

# COALITION CHRONICLE

Volume 3, Issue 12 December 2008

## WAR EAGLE RECEIVES ARTISTS' TOUCH

**Airmen, Soldiers team up  
at Joint Base Balad**



Young Iraqi "artists" pose in front of their artwork after a day spent painting walls at Forward Operating Base War Eagle in northern Baghdad. (Photo by Army Spc. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo.)

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Abu Ghraib residents are the recipients of humanitarian aid.



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British and U.S. Soldiers conduct explosives training in Basrah.



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The 'Long Knives' of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and Romanians of the 341st Infantry Battalion deter criminals in Nasiriyah.

# COALITION CHRONICLE

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Freedom's Focal Point

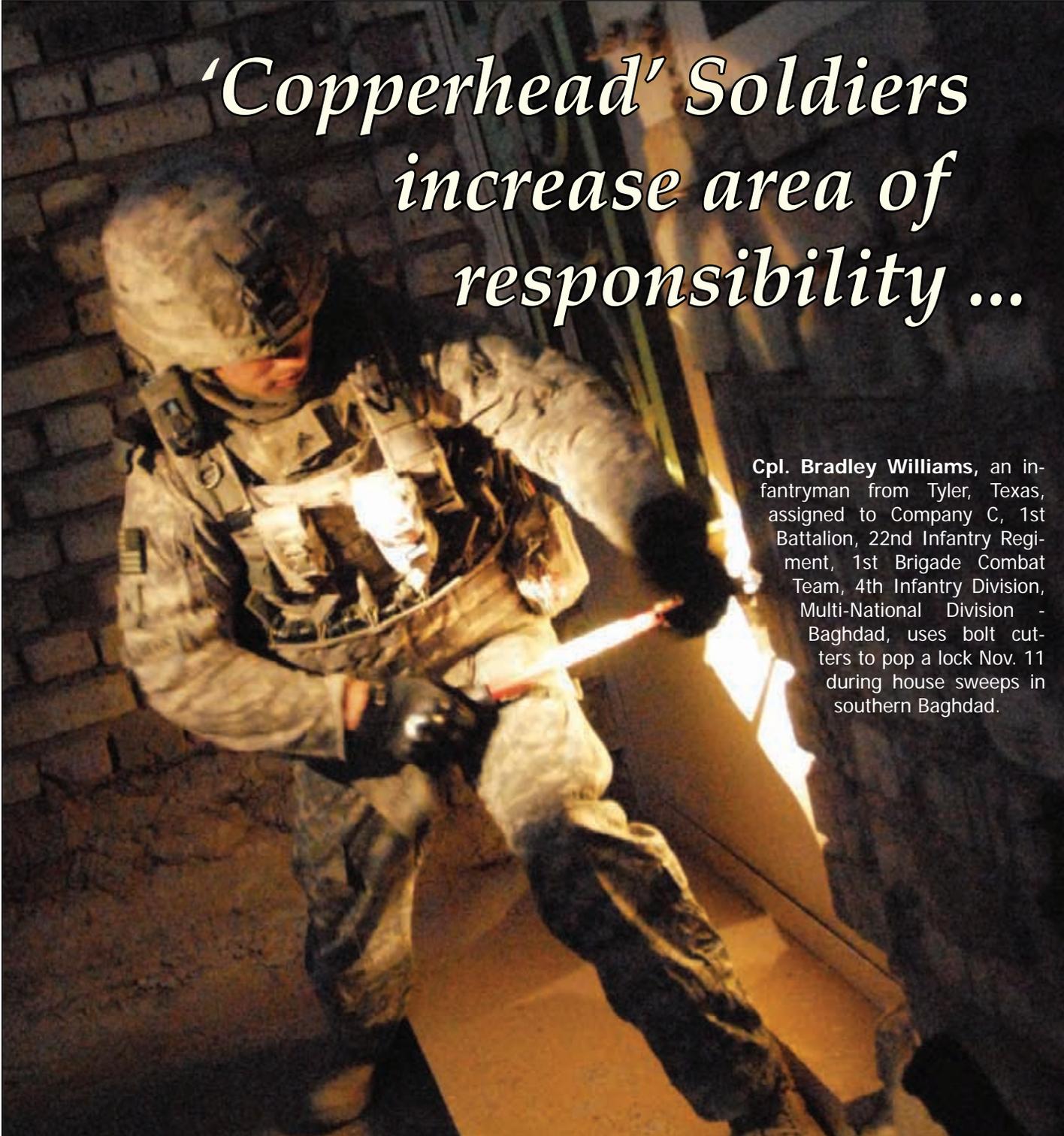
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*'Copperhead' Soldiers  
increase area of  
responsibility ...*

**Cpl. Bradley Williams**, an infantryman from Tyler, Texas, assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, uses bolt cutters to pop a lock Nov. 11 during house sweeps in southern Baghdad.

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON**, Iraq – The “surge” forces have redeployed, returning home after 15-month deployments in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are credited with helping bring security and stability to the Iraqi capital, however, they are not being replaced. Helping to fill part of that void are the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, who realigned battlespace in early November; moving its companies across the Rashid District in southern Baghdad to assume more of the sector and to assist Iraqi security forces.

*Story, photos by Army Sgt. 1st Class Brent Williams*  
**1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division**  
**Public Affairs Office**

**Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Sotomayor**, an armor crew member from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and platoon sergeant assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, directs Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Bn., 53rd Bde., 14th Iraqi Army Div., at a security checkpoint bordering the Hayy Shurta and Hayy Jihad communities, Nov. 11, in southern Baghdad's Rashid District.

## ...Soldiers move to joint security station to start anew

### Leaving it all behind

The company signed over its combat outpost in West Rashid to the control of the Iraqi police as 1st Bn. Soldiers moved into a nearby joint security station, shared with the Iraqi army soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 53rd Brigade, 14th IA Division, said Capt. Nathan Wilson, executive officer, Co. C, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

The unit left the COP in better condition than which it was found, improving the quality of life for the IPs and providing generators, air conditioners and other supplies to the ISF.

"A lot of people did tasks that they wouldn't normally be doing (during the relocation)," said Wilson, who was responsible for planning and organizing the move. "They understood that there was a task that needed to be done, and they pulled together to make it happen."

The realignment meant long hours



**1st Sgt. Walter Navarro** with Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, discusses security with a local Iraqi resident, Nov. 11, in the Hayy Jihad community of the Rashid District of southern Baghdad.

for the Soldiers, who maintained their patrols and operations in face of the move. The Soldiers would conduct 12-hour patrols, and then return to base to refit, pack and prepare to head to their new location, Wilson said.

### Getting there

Months prior to the move, "Copperhead Company" cross-leveled personnel, attaching a

platoon to the outgoing unit to gain knowledge about the area and help prepare the other platoons for the new area of operations, said 1st Sgt. Walter Navarro, Co. C.

"The big challenge right now is getting the platoons familiar with the new battlespace and getting the other platoons familiar with the old battlespace," said Capt. Christopher Watkins, commander, Co. C.



Command Sgt. Maj. Muataraf, command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 53rd Brigade, 14th Iraqi Army Division, pays a Sons of Iraq member at the Hayy Jihad and Hayy Furat Support Council, Nov. 11, in the Rashid District of southern Baghdad.

### Learning the area

Picking up new muhallahs (districts) and areas of responsibility to patrol is like starting all over again – because every area of operations, every neighborhood is different, said Staff Sgt. Ryan Parker, a squad leader assigned to Co. C.

However, "we are ready for whatever we have to do," Parker said. "Stay here and maintain this area, keep it peaceful or move to a different area. Whatever the mission needs, we're ready for it."

The Soldiers use experience they gained during more than seven months of patrolling and operating in western Rashid to control their new areas of responsibility and maintain security, Parker said.

"We just have to learn the area, learn the people and see what they're up to," said Parker, who hails from San Antonio.

### Building rapport

Working in concerted efforts in the neighborhoods, businesses and communities, the company has been establishing an early rapport with the Iraqi citizens and the ISF in its organic muhallahs, Navarro said.

"I am not saying we took a radical

approach to how we conduct business ..., but we used all platoons to go out into sector and create a presence."

### Combined effort

Working alongside the troops of 1st Bn., are the Iraqi security forces, who patrol the streets and secure the neighborhoods every day.

The Iraqi army is better trained and has learned a number of techniques and skills from coalition forces through years of training and mentorship on how to soldier, Navarro said.

Navarro, who hails from Washington, said the Iraqi army and Iraqi police have come a long way.

Hesaidhisunitwillundertakemore combined patrols and operations with the ISF in ongoing efforts to prepare the Iraqi leaders to transition into independent operations and take over more responsibility throughout the Rashid District.

### The present – The ISF

Since the move, the troops are now inspecting checkpoints to ensure the IA, IP and Sons of Iraq forces are conducting proper inspections at traffic control points, properly searching vehicles and operating with

the latest military intelligence, said Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Sotomayor, an armor crewmember from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and platoon sergeant assigned to Co. C.

Sotomayor said SoI and IA soldiers manning checkpoints and conducting patrols together is a good formula for success.

"The two forces working together is a good thing," Sotomayer said. "Having more people on the checkpoints ensures that everyone is searched."

### The horizon

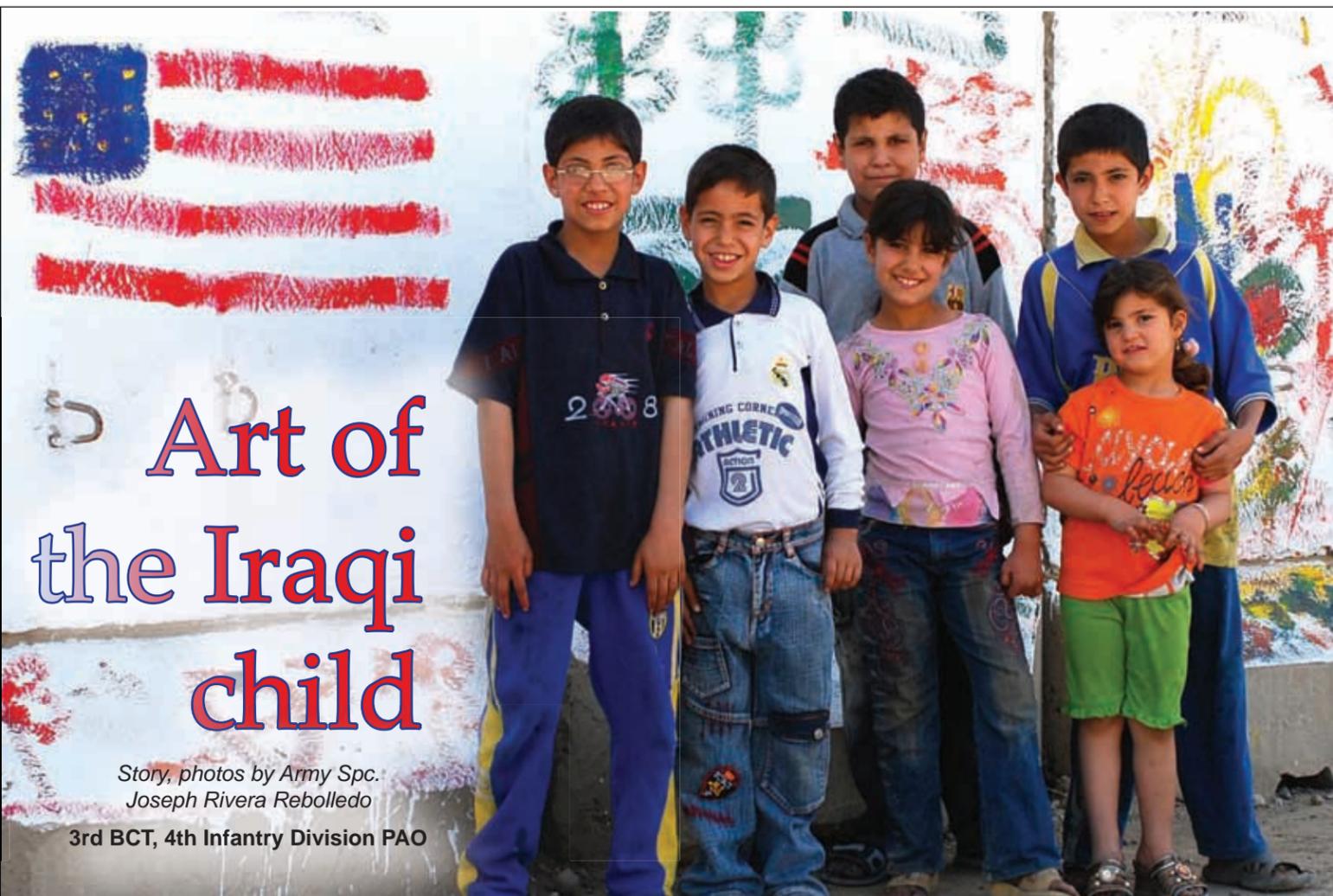
The Soldiers will continue to work, mentor and patrol with IA and IP to increase proficiency and prepare the ISF to take control of their neighborhoods and communities, said Watkins, an armor officer from New Orleans.

"We won't go into tactical over-watch for months to come," he explained.

Since their move to backfill departing surge forces, the armor Soldiers of Co. C are now charged with the security of 11 neighborhoods, which encompasses nearly 1.6 million citizens in the Rashid District of Baghdad.



**Staff Sgt. Jerod Childs**, an infantryman from Texas City, Texas, hand delivers an Iraqi toddler to his mother, Nov. 10, during a security patrol in the Risalah community of the Rashid District in southern Baghdad. Childs, a squad leader responsible for two teams of infantry dismounts in an armor company, took the baby, who had wandered into the streets, back to his mother.



# Art of the Iraqi child

Story, photos by Army Spc. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo

3rd BCT, 4th Infantry Division PAO

Iraqi children between the ages of 2 and 12 were recently invited to Forward Operating Base War Eagle to showcase their artistic skills and creativity by painting the concrete walls that surround the installation.

The children live in a village near War Eagle and walk by the walls daily on their way to school, said Capt. Megan Welch, a logistics officer with the 4th Infantry Division's 64th Brigade Support Battalion, adding that the children find the route to school to be a safer way to get there.

The focus of the painting session was to establish a rapport with the adults and younger residents of the village, and provide an opportunity for the children to beautify something they see daily, Welch said.

"This is one more effort Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldiers are undertaking to foster a solid

A group of Iraqi children living in a village near Forward Operating Base War Eagle stand in front of their newly created artwork: concrete T-walls designed to protect Soldiers inside the base. The structure borders a path leading from the children's village to their school.

relationship with the residents of the village and other Iraqi communities," she added.

Additionally, the art project allowed the Iraqi children to see the Soldiers as people they can interact with.

The children painted Iraqi and American flags, palm trees, flowers, hearts and other designs.

"The kids who participated had a good time and, for us, it was a good opportunity to interact with them," said Capt. Walter Zurkowsky, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div.

Welch and her fellow Soldiers organized the day's events and said they hope to host similar activities in the future.

"We had a lot of fun with the kids," Welch said. "It was a good, cooperative, community-building event and we look forward to seeing many of these in the future."

# Humanitarian mission in Abu Ghraib

Story, photos by Air Force Airman 1st Class David A. Salantri

MNC-I PAO

Students, toddlers and teachers in the Abu Ghraib area of Baghdad received school supplies and everyday items from Iraqi national police and U.S. Soldiers from the National Police Transition Team with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during a joint humanitarian mission Nov. 17.

*continued next page*



**Maj. Jeffrey Kuhlman (left)**, team chief, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division National Police Transition Team, points out the schools and village they will visit to Col. James McGinley, chief of staff, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, Iraq Assistance Group, and Lt. Col. Hyder, deputy Abu Ghraib police chief. More than 15 boxes of toys, clothes and school supplies were donated to children in the Abu Ghraib area Nov. 17

from previous page

**S**oldiers and Iraqi National police distributed pencils, pens, beanie babies and toys to students from both the Aqarquf Primary School and the Abu Isa Junior High School.

The school supplies and toys were donated from families of the Mountain View Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“My wife and kids sent me and my troops a few care packages, but they wanted to know if they could do more,” said Maj. Jeffrey Kuhlman, team chief, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. “So I told them how the troops and I would pass out soccer balls or pens to the Iraqi children during our patrols.”

That’s all it took for Kuhlman’s family to get the ball rolling and start putting together packages for the Iraqi children. Within three weeks Kuhlman’s wife and four daughters, two of which attend Mountain View Elementary School, held a day at school where families could bring in school supplies and toys to donate to the Iraqi children. When everything was said and done, the school put together 15 boxes of goods to be sent.

“We are very grateful for the Coalition forces and the [Iraqi security forces],” said Aesaaf, acting principal

for the Aqarquf primary school. “We welcome these supplies and toys for the students.”

After the Soldiers and INP visited two schools, they stopped by a local village they usually patrol.

“We wanted to let the villagers know that the national police and Coalition forces are here for them; not just to man checkpoints,” Kuhlman said. “Our main goal is for the national police to become the face of security in Iraq.”

By the time the trip was over the Soldiers and INPs visited more than 200 children.

“I consider the mission a success,” Kuhlman said. “Today we didn’t go out to look for the bad guys or weapons caches, but to promote the national police and to do something special for the Iraqi children.”



**Capt. James Stoffel**, with the National Police Transition Team from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, hands out toys to children of the Aqarquf Primary School in Abu Ghraib Nov. 17.

**An American M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank** and its crew of Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, along with Iraqi army crewmen of a T-72 tank perform inspections Oct. 31 at Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq.



## Tanks rumble, roar across Besmaya Range Complex

**An Iraqi army T-72 tank** and its crew perform a live-fire demonstration on Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq, Oct. 31.



### 1st Armored Division and Iraqi army soldiers put rounds downrange

Story, photos by Army Pfc. Evan Loyd

**2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division**

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – M1A1 Abrams Main Battle tanks from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division and Iraqi T-72 tanks have been on opposite sides of the firing line since they first saw each other in Operation Desert Storm.

Recently, leaders from the 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div. and Iraqi security forces brought the two tanks together and fired in the same direction on the Iraqi’s Besmaya Range Complex during a live-fire demonstration, Oct. 31, at Forward Operating Base Hammer.

Both tanks fired rounds from a defensive position and the Abrams demonstrated its ability to fire on the move during the demonstration.

Master Sgt. Wilmer Morales, a master gunner for

the ‘Iron Brigade’, facilitated a class on the M1A1 and answered the Iraqi leader’s questions.

Both groups of leaders then had a hands-on tour of the M1A1 and the T-72.

“This is the closest I’ve ever been to a working T-72,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dustin Rinehart, a tank noncommissioned officer in 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div.’s command security detail. “The only time I’ve seen them before this is down a gunsite or in a museum.”

After the first live-fire demonstration, both group’s leaders were invited to fire the others tanks.

**The M1A1 Main Battle Tank weighs more than 61 metric tons**



**Army Col. (Dr.) Augustin Gomez** speaks with a Soldier in the Patriot Clinic at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 6. Gomez, a psychiatrist with the Army Reserve's 1835th Medical Detachment, specializes in treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and works closely with the Air Force Mental Health Clinic to ensure patients with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries receive proper treatment. The 1835th Med. Det. is deployed from Denver.

Story, photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Don Branum  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office

# AIRMEN, SOLDIERS WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES AT JOINT BASE BALAD HOSPITAL

An Airman with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group scans a patient on a CT scan machine at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Feb. 20. Patients who may have suffered traumatic brain injuries are scanned prior to treatment by neurosurgeons with the Army's 207th Medical Detachment, which is deployed from Fort Bragg, N.C.

**A**ir Force and Army medical practitioners at Joint Base Balad work as an integrated team to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, two of the most common injuries to affect wounded warriors.

The cooperation between services does more than contribute to the Air Force Theater Hospital's 98-percent survival rate – it reduces the number of servicemembers who must be aeromedically evacuated from the theater, said Air Force Col. (Dr.) Mark Mavity, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander.

The Army provides neurosurgical capability through the 207th Medical Detachment head and neck team and acute stress care through the 56th Multifunctional Medical Brigade.

"We have the only neurosurgical capability in Iraq," Mavity said.

Time is precious when someone suffers a head injury, said Army Maj. (Dr.) Shaden Marzouk, a neurosurgeon with the 207th Med. Det. Injuries to the brain or skull can cause fluid to build up inside a patient's skull, creating pressure on the brain. If the pressure becomes too great, the top part of the brain, or cerebrum, pushes into the medulla -- the portion of the brain that controls the heart, lungs and other

**"That way, patients will survive long enough to get to Balad."**

**Air Force Col. (Dr.) Mark Mavity**  
Commander  
332nd Expeditionary Medical Group

involuntary organ systems. "Patients with traumatic brain injuries need immediate care to preclude that injury from becoming fatal," Mavity said.

Neurosurgeons can treat the pressure buildup through a surgical procedure called decompressive craniectomy, which involves removing a small part of the skull. Until recently, however, patients had to be flown to Joint Base Balad in order to receive the treatment.

"There's not always enough time to get the patient here in time to do that, so we've had the neurosurgeons fly out and teach some basic life-saving procedures to medics at other combat area support hospitals throughout Iraq," Mavity said. "That way, patients will survive long enough to get to Balad."

The Air Force (mental health) Clinic here provides non-emergency medical services to Airmen and Soldiers. Here, the Army works with the Air Force to provide for patients' mental health needs, said Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jim Whitworth, officer-in-charge of the mental health clinic.

The mental health clinic helps patients deal with traumatic brain injury cases, most of which are mild concussions, said Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Rich Barker, a psychologist with the Air Force Mental Health Clinic here. The clinic focuses on detecting and treating acute stress, which can be attributed to either post-traumatic stress disorder or mild traumatic brain injury.

"Two years ago, when people got involved with falls or (improvised explosive device) blasts, they'd either press on without seeing a doctor, or they'd see a doctor and get sent back to a military treatment facility

in Germany or the United States," Barker said. "Thanks to education efforts, however, the number of people seeking treatment for PTSD or acute stress is greater -- and the number of people sent out of theater for treatment is lower."

We see about 50 patients per month, and we've only had two in two months that we had to send back to Germany because their symptoms didn't improve," Barker said. "The others go back to work with fewer or no symptoms."

Common symptoms of PTSD and TBI include insomnia and anxiety, said Army Col. (Dr.) Augustin Gomez, a psychiatrist with the 1835th Medical Detachment Combat Stress Control Team who specializes in treating PTSD. Gomez uses therapy, medication and acupuncture to treat his patients, while the Air Force clinic offers

**Some common disabilities from traumatic brain injuries include problems with thinking, memory and reasoning.**

relaxation therapy and prescriptions through patients' primary care managers.

The most important step in healing is seeking continuity of care, Gomez said. Servicemembers shouldn't assume their PTSD has gone away simply because the symptoms have disappeared.

"PTSD is a chronic illness, and they may have a relapse," he said.

Both the Air Force and Army medical teams complement each other for the successful integration of medical services.

"We're very seamlessly integrated," Marzouk said. "We don't think of ourselves as Army or Air Force; we're just another part of a great team."

Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Naval Construction Regiment, perform warm-up exercises before maneuvering an obstacle course in Taqaddum, Iraq, Oct. 30. The obstacle course is designed to help the Marines learn to work as a team while challenging them physically. (Photo by Marine Cpl. James D. Wilkins.)



**Art Alexakis**, vocals and lead guitarist for Everclear, performs for U.S. troops assigned to Camp Echo, Iraq, Nov. 15. Everclear was formed in Portland, Ore. in 1992.



Photos by Air Force Senior Airman Eric Harris  
1st Combat Camera Squadron

**Spc. Kristen Emery**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, holds up a lighter as a salute to Everclear during its performance at Camp Echo, Iraq, Nov. 15.



**Soldiers stationed at Camp Echo, Iraq**, clap for the rock band Everclear during its performance, Nov. 15. Everclear was performing as part of a USO tour which took the band to several camps across the country.



**Sgt. Scotty Brown**, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, smiles while listening to a live performance by Everclear at Camp Echo, Iraq, Nov. 15. Everclear toured throughout Iraq in November, stopping at such installations as Camp Liberty, Camp Slayer and Camp Striker – playing such hits as "A.M. Radio," "Brown-eyed Girl" and "Daddy Gave me a Name."



**Sgt .  
William West**  
from 2nd Battalion,  
327th Infantry Regiment  
Infantry, 1st Brigade Com-  
bat Team, 101st Airborne Di-  
vision, searches an old build-  
ing Nov. 13 in Samarra, Iraq,  
for weapons caches. Samarra,  
about 124 km north of Bagh-  
dad, is one of the four Islamic  
Holy Cities of Iraq and was  
built by Caliph Al-Mu'tasim in  
836 AD. (Photo by Army Sgt.  
Kani Ronningen.)

# Big Bang for joint training

Story, photos by Army Capt. Jeffrey A. Johnson  
123 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A U.S. route clearing team currently working with the British and U.S. military in Basrah Province and the Joint United Kingdom Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group held their first joint training event Nov. 5 at Phoenix range outside of the Basrah Contingency Operations Base.

The training provided the U.S. RCT with an opportunity to experience demolitions from a British EOD perspective and gain valuable insight into methods used for disposing of large amounts of explosive materials. It was the fourth disposal the Joint UK EOD has done in the last six months and it will be the last one for their tour.

“RCT’s patrol through urban or rural environments scanning for possible IED’s, unexploded ordnance, or explosively formed projectiles and clear them for logistics or



U.S. Army Pfc. Charles Wigglesworth and Spc. Michael Benge receive instruction from British Army Warrant Officer 2 Peter Martin on how to effectively dispose of unexploded ordnance at Phoenix Range Nov. 5 outside of Basrah Contingency Operations Base.

freedom of movement for coalition forces,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Devens Vogt, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, 570th Sapper Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade.

“We are able to do a blow-in-place for items we identify and if we find a lot of ordnance we call in EOD,” Vogt said.

The Sapper’s have been in theater for approximately nine months. They are here to provide direct support to the British, but work with other units like the military and police transition teams who support the Iraqi army and security forces.

The Joint UK EOD group is responsible for the disposal and safe rendering of enemy devices and all conventional weapons found that area of responsibility, said British Warrant Officer 2 Peter David Martin, the EOD group sergeant major.

There were no captured explosives involved in the training exercise. The training involved about two and one half metric tons of expired ammunitions from UK forces in Basrah.

The UK has stringent criteria for what ammunition is serviceable because Iraq’s extreme temperatures reduce the serviceability of explosives by more than 50 percent.

“We don’t want our troops working with ammunition that might work, but ammunition that will work,” Martin said.

The ordnance being disposed during the exercise consisted of old mortars, flares and grenades, which were stacked according UK EOD standards. The stacking technique organizes the ordnance so it explodes down and up at the same time. This ensures that all of it is destroyed and the explosion is contained.

After everything was ready, the multi-national team convoyed to a location far from the pit, and set up for mission completion- two large explosions with fireworks, billowing smoke and a thunderous boom that could be heard for many kilometers.



The Joint United Kingdom Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group and 2nd Platoon, 570th Sapper Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade pose at Phoenix Range Nov 5 outside Basrah Contingency Operations Base.

The final result of joint training between the Joint United Kingdom Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group and the U.S. Army’s 2nd Platoon, 570th Sapper Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Lewis, Wash., displays the effective disposal of unserviceable ammunition Nov. 5 at Phoenix Range outside Basrah Contingency Operations Base.

# CAMP VICTORY CELEBRATES

The Warrior Spirit was alive at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace Nov. 26th, as dance, drums and the essence of the Native American brought the place to life.

November was Native American Indian Heritage month, and the Multi-National Corps Iraq Equal Opportunity Office invited the Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble to help celebrate with servicemembers overseas.

**Doug GoodFeather**, with the Kevin Locke Dance Ensemble, performs a flag dance for personnel attending the Multi-National Corps – Iraq Native American Indian Heritage Month observation Nov. 26 at the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory in Baghdad.

"The American Indian population is the least understood and the most misunderstood American culture; until awareness changes, it is good to have a special month set aside," said Kevin Locke, of the Kevin Locke Dance Ensemble. "In that regard, we are really happy to be here and create a sort of positive awareness."



**Capt. Keith Herzog**, battle captain, C-5, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, examines a display featuring Native American tribal regions Nov. 26 in the ballroom of the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory in Baghdad.



## N A T I V E A M E R I C A N H E R I T A G E

Photos by Army Spc. Eric J. Martinez  
13th Public Affairs Detachment

**Ursaloria Kanuho**, of the Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble, performs a traditional Native American dance Nov. 26 at the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Ohiyesa Locke, Kevin Locke's son and an intelligence analyst, MNC-I, has been planning and organizing the event since deploying here in March.

"Understanding each other's cultures helps us break down barriers; understand and relate to each other," Ohiyesa said. "It [cultural observances] works to build a more cohesive Army as a whole."

**Sgt. Will Daniels** and Pfc. Justin Dreyer, forward observers in the Long Knife Brigade's combat observation and lasing team, scan the horizon using night vision devices and illumination artillery rounds during the night of Nov. 4 outside of Nasiriyah, Iraq

# Long Knives, Romanians detour criminals outside Nasiriyah

*Story, photos by Army Spc. Creighton Holub*  
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division  
Public Affairs Office

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

A small team of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division forward observers went to the Iraqi city with Romanian artillery troops from the 341st Infantry Battalion to view the local citizens and their activities Nov. 4.

The group travelled down long highways before leaving the main roadways for dirt roads running through small villages. The combined forces found an opening in the desert where they could easily maintain proper security.

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

Just after nightfall, two artillerymen from the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., set up their equipment and observed Iraqi citizens during normal evening activities.

The Long Knife artillery team of Sgt. Will Daniels and Pfc. Justin Dreyer brought a night vision device that provided the ability to easily see hundreds of meters away.

When the first illumination artillery rounds were launched from COB Adder, the sky lit up, as if the sun was beginning to rise, and the team noticed a vehicle with a handful of suspicious-looking men.

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

doing so I can send back an accurate report.”

The illumination rounds did their job of detouring criminal actions and improving visibility, as the suspicious group fled the scene.

The group observed a second volley of illumination rounds just in time for Daniels to confirm whether the group was preparing to do harm or if they were only on a routine trip outside of town.

The joint Romanian and American artillery teams spent the night observing the area and building esprit de corps to improve their relationship as coalition partners.



**Sgt. Will Daniels**, a forward observer assigned to the Long Knife Brigade's combat observation and lasing team, revamps his plan with the guidance of Romanian Lt. Col. Vasile Vreme, commander, Romanian 341st Infantry Battalion, during a nighttime observation mission Nov. 4, near Nasiriyah, Iraq.

# IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICEMEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN OCTOBER 16 AND NOVEMBER 15, 2008 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

*JOHN 15:13*

**Oct. 16**

**Spc. Heath K. Pickard, 21.**

**Oct. 20**

**Lance Cpl. Stacy A. Dryden, 22.**

**Oct. 23**

**Staff Sgt. Brian P. Hause, 29.**

**Oct. 24**

**Pfc. Cody J. Eggleston, 21.**

**Oct. 29.**

**Staff Sgt. Scott J. Metcalf, 36.**

**Pfc. Bradley S. Coleman, 24.**

**Nov. 5**

**Spc. Adam M. Wenger, 27.**

**Nov. 6**

**Pfc. Theron V. Hobbs, 22.**

**Spc. William Justin McClellan, 22.**

**Nov. 8**

**Staff Sgt. Timothy H. Walker, 38.**

**Nov. 12**

**Sgt. Jose Regalado, 23.**

**Spc. Corey M. Shea, 21.**

**Nov. 13**

**Spc. Armando A. De La Paz, 21.**

**Sgt. James M. Clay, 25.**

**Nov. 14**

**Cpl. Aaron M. Allen, 24.**

**Nov. 15**

**Chief Warrant Officer Donald V. Clark, 37.**

**Chief Warrant Officer Christian P. Humphreys, 28.**



# Man's Best Friend

**Sgt. Dylan Rainey** and his search dog, Duke, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 327 Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, search an area for weapon caches Nov. 15 during Operation Cordon 2, in Samarra, Iraq. (Photo by Army Sgt. Kani Ronningen.)