

Long Knife News

ISSUE 7

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Holiday Edition



Commander's Corner

*By Col. Philip Battaglia
4th BCT Commander*

Long Knife Troopers,

Happy New Year and congratulations on a great 2008! Given all the great things our brigade has done, we can all look back at 2008 with great pride. 2009 is going to be even better as we continue our mission and return to our families and friends when done.

This month, I will briefly share my thoughts on a few important topics: the Iraqi elections, sexual harassment prevention and deployment stress.

Provincial elections will take place on 31 January. This is a huge step for Iraq, and the second time that Iraqis get to choose their Provincial leaders. The Iraqi Army and Police are in the lead to secure the polling sites, and you are doing a great job partnering and helping them with their preparations. Con-



Col. Philip Battaglia

gratulations on your outstanding support to such an important event.

The next two topics deal with our well being. First, we must respect

each other and watch out for our buddy's well-being. Sexual and all other forms of harassment have no place in the Long Knife Brigade. Every Trooper is entitled to live and work in an environment free of harassment of any kind. If you or your battle buddy is the subject of sexual harassment, go see your company or battalion Equal Opportunity representatives. We must foster a positive environment in the brigade that is harassment-free.

Along the lines of personal conduct and well-being, continue to look out for each other and in particular, how your fellow Troopers are dealing with stress. This deployment is a marathon – not a sprint – and you must continue to do those things to sustain yourself and your fellow Troopers. Focus on controlling that over which you have control: your work, your physical fitness and your battle rhythm. Try not to worry about those things that you have no control over. Talk to your buddy and keep in contact with your loved ones back home. Stay connected and make redeployment easier on everyone.

Thanks for your continued dedication to the mission and service to our Nation. I am immensely proud to lead this brigade. You're doing a great job, Troopers!

Long Knife 6 out! 🇺🇸

Long Knife News

FROM THE COVER



The 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion bring in the holidays with Christmas decorations at the battalion headquarters.



A 27th Brigade Support Battalion Soldier puts on a Santa costume and brings light to the battalion headquarters' Christmas tree.

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Long Knives, Coalition celebrate New Year

By Spc. Creighton Holub
4th BCT PAO

COB Adder, Iraq – While every New Year's Eve party marks the passage of time, the celebration at the base's Memorial Hall had a little more meaning for the Soldiers stationed here.

"We're in the year that we're going home," said Pvt. Lindsay Welsh of Chino, Calif., and assigned to the 10th Combat Support Hospital.

Instead of spending the night on the internet, talking with Family members or maintaining her average of reading one book per day, the combat medic rang in the New Year at a party with her friends and a couple of hundred coalition Soldiers.

"I'm happy to be mingling and I'm out of my (barracks)," Welsh added.

While enjoying her company, Spc. Joy Olmstead, another 10th CSH medic from Omaha, Neb., has scratched another day off her calendar. "I'm one day closer to going home now," Olmstead said.

Staff Sgt. Edwin Joa, a supply specialist assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Soldiers assigned to the Long Knife Brigade and other supporting units at Contingency Operating Base Adder ring in 2009 with a balloon drop at the stroke of midnight. The New Year marked the passage of time for some Soldiers while it served as a memorable marker for where they were for others.

Division 'Long Knives,' was pleased to have found fellow Soldiers with whom to celebrate. "It was a coincidence that I was here instead of (Forward Operating Base) Hunter," said Joa, who is normally stationed at the remote FOB working with the Iraqi

border patrol only a matter of miles from the Iraq-Iran border. "I will be able to say that I remember where I was on New Year's Eve. This isn't home, but I am making the best of it with my fellow Soldiers and friends."

Iraqi Security Agreement

By Capt. Daniel Santander
4th BCT Legal Office

COB ADDER, Iraq – The security agreement (SA) between the United States and Iraq became effective 1 Jan. 2009 and is now the legal authority for U.S. Forces in Iraq. What does it mean to you as a Long Knife Trooper? It will not drastically change the types of missions you are doing, but here are some basic tenets of the agreement that you should know.

U.S. Forces will provide temporary assistance in supporting Iraq's efforts to maintain security and stabil-

ity in Iraq, including cooperation in conducting operations against criminal groups. The U.S. military will coordinate all operations with Iraqi authorities and will conduct them with full respect to Iraqi laws and Constitution. U.S. Forces have a duty to respect Iraqi laws, customs, traditions, and conventions and to refrain from any activity that is inconsistent with the agreement.

The SA authorizes U.S. Forces in Iraq to arrest and temporarily detain individuals. However, almost in every case, U.S. Forces will be required to obtain an arrest warrant from an Iraqi

judge prior to a person's arrest or detention. Additionally, the SA provides that U.S. Forces will not search Iraqi houses or other real estate except by an Iraqi judicial warrant and in coordination with the Government of Iraq.

Exceptions to these rules are when arrests, detentions, and/or searches take place during combat operations or when witnessing a serious crime such as rape, murder, or arson.

Regardless of how the person was arrested or detained, U.S. Forces are required to turn the person over to a competent Iraqi authority (Iraqi Army,

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Long Knives discuss elections in Southern Iraq

By Spc. Rebekah Lampman
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq – Leaders from Independent High Electoral Commission-Iraq, U.S. Coalition forces and the Iraqi Security Forces met Dec. 18 at Camp Dhi Qar, near the city of Nasiriyah, to discuss important issues regarding the upcoming elections.

"The Iraqi Security Forces are prepared and ready to secure the elections," said Lt. Col. Nathan Cook, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's executive officer. "The Long Knife Brigade and the provincial reconstruction teams are here to partner with and assist the ISF to make this a successful election."

ELECTION *continued on page 10*



Long Knife photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Maj. Gen. Habib Taleb Abbas, 10th Iraqi Army Division commander, briefs Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, MND-C commander, about the security plan for southern Iraq's upcoming elections during a conference at Camp Dhi Qar, near Nasiriyah, Dec 18.

IAs and IPs hold border security conference

By Maj. Chad Carroll
4th BCT PAO OIC

COB ADDER, Iraq – For the first time in the Maysan Province, leaders from the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Border Patrol met with Coalition leaders near the provincial capital of Amarah Nov. 15.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division leaders worked behind the scenes for weeks to bring together commanders from the 11th Border Enforcement, the 38th and 41st Iraqi Army Brigades and the Maysan Police.

The Long Knife Brigade assembled this group to share information on suspected criminal activity and plan future cooperative efforts to increase border security in the province.

"Up to this point, the border patrol, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army have done great work in securing the

province," said Col. Philip Battaglia, commander of the Long Knife Brigade. "This conference represents a huge step toward synchronizing all those successes to close security gaps and secure the province as a whole."

Iraqi leaders were extremely pleased with the new level of coopera-

tion and how the conference demonstrated the big picture to the provincial leaders.

"We are having great success, but since the province is such a large area to cover, we have to make sure our forces' locations are right with re-

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(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens)

The Long Knife Brigade command staff meets with Iraqi security officials from southern Iraq to discuss boarder enforcement during the Maysan Security Conference held near Amarah Nov. 15.

Spartans and Romanians get fired up at the range

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq – The sounds of artillery rounds and various exploding projectiles could be heard miles away from the Bardia Firing Range, near COB Adder, where Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and the Romanian 341st Infantry Battalion joined forces to cross-train one another on their different military weapon systems Dec. 10.

You could possibly imagine the motivation and excitement on the faces of the 4th Brigade's Long Knife Soldiers as the Romanian troops taught them the correct procedures in firing their weapons. Sgt. 1st Class Bogdan Marius, a Romanian soldier who taught the Americans how to use his country's weapons, said both forces took the time to learn invaluable techniques that could later be used in combat.

"This cross training was an enjoyable familiarization exercise that allowed the American Soldiers to shoot weapons that they would never be able to fire (otherwise)," Marius said.

The Long Knife Brigade Soldiers work with the White Shark troops in various operations, that in-

volve Iraqi Security Forces, to provide stability and support the Iraqi government at the local and provincial levels.

Staff Sgt. Chris Toledo, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Long Knife Soldiers at the firing range, said the weapons training created a stronger bond with their Romanian counterparts.

"It was a different type of mission that brought all the guys closer together," Toledo said. "Usually we just observe and assist the Romanians on operations and missions. This time we had the chance of a lifetime to fire weapons that we normally wouldn't have the opportunity to."

The Long Knife Soldiers operated the Romanian weapon systems, including the rocket-propelled grenade launcher and the AK-47 assault rifle. Additionally, the White Shark troops were given a chance to fire the Americans' M-4 carbines, M203 grenade launchers and a M2 .50-

caliber machine gun.

After the last rocket was fired and the assault rifle magazines were emptied, the troops cleaned the range and discussed the positive aspects of the training event. The Soldiers of the Long Knife Brigade took their weapons systems and headed back to the base to prepare for their next mission.



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrate how to operate a M-4 carbine during a training exercise with troops from the 341st Romanian Infantry Battalion during a cross training event at the Bardia Firing Range near COB Adder, Iraq.

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within 24 hours.

Nothing in the SA takes away the right of U.S. Forces to defend themselves. The SA specifically states that "The Parties retain the right of legitimate self defense within Iraq, as defined in applicable international law." The SA allows members of the U.S. Forces and the civilian component to possess and carry weapons while in Iraq, however, privately owned weapons are still not allowed under any circumstances.

The SA recognizes Iraq's right to enforce its own criminal and civil

laws – much like the U.S.' agreements with other countries such as Korea where Soldiers are stationed. Additionally, the SA acknowledges Iraq's primary right to exercise jurisdiction over U.S. Forces and civilians when they have committed a grave, premeditated felony such as murder or rape either off duty or off a U.S. Controlled military or government installation. If a member of the U.S. Forces is arrested or detained, Iraqi officials must notify the U.S. authorities and turn over the individual to U.S. custody within 24 hours. The U.S. will main-

tain custody of U.S. personnel while they are being prosecuted under the Iraqi legal system.

The SA states that the U.S. will withdraw all forces from Iraqi territory no later than 31 December 2011. U.S. combat forces will withdraw from Iraqi cities, villages, and localities no later than 30 June 2009. The U.S. recognizes the sovereign right of the GoI to request the departure of U.S. Forces from Iraq at anytime and the GoI also recognizes the sovereign right of the U.S. to withdraw its forces at any time.

Head Hunters and DBE personnel ground smuggling operations

By 2nd Lt. Michael Jue,
1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

COB ADDER, Iraq – The 2nd Battalion, 11th Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement partnered with Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to assist the Iraqi Security Forces in the disruption of smuggling networks in November. The American troops used air assets on the mission that began at the al Hawayza Border Fort. The operation was led on the ground by DBE personnel.

“The (Head Hunter Squadron’s) non-commissioned officers have been working to mold the 2-11 DBE men,” said Sgt. 1st Class Loshun Wilson from Killeen, Texas. The American Soldiers, led by Wilson, worked to stop smugglers from crossing a target area while another section coordinated on the ground with the DBE. The border patrol agents searched vehicles and detained smugglers as they came across the area.

“During our movements, we frequently observe training taking

place without our presence,” Wilson added. “There is more work to be done, but the rate of improvement is impressive.”

The squadron’s Soldiers arrived at the fort to find that the DBE personnel had just completed their morning training. “The (border patrol) leaders understand that we need to present ourselves

in a heroic fashion to encourage the youth to follow in our footsteps instead of fighting against us and the Coalition Forces,” said Capt. Hameed a DBE officer.

Prior to the emplacement of the DBE, weapons and criminals flowed freely from Iran to Iraq. Now, the DBE is preventing that weapon smuggling.



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Atheer, an Iraqi border patrol agent from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Department of Border Enforcement, walks alongside a convoy in the Maysan province's Abu Khasaf village in November.

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spect to each other,” said Maj. Gen. Habib Taleb Abbas, 10th IA Div. commander.

Habib chaired the conference and offered time to other commanders to address their ideas for future cooperation among the rest of Iraq’s security forces.

Security during Iraq’s upcoming January election was a hot topic for the leaders.

“Working together starts with

planning together,” said Maj. Gen. Saad Harbiya, commander of Maysan’s Police officers. He recommended another conference to solely focus on security for the election.

Three of the Long Knife Brigade’s battalions are operating in Maysan. The 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav. Regt., is partnered with the border patrol element to interdict munitions and arrest criminals crossing from Iran into Iraq. The 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., is part-

nered with the 38th IA Bde. and the 5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt., is partnered with the 41st IA Bde.

The Iraqi Security Forces in southern Iraq have arrested approximately 200 suspected criminals and seized more than 9,000 various munitions – to include improvised explosive device and explosively formed projectile materials since the Long Knife Brigade arrived this summer.

Happy Holidays from the Long Knife Brigade

From the recruiting station to stationed overseas

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

COB Adder, Iraq – Many Soldiers are probably considering making a career out of the U.S. Army.

But few can say they are directly involved in helping those very Soldiers find the path that is best for their future. Sgt. 1st Class Charles Washington, a career counselor attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, mentors Soldiers and puts them into a position for future success.

Washington is a recruiter assigned to the 3rd Army Medical Recruiting Command and volunteered to deploy with the Long Knife Brigade as part of an individual augmentee program, which allows a recruiter to go overseas and work as a career counselor during a combat tour.

“I volunteered for this program so that I can share my experiences with the men and women that have questions about deployments” said Washington. “Being a career counselor is somewhat similar to recruiting. You talk to the Soldiers and help them make a decision with their best interest in mind.”

The former ammunition specialist from Lewisville, Ga., found his passion in recruiting when he was

selected to serve at his first recruiting station in Youngstown, Ohio.

“It was hard at first, but I think recruiting came to me naturally,” said Washington. “Taking a young man or woman and teaching them to be a Soldier gives me a good feeling to be a part of that.”

He speaks of his Soldiers with pride and shows it by wearing his recruiter’s ring, which came with his Glen E. Morrell Award for excelling at recruiting.

“Washington has been a great

asset to the team and he’s very successful at what he does” said Master Sgt. Keith Green, the head career counselor assigned to the Long Knife Brigade. “He counsels Soldiers just like we do and helps them with their future plans.”

After this deployment, with his seven years of recruiting experience, Washington plans on going back to a recruiting station and becoming a recruiting trainer so he can share his knowledge with future Soldiers and their Families back home.



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Washington and Master Sgt. Keith Green, career counselors assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, discuss reenlistment options at the brigade's retention office on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Nov. 10. Washington, a recruiter from Lewisville, Ga., volunteered to join the Long Knife Brigade during its combat tour.



What can YOU do to prevent suicide?



- Active emotional support
- Ask “Have you had thoughts of suicide?”
- Listen carefully to the person
- Ask concerned questions
- Above all, stay close until professional help is available

Consult your unit chaplain and chain of command if you think someone is in trouble!

BE STRONG – PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT

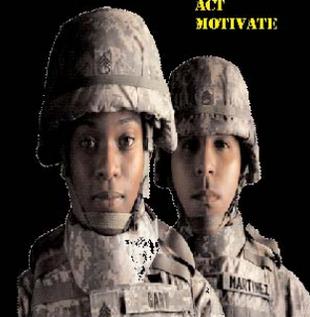
I. A.M. STRONG!!!

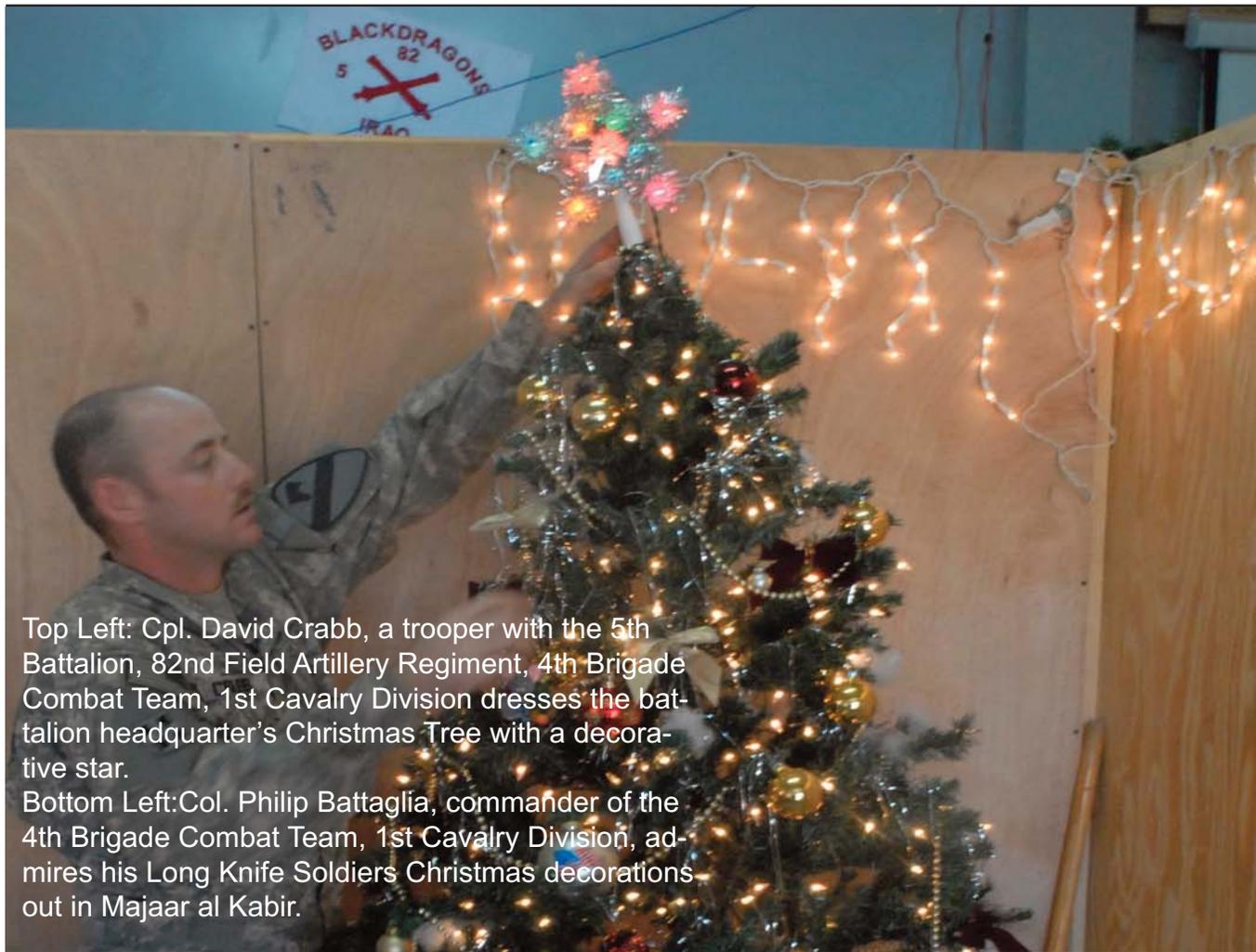
IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

**INTERVENE
ACT
MOTIVATE**

**NO ONE DESERVES TO
BE SEXUALLY
ASSAULTED**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR
TO REPORT AN
INCIDENT, CONTACT
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Top Left: Cpl. David Crabb, a trooper with the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division dresses the battalion headquarter's Christmas Tree with a decorative star.

Bottom Left: Col. Philip Battaglia, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, admires his Long Knife Soldiers Christmas decorations out in Majaar al Kabir.





Top Right: Spc. Jessica Galloway from the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gives the 'Grinch' artwork she painted a touch-up.

Bottom Right: Sgt. 1st Class Renee Cordero from the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, puts the finishing touches on the Christmas Tree in her office.

Far Bottom Right: Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Lomax from Brigade Headquarters, admires the angel on top of the Christmas tree in the brigade headquarters annex.



Long Knives receive hero's send off from USO

By Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore
4th BCT PAO NCOIC

COB ADDER, Iraq - After spending 18 days resting home in the coastal city of Huntington Beach, Calif., Pfc. Travis Kaufman wasn't expecting much more.

However, as soon as the 21-year old U.S. Army communications specialist assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, arrived at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport a band of private citizens from central and northern Texas greeted him.

Their sole purpose was to provide Kaufman and the 4th BCT

Long Knife Soldiers with a smooth transition as the Soldiers returned to Iraq from rest and relaxation leave Dec 10.

"I thought I was going to stop in here and go," said Kaufman. "Then, I saw a turkey dinner, and I thought...yeah."

The turkey dinner was provided by the United States Organization (USO) as a way of extending a touch of home to the transitioning Soldiers while they traveled during the holiday season. Food, beverages and free internet access were available while the unit waited for their return flight to Iraq.

"This is so much more than I expected," said Kaufman, as he received multiple handshakes and hugs from members of the Mimosa Lane Baptist church in Mesquite, Texas, who volunteered their time to help the USO for the day.

The young, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Soldier is currently on his first tour in Iraq and has only 16 months of military experience. He said the greeting at the airport was much different than what his father received after returning home from Vietnam.

"He served four years in the Marines," said an emotional Kaufman. "I know he would have appreciated all this; it's so nice to see people supporting us like this."

The USO is a private, non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation to men and women in uniform. The organization currently operates more than 130 centers worldwide.

"There are no words that can explain how important it is to show support," said Shirley Cooker, a USO volunteer and member of the Mimosa Lane Baptist church. "I did not have a son or a daughter, so it's awesome to give this young man a hug for what he's doing."

Cooker and approximately 25 USO volunteers did everything they could to provide the Long Knife Soldiers with a proper send off as the unit continues its 15-month deployment in southern Iraq.



Long Knife photo by Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore

Pfc. Travis Kaufman, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, receives a hand shake from a USO volunteer as he departs the Dallas Fort Worth Airport returning to Iraq after R&R leave.

ELECTION from page 4

The Provincial Reconstruction Teams discussed various non-governmental organization plans for voter education sessions and town hall meetings with provincial, tribal and religious leaders from southern Iraq. The organizations plan to educate the Iraqi citizens as much as pos-

sible so that they can make an informed decision during the elections.

The ISF also discussed the security plans for the polling stations in Dhi Qar and Muthanna; ballot movement to and from polling sites; and early voting for the ISF.

"I'm confident we are going

to have a safe and successful election," said Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, the commander of Multi-National Division - Center.

The ISF has additional conferences scheduled throughout January to ensure the legitimacy and safety of the elections.

Continue Living the Legend, see your battalion retention NCO for details

Spartans, Airman team up to help Iraqis

By Spc. Rebekah Lampman
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq - While deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers and Airmen often work side by side during combat operations.

However, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Albrecht, assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division 'Long Knives' and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Slysz, assigned to the 732nd Provost Marshals Office, found themselves side by side helping Iraqi citizens during a humanitarian operation Dec 16.

"Slysz is a great guy to work with," said Albrecht. "It feels really good to be able to do something special with someone from another branch of the military."

The U.S. Soldier and Airman visited a group of Iraqis, located near Contingency Operating Base Adder near the southern Iraqi city of

Nasiriyah. The people there are known as Bedouins because they frequently roam from place to place along the dusty roads and villages.

Albrecht, a platoon sergeant for the 4th STB, 4th BCT 1st Cav. Div. Personal Security Detachment, handed out food, toys and other supplies during the visit, and Slysz, a Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the bases Criminal Intelligence Department, was there to collect intelligence and get a feel for the area, but he also wanted to help.

"I noticed when I went out with them (Albrecht and the PSD), they gave out things like food, blankets, and personal hygiene products," said the two-time combat Air Force veteran, from Sacramento, Calif. "So I got with my unit and people back home to donate things; the kids back home have really helped a lot."

Albrecht, who hails from Grand Forks, N.D., and his PSD team have conducted security missions to

the Bedouin camps about three to four times a week during the six months the Long Knife Brigade has been deployed to southern Iraq.

"It gives my guys an opportunity to see how they live," he said. "When we do security patrols, it shows our presence, and when we stop and visit with them, it shows we're interested in the people and we really care."

Slysz, on the other hand, only recently started making the rounds, but the two service members are committed to working as a team toward helping the Bedouin Iraqis reach a better quality of life.

The Airman says he really enjoys working with the U.S. Army's Long Knife Brigade. "I like it...everyone's out here, we're from different backgrounds, but we're here for the same fight," said Slysz, as he stands next to Albrecht. "We wear different uniforms, but we're all doing the same thing."



Long Knife photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Albrecht, assigned to the Personal Security Detachment from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gives an Iraqi girl a jump rope when he visits the Bedouin camps outside of Contingency Operating Base Adder near the city of Nasiriyah. Albrecht and his Soldiers visit the Bedouins three to four times a week to hand out supplies.

IA's bring in New Year with Black Dragons

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq –Approximately 2,100 Iraqi Army Soldiers graduated from initial training at the Besmaya Range Complex Dec. 31 increasing the might of the Iraqi Security Forces. As he visually reviewed the graduating troops of the 41st Brigade, 10th Iraqi

Army Division, Gen Habeeb Talib Abbas, commander of the 10th Iraqi Army Division stood and saluted the newest members.

Habeeb displayed pride for his unit with a gentle smile as the Soldiers stood in a mass formation prior to the graduation.

“I am very pleased at the way our part-

nership is working and how we are doing here,” said Habeeb. “I think the 41st Brigade has had some of the best training working with the American troops.”

Long Knife Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division helped train the Iraqi troops in weapon-system familiarization and utilizing their combat gear. The Long Knife Soldiers focused on preparing the Iraqis to build from this training to provide security for their country.

Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Multi-National Security Transition Command Iraq commander, attended the ceremony.

“The Iraqi Army of today is made up of Soldiers who have only one thing in mind, to provide the people of Iraq a professional security force,” said Helmick. “We look forward to serving alongside you in 2009.”



Long Knife photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

Graduating troops from the 41st Brigade, 10th IA Division assembled a pyramid with an Iraqi Soldier displaying his national flag at the IA graduation at the Besmaya Range Complex Dec. 31. The graduation added approximately 2,100 new troops to the ranks of the IA.

Garry Owen Battalion holds NCO induction

By Capt. Dion Williams,
2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.

COB ADDER, Iraq - Twenty-three of the U.S. Army's newest non commissioned officers took part in a traditional ceremony here Dec 23.

The 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gave the new leaders their rite of passage as they crossed- over from Soldier to NCO during an NCO induction ceremony.

The ceremony is for newly promoted troops joining the NCO Corps, and it also honors the men and women who have served in that group with pride and distinction.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., participate in a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Forward Operating Base Garry Owen Dec. 27.

—— NCO continued on page 13

Ambassador visits Garryowen, Ziggurat

By Spc. Creighton Holub,
4th BCT PAO

COB ADDER, Iraq - The Long Knife Brigade showed Ambassador Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, how civil-military projects in the Dhi Qar and Maysan provinces are helping the people of southern Iraq Dec. 17 and 18.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division hosted the ambassador, along with members of his staff and security personnel, for two days across two of the brigade's three provinces.

"It was a pleasure for us and the state department to host Ambassador Crocker," said Col. Philip Battaglia, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. commander. "I believe he walked away with a very positive impression of all of the great things all of us are doing down here for the people of southern Iraq."

Crocker met more than 100 sheikhs during a lamb and fish dinner in Maysan's marshes; inspected the progress of a new hospital in Amarah; and met with Maysan's deputy



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Lt. Col. Edward Bohnemann, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment's commander, looks on as an Iraqi construction foreman explains the building plans for a new hospital in Amarah to Ambassador Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Dec. 18. The 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. hosted the ambassador in the Dhi Qar and Maysan provinces while showing him the rural areas of southern Iraq.

governor and co-chair during his visit. He visited the historic Ziggurat of Ur with Diane Siebrandt, the embassy's cultural heritage liaison officer, who is

working with the brigade and the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team to give responsibility for the ancient site back to Iraq's people.

NCO from page 12

"The NCO induction is a timeless ceremony of the NCO Corps that instills duties, leadership and spirit into the Soldiers that are becoming leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. George Zamudio, the senior enlisted NCO for the 2nd Bn. 7th Cav. Regt. Zamudio and the Garry Owen Battalion Soldiers observed, as Staff Sgt. Kristopher Smith recited the 'NCO Vision' to start the ceremony.

Then Staff Sgts. Dominick Alvarado, Yolanda Riley and Michael Hansen lit red, white and blue candles.

The red candle stands for the valor of an NCO, the white candles represent an NCO's purity, honesty and integrity and the blue candle sig-

nifies the vigilance and the field of honor in which an NCO serves.

Each of the inductees was officially welcomed into the NCO Corps by passing under a pair of crossed sabers held by Sgts. 1st Class Jamie Farmer and Billy Wheaton. The inductee's sponsor stood and introduced each new NCO with a detailed biographical and professional summary.

Upon completion of the official portion of the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. William May, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment's senior enlisted leader, was introduced as the ceremony's guest speaker.

He talked about various points of leadership, the importance

of counseling and lessons learned throughout his military career. May emphatically drove his point home referencing his hard-charging style that he has used for the majority of his military career.

"I can recall how I energized one of my old squads by leading with the heels of my boots," he said.

May went on to explain how others were amazed at how well his Soldiers responded to those tactics. May charged each new NCO to read and know Field Manual 7-22.7, the Army's NCO Guide. The ceremony introduced and reinforced the importance, significance and prestige that noncommissioned officers hold.

Long Knife Soldiers make New Year resolutions

By Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore
4th BCT PAO NCOIC

COB ADDER, Iraq - With 2009 upon us, I can't help but reflect on 2008 before I make my annual New Year's resolution. Hopefully, I will find a way to stick to it this year.

There I was last December, on a much needed vacation from work. Our Long Knife Brigade had just returned from a 30-day rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., and I figured it was time to make a resolution, considering 2008 was just around the

corner.

So I promised to get out more and stop watching so much television. Well, 12 months later, I'm glued to the American Forces Network every chance I get ... go figure.

I've spoken to a number of Soldiers here, who consider the New Year as just another date in history, but others look at it as an opportunity to set personal goals.

"I want to get a beach-bod and look nice by the time we redeploy," said Spc. Brittany Tiller, assigned to the Long Knife Brigade's

4th Special Troops Battalion. Tiller, from Butler, Ohio, serves as an administrative clerk for her unit.

Whether it's a beach-body, or eating better, or a commitment to stop swearing, with approximately 5,000 Soldiers assigned to the Long Knife Brigade, the resolutions range in many directions.

Many of our Soldiers are amazed at how much we've accomplished in six months during this deployment in southern Iraq. Our 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., and 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. Regt., have built two new bases in the Maysan province. Our 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., has a new security station in Nasiriyah, and our 5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt., has plans to build yet another base in 2009.

That only makes you wonder how many new things the Long Knives can accomplish within the next six months.

"Mainly, I want to stop smoking because of my new baby on the way," said Spc. George Milam, who hails from San Antonio. Milam, a paralegal in the brigade headquarters, also got hitched recently, so the New Year has a number of new things in store for him.

I hope that as we reflect on what was a fast pace 2008, we can look forward to accomplishing many more of our professional and personal goals for 2009.



Long Knife photo by Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore

Soldiers assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pose outside their battalion headquarters prior to celebrating the New Year at Contingency Operating Base Adder in southern Iraq.

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Taxes Matter in a Deployed Environment

By The Office of the Brigade Judge Advocate

1. How does my deployment to Iraq affect my tax filing situation?

Soldiers qualifying for service in a designated combat zone (CZ) e.g. Iraq, are entitled to special extensions of time for completing various tax actions. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will automatically extend the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refund, and taking other actions related to federal income tax.

2. How long do I have before I must file taxes?

A service member is automatically authorized an extension of 180 days starting from when they redeploy from a CZ. Additionally, a service member is authorized whatever portion of the normal tax season (1 Jan. to 15 Apr.) they missed due to deployment in a CZ. This additional period has a maximum of 105 days. As a result, a service member could have up to a

285-day extension to file his or her taxes upon redeployment from a CZ.

For example, a Soldier serving with 4 BCT in the Iraq CZ from 15 June 2008 until 15 June 2009 will have the full 285 days to file the 2008 tax return. This extension equals the 180-day extension, plus the full 105 days in the tax-filing season. However, a Soldier arriving in the Iraq CZ on 1 February 2009 and serving until 15 June 2009 will have 254 days. This period of time is equivalent to the full 180-day extension, plus the 74 days remaining in the filing season from 1 February 2009.

3. Does the tax filing extension apply to my non-military spouse?

Yes, spouses of service members in a CZ are entitled to the same special tax-filing extensions.

4. What if I want to file my taxes before April 15?

No problem. While there will not be a tax center at COB Adder, there are several options available to a

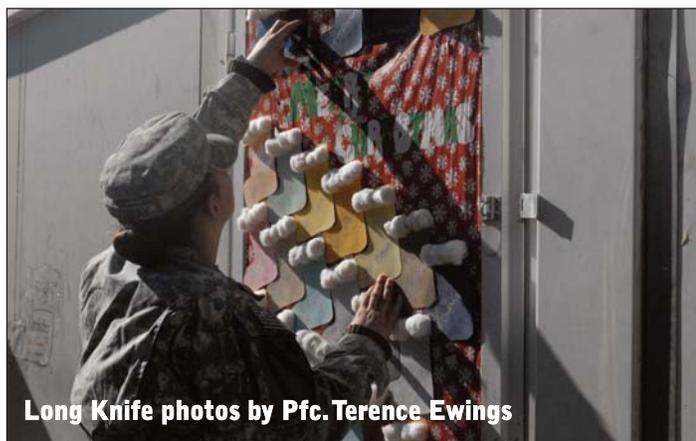
Soldier who does not want to use the IRS' special extension of time.

A Soldier may self-file taxes through a variety of programs. The IRS has a "free file" system which can be found at the following website: <http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html>

Army One Source self-filing is also available. More information can be obtained by visiting either <http://www.hrblock.com/military/> or <https://www.militaryonesource.com/>.

A Soldier may also obtain a power of attorney to have their spouse file taxes on their behalf at the Fort Hood tax center which will be opening 21 January 2009. This power of attorney is IRS form 2848 and can be obtained by visiting the IRS website www.irs.gov or visiting the legal assistance office. For information on the tax center at Fort Hood, call DSN 312-737-2025 or 287-287-2025.

5. Point of contact: 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Legal Assistance/Client Services, COB Adder, Iraq, DSN 833-1231.



Long Knife photos by Pfc. Terence Ewings



Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division celebrate the holidays by putting up various Christmas decorations in their living and work areas.

L I V E T H E L E G E N D

Rough Riders celebrate holidays in Iraq



Long Knife photos by Pfc. Terence Ewings

Left: Sgt. Timothy Trumble and Spc. Jenny Bowers from the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, fill their fellow Soldiers Christmas stockings at the Visitor Control Center in COB Adder, Iraq. Right: Capt. Kimberly Hale and Capt. Juan Amador, officers in the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, decorate the Christmas tree in their support operations office.

Chaplain (Capt.) Howard Bankston, 27th BSB, 4th BCT

COB ADDER, Iraq - More than 300 Soldiers gathered here to observe a tree lighting ceremony Dec. 8.

The 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Rough Rider Soldiers kicked-off the holiday event outside the headquarters building with Pvt. Victoria Moore, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th BSB, leading Christmas carolers in song under the unit's Christmas tree.

"It was very motivating and uplifting," said Staff Sgt. Donnel Cabanos, a Rough Rider non-commissioned officer from the Philippines.

Lt. Col. Mark Simerly, com-

mander of the Rough Rider Battalion, joined his Soldiers for holiday cheer and said he was very proud of everything the battalion has accomplished since their arrival to southern Iraq in June. The Rough Rider commander also expressed his appreciation to those responsible for organizing the event and bringing the Christmas spirit to his troops.

"The ceremony was great," said Spc. Kurt Grohman, who hails from Wilmington, NC. "It reminded me of home when they turned on the lights and had Santa Claus come out (to) light the tree. I appreciate them doing all that for us."

Santa Claus, played by Spc. Thaddeus Dumchiskoi, joined the troops under the lit Christmas tree,

which hung above the Rough Rider Headquarters entrance. The Christmas carolers sang; Santa came out and flipped a switch; and lights created a magnificent flicker that could be seen for miles.

"This was impressive, and I really enjoyed the food and fellowship," said Sgt. 1st Class Freddie Davis, who shared the holiday event with his wife, Sgt. Jill Davis. This was the first U.S. Army-tree lighting ceremony for the couple, and thanks to the Rough Rider Soldiers, Freddie and Jill said this is something they will never forget.

With the newfound Christmas glow of the holiday lights, Soldiers shared food, fun and pictures with Saint Nick.