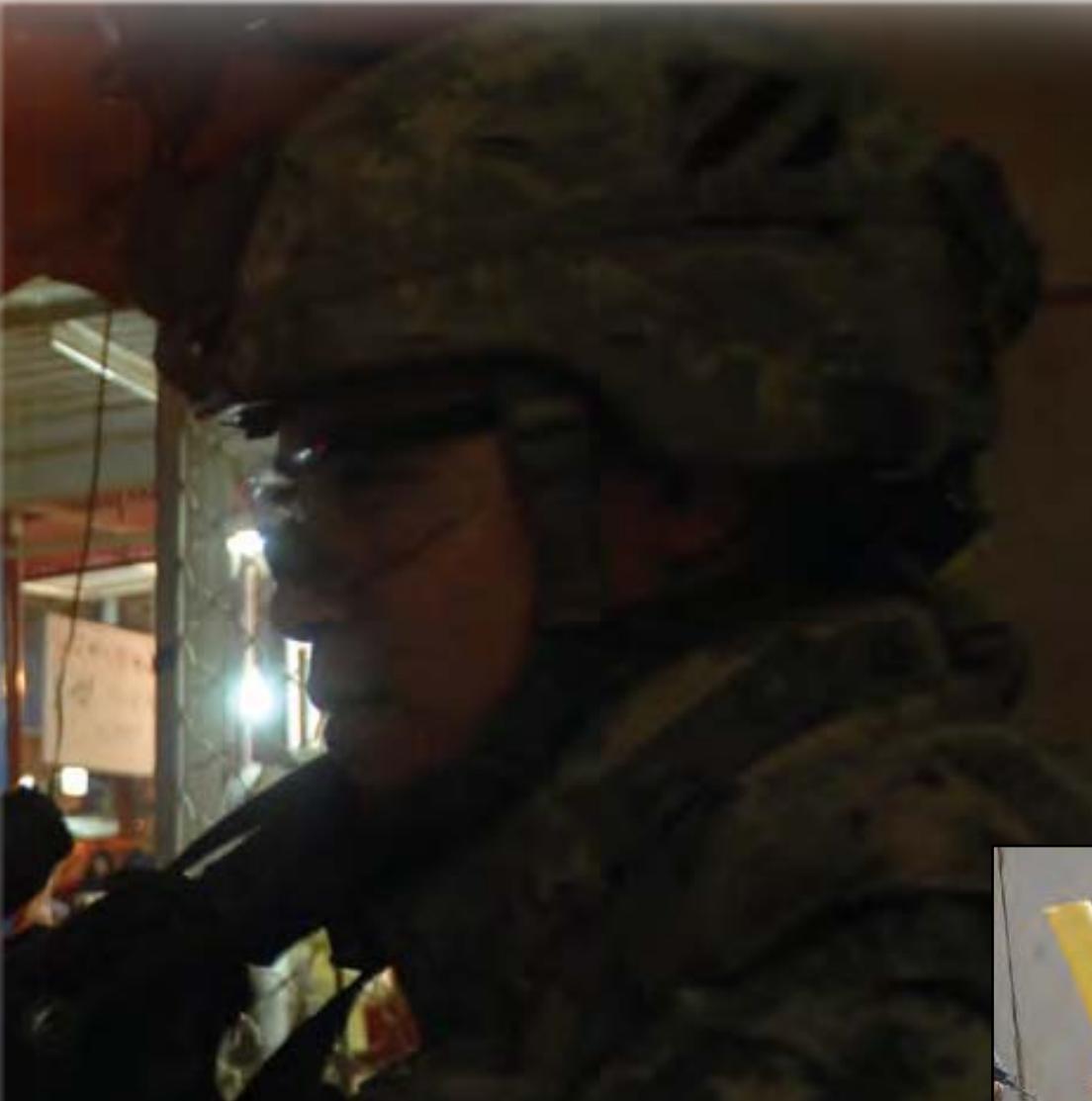
Many shop owners opened their shops to apply for the grant, said Wadleigh. When they did, business picked up and they ended up not needing the money after all.

One Saydiyah shop owner was quoted as saying "\$2,500 is a drop in the bucket, what I need is business."

The 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., or "Tuskers," is based out of Fort Stewart, Ga., and currently serving a 15-month deployment to southern Baghdad's Rashid district in support of MND-B and OIF.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Brooks, a forward observer from Enid, Okla., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, speaks with an Iraqi citizen about security during a combined patrol Aug. 9 in the Saydiyah community of southern Baghdad. The Soldiers of 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt., "Tuskers," are currently serving a 15-month deployment attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.





Pfc. Michael Edwards, an infantryman assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, pulls security Aug. 8 along a busy thoroughfare in the Saydiyah community of southern Baghdad. Edwards, a native of Sacramento, Calif., is currently serving a 15-month deployment attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



Sgt. Lawrence Wilson, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanic assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, enters an Iraqi citizen into the Hand-held Interagency Identification Detection Equipment Aug. 9 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. Wilson, who hails from Amarillo, Texas, is currently serving a 15-month deployment attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



Spc. David Zerate, a combat medic assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, searches an Iraqi business owner Aug. 9 at a combat outpost in the Saydiyah community of southern Baghdad. Zerate, a native of Lubbock, Texas, is currently serving a 15-month deployment attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon Creek Co.

Staff Sgt. Nathan Camp, a native of Paxton, Ill., and (seated) Cpl. Frank Blackwell, from Lancaster, Calif., both infantrymen assigned to 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, wait for a Soldier to finish an exercise Aug. 14 at a combat outpost in the Jaza'ir community of southern Baghdad.

Story and photos by
Sgt. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

An average day for Staff Sgt. Nathan Camp's squad starts at 1 a.m. with physical training.

Technically, it is the end of the work day, which means that Camp's squad, which is part of 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, have finished patrolling the streets of the Jaza'ir community and have already prepared their combat vehicles for the next day's mission.

"Everything starts the night after the patrol," said Camp, a squad leader with 3rd Plt., Co. C, which is attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad. "It's important because we never know when we are going to roll out."

Camp, who hails from Paxton, Ill., and has more than five years of service in the U.S. Army, said he enjoys leading his squad "outside the wire" and into the handful of

muhallas, or neighborhoods, in southern Baghdad's Rashid district.

"My role as a squad leader is to ensure all the preparations are accomplished so my guys can complete the mission," said Camp, who enjoys playing pick-up softball or basketball games with his comrades.

The squad maintains its level of mission readiness, whether training to achieve elite levels of fitness or preparing for a platoon weightlifting competition.

"It is easier to maneuver with all the protective gear on when Soldiers are physically fit," said Sgt. Michael Hardison, a team leader within the squad. "It's also a morale booster."

After their gym sessions, the infantrymen conduct personal hygiene and retire to their homemade wooden bunks that line their crowded rooms.

"The morning starts with

mission preparation," Camp stated. "The team leaders conduct pre-combat checks and inspections on personnel and equipment."

After weapons are mounted and ready and the water coolers have been filled to the brim with ice and bottled water, the Soldiers watch a movie or television to relax



Staff Sgt. Nathan Camp, a squad leader from Paxton, Ill., assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, directs an Iraqi National Policeman's rifle to cover his sector of fire during room clearance training Aug. 14 in the Jaza'ir community of southern Baghdad.



1st Lt. Derek Telleson, the 3rd Platoon Leader from Huntsville, Utah, assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, covers his sector of fire while demonstrating to Iraqi National Policemen how to clear a room Aug. 14 in the Jaza'ir community of southern Baghdad.

before hitting the scorching pavement, said Hardison, a native of Battle Ground, Wash.

“We like to sit and laugh and joke to take our minds off of being away from home,” explained Hardison. “It lightens the Soldiers’ mood before they go on patrol.”

After the Soldiers roll outside the boundaries of their combat outpost, they become mission-focused and ready to train the Iraqi Security Forces.

“Our main purpose is to make sure the ISF are ready for operations while we sit back in an over-watch role,” Camp explained.

To accomplish this, the squad conducts many different missions, sometimes during the same patrol.

Generally, the Soldiers conduct at least one mission each day with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division

“Our missions vary,” said Pfc. Jason Wendel, an infantryman adept at many positions within the squad, such as gunner, driver or dismounted infantryman. “We facilitate local businesses, pursue and detain high-value individuals and train NPs.”

In a T-walled compound that houses an NP station, the Soldiers teach battle drills, such as react to contact techniques and the importance of wearing the proper personal protective equipment, to the ISF before conducting combined patrols throughout the muhallas with ISF by their side.

Hardison, a combat veteran with a prior deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, is impressed with the progress the NPs have made since arriving in Baghdad more than nine months ago.

“We show them how to conduct the training correctly the first time, and then their sergeant takes over teaching them,” Hardison explained. “Until the handoff of operations, we are going to be working with the NPs every day.”

“While we are out, we make sure they are doing things how we would do them,” stated Wendel, a native of Clarksville, Tenn. “We are making sure that when we leave, they will have a set of standards to follow.”

Besides securing the citizens of the Jaza'ir community, the 3rd Plt. alternates with other platoons in the company to man

security checkpoints around the COP and haul supplies back and forth to the forward operating base, said Wendel, who has been married for two years and is the father of two sons.

“When we come in from our daily patrol, we prepare the trucks for the next day’s patrol,” stated Wendel, whose father has served in the U.S. Army for 29 years. “The next morning, we wake up and check on the trucks again to make sure they are ready to roll.”

The deployment provides the Soldiers of the squad the opportunity to gain knowledge that will benefit their Army careers, said Wendel.

“We cross-train all the Soldiers on the different weapons systems and communication equipment to give them the experience they need to become team and squad leaders,” Wendel added. “That’s a testament to our leaders.”

The Soldiers of 2nd Squad, 3rd Plt., are part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Polk, La.

Front Sight Post

1st Lt. Derek Telleson, the 3rd Platoon Leader from Huntsville, Utah, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, speaks with an Abna al Iraq (Sons of Iraq) leader Aug. 14 during a meeting in the Jaza'ir community of southern Baghdad.

Photo by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Staff Sgt. Arto Brown (right), a cavalry scout assigned to 1st Platoon, Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, discovered 10 buried landmines in an abandoned house Aug. 21 in the Abu T'shir community of southern Baghdad. Brown, a native of Fort Myers, Fla., physically dug into the ground after a metal detector did not pick up the plastic landmine. In this picture, Brown hands a landmine to Sgt. Jeremy Brown, a cavalry scout assigned to Troop C, "Comanche." Brown is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Photo by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Sgt. Rafael Delgado, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, renders a salute to the Raider Brigade Commander Col. Ted Martin, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, during an award ceremony Aug. 10 at Forward Operating Base Falcon. Martin presented an Army Commendation Medal with valor device and a Combat Field Medical Badge to Delgado, who hails from Miami, for upholding the finest traditions of a U.S. Army Combat Medic, putting his team members before himself when his vehicle was struck by a catastrophic Improvised Explosives Device in April.

Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, pins a Combat Infantrymen Badge on the chest of Pfc. Kyle Hartle, an infantryman from Alexandria, Ohio, assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, during an award ceremony Aug. 9 at a combat outpost in Baghdad's Rashid district. Martin, the "Raider" Brigade commander awarded 25 Combat Infantrymen Badges and five Soldiers with Army Commendation Medals to the "Alpha Gators" Soldiers for actions in combat.

Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Ganim, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael I. Bobb, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, meets with a disgruntled shop owner on Abu T'shir's 60th Street in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad Aug. 24.

Sgt. Anthony DeAugustineo, a cavalry scout assigned to 1st Platoon, Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, inspects a 12 gauge shotgun found in the vehicle of an Iraqi Army soldier Aug. 21 during a security patrol in the Abu T'shir neighborhood of southern Baghdad. DeAugustineo, who hails from Killeen, Texas, is currently serving a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Photo by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

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

An Iraqi National Policeman from the 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, descends a flight of stairs Aug. 14 during a neighborhood clearance operation in the Jaza'ir community of southern Baghdad. Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, are partnered with the NPs to provide a safe and secure environment for the citizens of the Doura neighborhood in the northeast Rashid district.

Photo by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO



Troop's Hard Work translates into security for citizens of Abu T'shir

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

When he looks at a map of Baghdad and sees the muhallahs that form a little block in the south known as Abu T'shir, he realizes how tenuous a position his platoon and fellow Soldiers are in.

For Staff Sgt. David Cox, a section leader for Blue Platoon of "Comanche" Troop's mortar section, it is an area where his Soldiers patrol every night as they strive to make a difference for the Iraqi people.

"People come out and tell us that they appreciate us being there, and they appreciate what we're trying to do," Cox said. "And the ones who don't appreciate what we're trying to do are usually the guys (we are detaining) at two in the morning."

As the Soldiers of Comanche Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, make their presence known in the neighborhoods and communities in southeastern Baghdad, so do the special groups extremists, said Cox, who hails from Fresno, Calif.

The gangs and militia are putting out propaganda and attempting to intimidate the local populace by creating the perception that they are in control, he said.

"They have some influence," he explained. "Any murderer is going to have clout with a potential victim, but the (Special Groups extremists) are losing that with the people to a certain extent."

Now, the enemy is adjusting its tactics and techniques

to get away from Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces, he added.

"The bad guys are moving out," he said. "They have changed their operations from night time to day time to avoid us. They don't own the night – we do."

The Iraqi citizens are starting to see that they don't want to be involved with those kinds of people anymore, he said.

"They don't want them chasing their daughters, influencing their sons," he said. "The people are getting tired of that stuff, and I don't think their influence is that big here anymore."

Cox said that he first realized things were about to change in Abu T'shir after Troop C first assumed its mission in southeastern Baghdad when the Soldiers from the mortar section entered an Iraqi home to conduct an assessment with the citizen late one night in April.

Coined as a "Close Encounter," the engagement provided the concerned citizen, who was clearly upset by the hour of the visit, the opportunity to voice his com-



Spc. Tyler Luetjen, a cavalry scout from St. Louis, assigned to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, uses a Biometric Automated Tool Set to register a local Iraqi business owner for a microgrant Aug. 9 in the Abu T'shir community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad. The microgrants simultaneously help the local economy and assist Soldiers maintaining the current levels of security in their sector, said Sgt. Jonathan Kendrick, a cavalry scout from Troy, Ala., assigned to Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

Staff Sgt. David Pena, a section leader from Grand Junction, Colo., and Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Yaudas, platoon sergeant, both assigned to Red Platoon, Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, conduct an early morning dismounted patrol through the Abu T'shir Markets Aug. 16 as part of their daily security operations in southern Baghdad's Rashid district.

plaints, address serious problems and offer praise for the U.S. Soldiers.

"In other words, it was a normal conversation," said Cox, a veteran of more than 16 years experience in the National Guard and active duty. "He wasn't trying to give us a lot of baloney. He was laying it straight, and he trusted us to be able to have that conversation without fear or reprisal. He even told us where the bad guys were and everything."

The Blue Platoon is the only element of Comanche Troop that patrols every night, said Spc. Joseph Henley, an infantry mortarman assigned to Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

"Our mission differentiates every night, but our main goal is to clean up the streets and help rebuild Abu T'shir and give Abu T'shir back to the people so they can live a free life," said Henley, a former collegiate athlete from Hoboken, N.J., who played college football for Rutgers, the State University for New Jersey, for more than three years before he joined the Army.

Even though the unit's presence on the streets is relatively small compared to its area of responsibility, Henley said that the nightly security patrols have cleaned up the neighborhoods and, as a result, the Special Groups extremists have been less effective working around the muhallahs and intimidating the people.

"Right now, it seems like nobody is out here, but we know that (special groups extremists) are somewhere around, and when we come through the muhallahs, they scatter," he said. "They scatter like the rats when they see the headlights."

The Soldiers of White Platoon only have one mission – to bring peace to Abu T'shir, said Staff Sgt. Jason Kennedy, section leader, Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

"That is our only focus, no matter what it takes to get it done," said Kennedy. "That's the end state."

When Comanche Troop first assumed its mission in Abu T'shir, the people were not very receptive, explained Kennedy, a native of Watervliet, Mich. The Soldiers have seen

a dramatic change since taking charge of security in the predominately Shia community that is home to approximately 75,000 Iraqis.

"The people went into their homes," he said. "They acted like there was a curfew in effect – even though there wasn't. They didn't mingle; we didn't see the kids out playing; we didn't see smiles. I think they were really scared of what they had coming."

Kennedy credited much of the unit's success and the current security and stability in Abu T'shir and greater Baghdad to the surge of U.S. Forces that began in 2007 and ended little more than a month ago.

"I believe that it was a great idea," he said. "The strategic planning put us exactly where we are at today. Even though the public and lot of government officials didn't have faith, it really pulled us through."

He also said that the real transition in the attitude of the citizens started when the Soldiers of Comanche Troop began to meet face-to-face with the local Iraqis in hopes of establishing working relationships with the people, listening to their needs and talking candidly with them about basic problems, such as lack of electricity and employment.

"We try to keep them updated as far as what we know is happening and what is in the works," he said. "If we can keep them in a good flow of information, we hope that buys a little more patience, and that patience is our survival."

Little acts of kindness have also played a huge part in endearing the Soldiers to the local community, he said, citing one incident earlier in the week, when the Soldiers in his section collected \$5 apiece and bought nearly 100 ice cream cones for a group of Iraqi children lined up outside a local vendor in Abu T'shir.

Kennedy said that he looks forward to handing over the security responsibilities to the ISF in the next couple months as his unit will be one of the last to transition into the role of providing tactical over watch.

"These are some of the best Iraqi National Police I have ever worked with – the best Iraqi Security Forces I have ever worked with," said Kennedy, who is currently

-serving his third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I do believe that they're getting it," he said, "and I believe they're getting it from our example."

Staff Sgt. David Pena, a section leader from Grand Junction, Colo., assigned to Red Platoon, said that his Soldiers conduct combined patrols daily with ISF to validate their presence within the Abu T'shir community.

"The National Police also go out on their own; they do their own patrols," added Pena, who is assigned to Troop C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. "They are really high speed. I would compare them to a Joe – the way that they react is like a regular Army Soldier."

Pena, who is serving his third deployment in support of OIF, also noted that the Iraqi Police and NPs responsible for the Rashid district provided 100 percent of the security for the pilgrimage routes Shiites use to travel to Karbala in observance of the Ascension of the 12th Imam, which occurred Aug. 16.

Pena said that he believes the current levels of security can be maintained as long as the Coalition Forces and ISF continue to work with the citizens of Abu T'shir.

Abu T'shir's reputation was pretty bad when the Soldiers of Comanche Troop assumed responsibility for the area, and that reputation proved itself a couple times the first weeks of their mission, said Pena.

"But as we started doing 'Close Encounters' and started talking to the people, I don't think that reputation is true anymore," he explained.

Pena said that on average, his Soldiers meet with more than 100 Iraqi citizens per week, and the residents of Abu T'shir continue to provide good tips about improvised-explosive devices, weapons caches and the enemy.

"We're always going to have spikes (in enemy activity), but I think overall we're going to be able to maintain," he said. "People are changing. They're accepting our help and at the same time they want us out of here, so I think they are starting to realize that, if they work with us, we'll help them a lot more."

Staff Sgt. Jason Kennedy, section leader from Watervliet, Mich., assigned to White Platoon, Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, conducts a patrol brief Aug. 15 with Iraqi Police at an Abu T'shir IP Patrol Base on Market Street. The Soldiers of "Comanche" Troop, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, conducts combined patrols with Iraqi Security Forces every mission, every day to help validate their presence in the southeastern Baghdad community that is home to approximately 75,000 Iraqis.



Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, pins the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device on the chest of Spc. Marcus Brown, an infantryman mortarman from Brooklyn, N.Y., Aug. 10, for valorous actions in the face of enemy combat.

Raider BCT recognizes courageous MND-B Soldiers

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

For exceptionally meritorious achievement during Operation Iraqi Freedom, a senior leader recognized two Soldiers' heroic actions, tremendous leadership and personal dedication during an award ceremony Aug. 10 on Forward Operating Base Falcon, located in the southern Rashid district of Baghdad.

Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, presented the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device and Combat Infantryman Badge to Spc. Marcus Brown, an infantry mortarman from Brooklyn, N.Y. for upholding the finest traditions of the U.S. Army Infantrymen.

Martin also awarded an Army Commendation Medal with Valor device and the Combat Field Medical Badge to Sgt. Rafael Delgado, a combat medic from Miami, as a testament to his personal courage, selfless service and loyalty to his fellow Soldiers.

The Raider Brigade commander recognized Brown and Delgado, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, "Regulars by God!" of the 1st BCT, for their courageous and selfless actions in response to an improvised-explosive device attack April 30.

"Our nation doesn't have a lot to offer all the brave Soldiers in Iraq, who are doing hard, dangerous work every day," said Martin, an armor officer from Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

"But every once in a while, we have the ability to take

a snapshot in time to capture their valorous acts and reward them with a medal that they're going to wear for the rest of their lives," said Martin.

Signed by Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, commander, 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B, the orders narrate the valorous actions of Brown, who served as a gunner for his commander, the late Capt. Andrew Pearson, who was killed instantly when the explosively formed projectile struck his vehicle.

Brown, initially injured in the blast, acted quickly to open the rear escape hatch and secure the site – and then "exhibiting total disregard for his own safety" attempted to free the driver, Spc. Ronald Tucker, who was mortally wounded in the attack.

Brown, despite his injuries, established a security perimeter, leading a team of Soldiers to establish overwatch of the site to prevent a second enemy attack.

"I am actually proud I got the award, and I am proud my fellow brothers were out here to support me in it," he said. "I am thankful that the brigade commander was able to come out here and award it to me."

Delgado, the platoon medic for the mortar platoon, charged with providing security for the HHC commander, reacted immediately to assess the damage rendered by the dual-array EFP attack.

Delgado, then a specialist, remained in the burning vehicle with complete disregard to his own safety to provide emergency medical treatment for Tucker and to assist Brown with recovery operations.

Smoke, fire and ammunition cooking off forced Delgado and Brown to evacuate the vehicle and take cover in nearby buildings.

"It showed me that if there is one

thing that I am proud of, and if there is one thing that I am true to, and if there is one thing that I am faithful to, and will give my life for, it is my Soldiers," Delgado said of his actions on that day. "As a medic and now a sergeant, it's an honor to work with these guys ... I will definitely put my life on the line for every one of these guys."

Martin said that he is proud of the brave Soldiers who showed valor on that day in April, when they stood up against the unknown and took charge to safeguard the rest of the platoon.

He also said that he will not forget the brave Soldiers who gave their lives for their country, nor the actions of the proud Soldiers of the "Regulars" Battalion.

The Regulars' actions reflect distinct credit on the Raider Brigade, MND-B, and the U.S. Army, he said.





RADWANIYAH IRAQI POLICE ACHIEVE SECURITY MILESTONE

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

Leaders from Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division – Baghdad came together Aug. 12 for the grand opening of a new landmark in local security for Iraqis in south-western Baghdad.

Iraqi Police, working with Police Forces Command al-Karkh and Iraq's Ministry of Interior, officially recognized the opening of the Radwaniyah Police Station during a grand opening ceremony in the Rashid district.

"In my name and your local IP sons' names, we are promising God and our country to protect our citizens, respect and obey the law and stop all the violations," said Brig. Gen. Yousef Kadhim, commander of the Iraqi Police Rashid District Headquarters.

In his speech at the commemoration of the station, Kadhim said that the Iraqi people must stay aware and protect Baghdad by denying sectarianism.

The official opening of the Radwaniyah Iraqi Police Station signifies improved security in the area that is part of southwest Rashid, said Lt. Col. Johnnie Johnson, commander of the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"This event is a huge milestone for Radwaniyah," said Johnson, whose battalion operates in the largely agricultural and predominately Sunni community. "The IP station has been functioning for the past four months but has not been recognized by the Government of Iraq until today."

As security operations in Radwaniyah transition to the control of Iraqi Security Forces, the "Tuskers" Battalion will be able to focus on other priorities, such as economics and governance, said Johnson, who hails from Tampa, Fla.

"The Iraqis now have a local police force to protect the people and handle the routine activities and business related to security here in Radwaniyah," he said. "That is a very, very big achievement."

The police station has near to 100 percent of its manning, comprised of people from Radwaniyah and from greater Baghdad, said Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"This opening today is a great day and marks a new beginning for the government of Iraq and the people of Radwaniyah," said Martin, a native of Jacksonville Beach,



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

Gen. Kadhum al Allawi, commander of the Radwaniyah Police Station, working on behalf of the Police Forces Command al-Khar'kh and Iraq's Ministry of Interior, addresses the local leaders, sheiks and Iraqi Security Forces attending the grand opening of the Radwaniyah Police Station Aug. 12 in the Rashid district.

Fla. "We have a very tight bond with the people of Radwaniyah. The tribal support council and the U.S. Army and Coalition Forces work hand-in-hand to provide security for this area."

Partnered with local IP, and the Iraqi National Police in south-west Rashid, the 1st BCT works with the local province support council to provide a solid umbrella of security for the residents of the Radwaniyah community, explained Martin.

Martin also noted that in the last 90 days, the Radwaniyah community has experienced almost no enemy activity due to the Iraqi people working alongside the Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces.

"The Radwaniyah security forces of the Rashid district worked with the good people of Radwaniyah to achieve sustainable security, and we see that here today with the opening of the police station," he said.

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

Spc. Mark Reihl, a military policeman assigned to the Military Police Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, provides personal security for members of an explosive ordnance disposal unit Aug. 21, while they search for munitions in an abandoned house in the Abu T'shir neighborhood of southern Baghdad.

MPs secure EOD assets for Raiders

Story and photos by Sgt. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

A relationship which began many months ago at Fort Hood, Texas, continues to provide the foundation for successful explosive ordnance disposal operations in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Soldiers from the Military Police Platoon serving under the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, provide convoy security and personal security for the technicians of the 752nd EOD Company, while “outside the wire,” and often in close proximity of explosive materials and weapons.

“We provide convoy security to any site, and once we get on the ground we provide personal security, so EOD can focus on their mission and have full confidence in what they do,” said Sgt. Jeremiah Norton, a military policeman and squad leader assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

Norton, who hails from Sacramento, Calif., said he realizes the importance of EOD security while convoying to sites across Rashid, which is comparable in size to the city of Orlando, Fla.

“I know EOD is one of the most important parts of operations in Rashid,” Norton explained. “It’s also cool because we get to see all the munitions coming off the streets.”

The two units worked together before deploying from Fort Hood, where both EOD and the MP Plt. are stationed.

“We were able to sit down with their leaders to talk about operations,” Norton stated. “We have a good relationship with them; they treat us like part of the company.”

Each squad within the MP Plt. spends 24 hours operating as primary EOD security, said Norton. After that time, the squad moves to secondary support and finally to logistical support on the third day.

During spare time, when the MP Soldiers are not training, the two units play horseshoes, basketball or poker, said Spc. Matt McDaniel, a military policeman assigned to the MP Platoon, or “Bandit.”

“We clicked with the EOD company as soon as they got here,” said McDaniel, a native of Sacramento, Ky. “We are like a big family.”

McDaniel, who drives combat vehicles to and from missions, believes securing EOD personnel is one of the most important jobs in Iraq.

“I really feel like I am making a difference when I go out,” McDaniel stated. “It feels good knowing they trust us with their lives.”

When weapons or munitions are found anywhere in the Rashid district, an EOD team is requested, and the MPs respond within minutes, said McDaniel.

“We take calls throughout

the day and react as quickly as we can because we don’t want the Soldiers sitting out there any longer than they have to,” he said. “When we respond to a cache, it is one less explosive that could be used on us or local nationals.”

A few of the leaders within the platoon have prior experience working as security for EOD and are always developing new tactics, techniques and procedures, said 1st Lt. Michael Pasquale, platoon leader assigned to HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

“I have learned everything from my noncommissioned officers,” said Pasquale, a native of South Salem, N.Y. “They are great and we are always adapting — constantly learning.”

Pasquale, who served his first three years in the U.S. Army as an enlisted infantryman and later received his commission from the Virginia Military Institute, believes his NCOs are a dependable group of leaders, capable of preparing the junior

enlisted Soldiers and equipment for any mission, day or night.

“We have to remain vigilant,” Pasquale explained. “We are protecting EOD, not just ourselves.”

The Bandits are currently serving a 15-month deployment with the 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. Andrew Hernandez, a military policeman assigned to the 1st Special Troops Battalion’s Military Police Platoon, provides site security for members of the 1st Brigade Combat Team’s explosive ordnance disposal unit Aug. 21 in the Abu T’shir community of southern Baghdad.

Families resettle in Baghdad's Jihad community

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

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers joined representatives from the Government of Iraq, the Hay Jihad Neighborhood Advisory Council and Iraqi Security Forces leaders to welcome approximately 270 families back to their communities and neighborhoods during August in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Soldiers and leaders of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, joined the Jihad Reconciliation Council and Iraqi Army soldiers Aug. 19 and 23 to mark the relocation of Iraqi citizens of the Shishaan neighborhood.

The events were a special opportunity to highlight the many accomplishments made by ISF in establishing security in the Jihad community, said Tom Lynch, Provincial Reconstruction Team leader embedded with the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The resettlement of Iraqis into their homes in Baghdad's Rashid district is also a testament to the Iraqi people, who are working to rebuild their lives, said Lynch.

"This is your achievement – the achievement of the people of Jihad," said Lynch, who hails from Fairfax, Va.

Resettlements in Rashid happen every day, but a ceremony celebrating the return of more than 250 families is a unique event, said Capt. Michael Garling, commander of Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT.

"This is all Iraqi-led, Iraqi-driven; and Iraqis put this together under the reconciliation council," he said, adding that he thinks the ceremony is a good news story that illustrates the people working with their local leadership and the government of Iraq to take ownership of their communities and rebuild their neighborhoods.

Garling said his engineer company works with the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 53rd

Brigade, 14th Iraqi Army Division, to provide security and stability to the area, which enables the Iraqi citizens to return to a sense of normalcy after years of violence and strife.

"(These families) have been scattered far and wide across Iraq, and now they can finally move back in their houses because the security is strong enough ... in the Shishaan area, for them to feel safe," said Garling, a native of Albany, N.Y.

Speaking at the ceremony, Staff Col. Ali Abood, the commander of the 1st Bn., 53rd Bde., 14th IA Div., asked the Iraqi citizens returning to their homes and neighborhoods to call if there is a lack of security in their communities.

Ali said his soldiers are working under the Iraqi government's instructions and reminded those in attendance that "there will be no safety without the return of displaced families."

"We made the preparation for you to return safe and secure to your area and your homes," Ali said. "Our hearts are open for you as well as our eyes securing you."

Sheik Talib Kwali, head of the Jihad Reconciliation Council, welcomed the displaced families to return to the Hay Jihad community and said he hopes that security will be maintained in Rashid.

Kwali also addressed the lack of essential services in some of the neighborhoods in the Jihad community and asked the Government of Iraq to assist the Iraqi people to fix the problems.

"People of Shishaan are still concerned that in the area there are no services, such as sewer, water and electricity, but Coalition, ISF and the people (in the muhallahs) are working together to help bring back those services," Garling said. "There are a couple of projects in the works right now that should help them out."



Abna al-Iraq (Sons of Iraq) security volunteers helps a relocated family move furniture into their home Aug. 19 in the Hay Jihad of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.



Staff Col. Ali of the 11th Battalion, 53rd Brigade, 14th Iraqi Army Regiment, addresses the sheiks and community leaders of the Hay Jihad and the Jihad Reconciliation Council Aug. 19 at a ceremony in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.



Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 11th Battalion, 53rd Brigade, 14th Iraqi Army Regiment pitch in to carry furniture into the home of a relocated family Aug. 19 in the Hay Jihad of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

Cobra medics train basic life-saving skills to new security forces

1st Lt. Rendy Yudhistira
4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Medics possess a unique trait to a unit's mission of taking care of Soldiers, but when their knowledge is shared, it increases their capabilities 10-fold.

Multi-National Division – Baghdad medics of Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division taught basic life-saving skills to more than 200 new base defense security force personnel Aug. 8-10 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, located in southern Baghdad's Rashid district.

The medic trainers, who also maintain the 24-hour service provided at the Cobra Tactical Medical Center on FOB Falcon, ensured the new guardians of the coalition base were trained and prepared to react quickly to on-scene patient care.

"We trained on the principles of life-saving," said Sgt. Vicente Ayala, a combat medic assigned to Co. C, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, who hails from San Antonio. "Everything they needed to know about initial patient care, we made sure they understood."

The security force personnel from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology, Inc., a private security company based out of Tennessee, are contracted by the U.S. Government to guard and secure base towers, entry gates and the dining facility on FOB Falcon.

A small group of the EODT personnel are trainers and supervisors from the United States, but Ugandan citizens comprise the core group of security personnel.

EODT security personnel are contracted on FOBs across Iraq. They are known for their tactical proficiency, professionalism, and having the security of Armed Forces service members as their top priority.

The instructors taught two-hour blocks of instruction with each class broken down to groups of 20. The class consisted of two morning blocks and one afternoon block each day for three days.

The first phase of the class was a presentation of First Aid basics, such as patient responsiveness, airway, breathing, bleeding, fractures and shock.

Although the class was made up entirely of the EODT security personnel from Uganda, there were no communication issues between the medics and the class, said Staff Sgt. Joseph Grinder, a health care noncommissioned officer, assigned to Co. C, 4th Supt. Bn.

"They were all very attentive and spoke excellent English," said Grinder, who hails from Palm Beach, Fla. "They were excited to learn, and their energy definitely rubbed off on us."

After the initial presentation phase, the class participated in hands-on exercises. During this block of instruction, the health care NCOs tested the security team on how to check for responsiveness,

Staff Sgt. Joseph Grinder, a health care noncommissioned officer from Palm Beach, Fla., assigned to Co. C, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, instructs new security personnel basic life-saving techniques during First Aid Training, Aug. 9, at the Cobra Tactical Medical Clinic located on Forward Operating Base Falcon.



Photo by 1st Lt. Rendy Yudhistira, Co. C



Photo by 1st Lt. Rendy Yudhistira, Co. C, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT

Sgt. Shateeka Douglas, a health care noncommissioned officer from Baldwin, La., assigned to Co. C, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, demonstrates how to open a casualty's airway to a group of newly arrived security personnel Aug. 8 at the Cobra Tactical Medical Center located on Forward Operating Base Falcon, in southern Baghdad.

open a patient's airway, apply tourniquets, apply bandages and splints and other tips to stop bleeding and stabilize fractures.

The most nerve-racking skill of the class was inserting a nasal pharyngeal tube inside a patient's nose in order to secure an airway, said Ayala.

"Sticking a tube down your nose would make anyone nervous," he explained, "but in order to gain their trust and confidence, we made sure that we demonstrated on each other first."

It was the expertise and confidence of the medics that had the EODT personnel grateful for the classes, stated one of the EODT personnel attending the class.

"I enjoyed the first aid class, and it will be very useful for us in the future," he said.

The medics of "Cobra" Co., 4th Supt. Bn., continue to volunteer themselves to train others on FOB Falcon, stated Sgt. Shateeka Douglas, a health care NCO from Baldwin, La., Co. C, 4th Supt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

"It is a chance for them to share our medical knowledge, while building better relations with others," she explained.

"This was an excellent opportunity to not only train the personnel who we have entrusted to guard and look out for us inside the FOB, but it was also a great opportunity to build new friendships with them," Douglas said.

Ortiz Family travels parallel career paths

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

Two Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers are the logistics staff officers for their respective Brigade Combat Teams. While they serve their country in different locations, they have had the honor and privilege of working together as a team during the last ten years.

Majors Lesley and Dennis Ortiz, assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, cur-



Majors Dennis and Lesley Ortiz are reunited at Victory Base Complex April 30 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Photo courtesy of Maj. Lesley Ortiz



Photo courtesy of Maj. Lesley Ortiz

Wilma Sims, mother to Maj. Lesley Ortiz, reads Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes to 14-month old Dennis Ortiz, Jr., May 12 from her home in Atlanta.

rently deployed in support of MND – B and Operation Iraqi Freedom, developed and fostered a loving relationship, while simultaneously serving parallel military careers by working together and communicating effectively.

Lesley, assigned to the 1st “Raider” Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div., in February 2008, deployed to Baghdad in March, and Dennis joined the 3rd “Striker” BCT, 4th Inf. Div., May 2008 at Forward Operating Base War Eagle, Iraq.

The Ortiz Family began a parallel career track from the beginning.

They signed contracts to join the Reserve Officer Training Corps program on the same day during their junior years at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., where he majored in mathematics and she studied English and education, Lesley said.

“I met him at a football game, and we became inseparable,” she said.

The pair graduated and received their commissions as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army and attended their Officers Basic Courses in 1997.

Continuing to parallel each other, the Army assigned them to the same brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C., but they served in different battalions, said Dennis, who hails from Augusta, Ga.

“We were platoon leaders, executive officers, battalion staff officers and company commanders at the same time,” Lesley said.

During this time, the couple’s relationship blossomed and grew stronger, explained Lesley, an Atlanta native. They made it official by getting married May 29, 1999.

“Being with another person in the military, we both had a common understanding how things went, and with not rushing into starting a family, we were able to adjust (to deployments) a lot easier in the early years,” she said.

Lesley said the deployments made her realize that during their marriage, they were going to have to focus on balancing their time apart.

They both realized there may come a time when they, as a military couple, would be separated due to their careers and, as a result, would have to work through the challenges, she explained.

At that moment, Lesley and Dennis stopped everything to map out a 10-year plan, she explained.

Busier than ever with the new challenges of deploying to war, the couple focused on how they were going to manage their lives and work together as a team.

Lesley and Dennis said they love to plan, so they both adjusted their original 10-year plans, she explained.

Those plans brought them to Fort

Hood, Texas.

Dennis deployed as the company commander of a forward support company with the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom near Tikrit in 2003.

Lesley commanded the 297th Cargo Transfer Company, 180th Transportation Battalion, 64th Corps Support Group, 13th Corps Support Command.

After three years at Fort Hood, both received orders for Third Army at Fort McPherson, Ga., where they worked in the logistics section of the same headquarters.

“We worked together as a team, and it worked out very, very well,” she remarked.

Then one day, Lesley and Dennis’ lives were forever changed by the birth of their son, Dennis, Jr., in May 2007.

Lesley’s Mother, Wilma Sims, takes good care of Dennis Jr., while they serve their country in Iraq.

“I understand love in a different way than the way I did before,” she explained. “I understand loving my parents, loving my spouse; but the love for a child – it’s unconditional; it’s awesome! It inspires you to go above and beyond anything you ever expected.”

Dennis said that he also looks forward to redeploying, returning to Family, his son and home at Fort Hood, especially since he deployed with the 4th Inf. Div. nearly five months before Lesley.

“We have a 14-month-old boy, and I have been deployed for nine months, so I miss my son and haven’t had a lot of time to be with him,” Dennis explained.

Dennis admitted that as both officers develop in their careers, it will be harder to continue to be stationed together.

“So far, the Army has been good at keeping us together,” he explained. “Even with this deployment, we were both in (Iraq) within a few months of each other and will redeploy back to the States within a few months of each other.”

Both love to travel, said Dennis, and the couple has traveled to several renowned spots, from Paris to New York, where they took the opportunity to be tourists, eat out, catch a show, sporting events and theater.

“We are planning our next 10 years,” she added. “We’re looking at retirement homes. We’re looking where we want to retire.”

“Everyone knows that marriage is a big commitment,” she said. “No matter how big you think it is, it’s bigger than that.”

For more of the story on this Army Strong Family, visit www.dvidshub.net

(Editor’s note: also contributing to the story was Sgt. Zachary Mott, 3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div. PAO)



Capt. Ronny Fisher, the chaplain of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, plays guitar Aug. 10 during a field service at a joint security station in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad. Fisher, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, is attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Chaplains on the battlefield: Spreading The Word

Story and photos by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers operating from combat outposts and joint security stations in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad are always busy.

Finding the time to worship in between missions and details can be hard, but chaplains assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, bring church services to the Soldiers outside the amenities of the forward operating base by travelling all over the battlefield.

“The role of a chaplain on the battlefield is to provide spiritual, moral and ethical well-being to the Soldiers,” said Maj. Trenton Lewis, the chaplain for the 1st “Raider” BCT. “Also, to ensure that Soldiers’ rights in combat are not violated. That is their mission.”

The chaplains have always focused on Soldiers and Families, said Lewis, a native of Tampa, Fla.

While deployed, Soldiers especially benefit from all the attention from the chaplains, he explained.

Lewis stressed that the mission always comes first, a belief engrained in the mind of any U.S. Soldier, but units are encouraged to allow time for their Soldiers to worship.

“So far, my chaplains have performed admirably,” explained Lewis, a veteran with 16 years of service. “They are handling their mission out on the battlefield.”

Outside of Forward Operating Base Falcon, located in southern Baghdad, chaplains conduct field services, baptisms

and tend to injured Soldiers, said Lewis. Chaplains also lead mandatory training classes, such as suicide awareness, combat stress prevention and marital counseling.

“I’m proud of the brigade’s chaplains for being so in touch with the Soldiers out at the JSSs and COPs,” Lewis stated.

Capt. Ronny Fisher, the chaplain for the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., spends more than four days each week travelling to the COPs and JSSs in the Doura community, the 2nd “Warriors” Battalion’s area of operations.

“Services at the COPs and JSSs allow Soldiers the time and opportunity to worship in between missions,” said Fisher, who hails from Corpus Christi, Texas. “I like being able to spend time with the Soldiers and share in the risks they take daily. I am able to share life with them.”

Fisher said he works to inspire Soldiers and challenge them to become stronger at following Christ.

“The services provide me an opportunity to address some of the issues that all Soldiers have experienced during the course of this deployment,” Fisher explained. “The Soldiers seriously inspire me.”

He carries his acoustic guitar with him wherever he goes and begins each service with music and invites everyone in attendance to sing along.

“The music provides the Soldiers the chance to participate in the service,” Fisher

stated.

The Soldiers he visits said they appreciate the services the chaplain provides.

“Chaplain Fisher has a way of raising my morale, and something about him boosts the other guy’s morale too,” said Pfc. Andrew Borst, an infantryman from Albany, Ore., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. “He gives Soldiers a chance to forget about everything going on to worship God.”

Fisher attributes the services’ success to battalion and company-level command teams enabling him the opportunity to spread the word of Christ.

“I have been really fortunate to work with the commanders and first sergeants,” Fisher stated. “They accommodate my chaplain assistant and me around the battlefield to all the right places. I am grateful to be here with the 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt. I love serving with these guys. We have thousands of people praying for us back home.”

Fisher’s assistant, Spc. Roy Fraiser, HHC, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., brings an enlisted perspective to the team and works hard to complete the mission.

“The chaplain’s assistant is a key factor in mission accomplishment,” Lewis said. “Chaplains could do nothing on the battlefield without a good, solid chaplain’s assistant. They keep us alive.”

For God and Country

By Chaplain Capt. Kenneth Nielson
1st Special Troops Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island.

He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky.

He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief and anger.

He cried out, "God! How

could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island!

It had come to rescue him!

"How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged when things are tough or are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering.

Remember that, the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground.

It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

Raider Safe

With Bob Topolewski

Americans spend \$23 billion a year on supplements. Other than the stimulant effects of caffeine and substances like it there is little benefit but well documented health risks. Soldiers have lost their lives from using ephedrine, and every year there are heat strokes related to supplement use.

Recently the U.S. Food and Drug Administration published a warning not to use a popular supplement called "Total Body Formula" because it has toxic levels of the mineral Selenium, which is safe to use at the proper dose.

There is no regulation of the manufacturing of dietary supplements. Dangerous products are not found until they cause someone harm.

New companies start up all the time, marketing on the internet and selling new products. Since Soldiers are always looking for the competitive edge they are the perfect targets for the inflated claims of these products.

Many of the ingredients of popular supplements change how the body metabolizes medications, and alter our own hormones. Even common vitamins and minerals can be dangerous at the wrong dose.

For our healthy, young Soldier population the most common problem, while deployed, is the effect supplements have on the body's ability to handle heat.

Some supplements work by eliminating water from the body, giving the illusion of weight loss but only causing dehydration. Other supplements change how the body regulates its temperature.

Most weight loss products have appetite suppressants that contribute to Soldiers not eating a healthy diet.

Listed are common ingredients in supplements which should be avoided:

Yohimbe – raises blood pressure and heart rate, negative effect on mood

Creatine – affects kidney function, especially when taken with NSAIDS

DHEA – liver damage, increased blood pressure,



Photo by Sgt. David Hodge

Cpl. Roberto Alvarado Jr., an infantryman from Corpus Christi, Texas, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, instructs a Soldier to properly clear his weapon Aug. 11 at a joint security station in the Doura community of southern Baghdad.

mood/sleep problems

Bitter Orange/mahuang/synephrine – increase blood pressure/heart rate

Garcinia/Hoodia/vinca alkaloids – all cause liver damage

Phenylephrine derivatives – irregular heartbeat, problems with heat regulation

Caffeine – most supplements have it. Combined with coffee and energy drinks, getting too much leads to anxiety/panic attacks/irregular heartbeat/dizziness

Supplements do not enhance physical performance beyond a well-balanced nutrition and exercise plan.

Soldiers should get objective information on supplements before they decide to try them. Soldiers should also talk to their health care provider before mixing medications and supplements (even something as common as Motrin or Tylenol). For more information, log onto the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Portal and click the Division Surgeon webpage and click on the FHP tab. Also, Soldiers can visit the World Wide Web at: <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>.



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

Chaplain Capt. Timothy Meier, 1st Battalion, 42nd Chaplain Detachment, a National Guard unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Multi-National Division - Baghdad, leads Catholic Mass Aug. 27 at the Steel Falcon Chapel on Forward Operating Base Falcon. Meier, a native of Los Altos, Calif., is a professor of Biology at Stanford University.

On Point with... COMBAT CAMERA



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joan Kretschmer

Pvt. Logan Westerfield, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, patrols in Abu T'shir, Baghdad, Aug. 19.

Local boys watch the Iraqi Police and U.S. Air Force Detachment 3, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces, attached to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, as they patrol the streets of the Doura community in southern Baghdad's Rashid district, Aug. 22.



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joan E. Kretschmer

Staff Sgt. Akoni Koholo, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, passes out candy to local children in Abu T'shir, Baghdad Aug. 19.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Joan Kretschmer



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kelvin T. Surgener

1st Lt. Wendell Jenkins, 4th Platoon Leader, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, inspects bomb making material Aug. 13 in the Doura community of southern Baghdad. The Soldiers received a tip from local Abna al-Iraq (Sons of Iraq) that weapons were being stored in an abandoned house. Combined forces often investigate tips to improve security throughout Baghdad.



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kelvin T. Surgener

Three Iraqi children enjoy lollipops given to them by Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, during a patrol in Abu T'shir. Combat patrols routinely visit local merchants in order ensure fair market price on goods.