

Long Knife News

ISSUE 9

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Black Dragons On The Fly



Commander's Corner

By Col. Philip Battaglia
4th BCT Commander

Welcome to the April Long Knife News! This month will be an interesting month as the temperatures get hotter and we prepare for redeployment.

As I look back on the progress we have made thus far, it is truly amazing. The ISF we have trained are so much better than when we first arrived in theater. They have learned not only through your training but also through the example that you set. Stay focused on their development as they will progress and mature in their efforts to secure the population.

As the temperatures continue to climb throughout the spring and summer, it's time for leaders to dust off our hot weather TTPs. Watch your



Col. Philip Battaglia

battle buddies in the heat and stay vigilant about water intake, proper diet and work-rest cycles. Take care of yourselves and each other in the heat in order to avoid heat-related injuries.

We will begin our redeployment in full next month. This is a good time for you to reflect back on the tremendous successes we've had during our time in Iraq and be proud of our accomplishments. However, statistics show that some troopers get careless during this transition period. Some make foolish decisions with sometimes fatal consequences. You've survived Iraq – some

of you multiple times. Think about and start making safe plans for our return back to Texas. Drinking and driving, reckless driving, reckless motorcycle riding and alcohol over-indulgence are just some of the things that historically kill our troopers following redeployment. Don't become a statistic! Don't cut your life short by making an impulsive, bad decision.

You've done an awesome job, troopers! Hold your heads high but maintain your professional bearing as Soldiers and let's finish this deployment on a strong note. Keep up the hard work through the rest of our deployment!

Long Knife! 🇺🇸
First Team!

Long Knife News

FROM THE COVER



Long Knife photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop

5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., Soldiers demonstrate their artillery fire power during a live fire exercise.

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

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Black Dragons find new home

By 1st Lt. Kathryn Klear
5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

COB ADDER – After providing base security just north of Baghdad, then training a new Iraqi Army brigade in southern Iraq, the ‘Black Dragons’ of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, were once again on the move.

The 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, was recently tasked to assume battle space near the operating base here, build a home and move in - all at the same time.

With FOB Hunter nearing its maximum capacity, the Black Dragon Soldiers worked to expand the base to house their unit. Meanwhile, the battalion continued its partnership with its Iraqi artillery counterparts, the 41st Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division in protecting the Iraqi people in Maysan.

“This is a great opportunity for our unit to be a part of the brigade’s main effort in the Maysan province,” said Capt. Travis Hacker, a Black Dragon trooper from Chattanooga, TN. “It will contribute to our



Long Knife photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop

Sgt. David Crabb, a Black Dragon trooper from Colchester, IL, assembles the frame on the doorway to the new gym at Forward Operating Base Hunter, Iraq. The incoming Black Dragon troops are expanding the base to house the battalion’s field artillery unit that’s moving into the Maysan Province to support the Iraqi Security Forces.

successes as a unit in Iraq.”

Starting in June 2008, the unit had troopers spread out from northern Baghdad to southern Iraq with missions ranging from counter-fire to maintaining a military presence in a joint-defense-operations center.

“I’m excited about the move to Hunter,” said Cpl. Matthew

Brendle, an Intelligence Analyst from Montgomery, PA. “It finally feels like we’re making a real difference out here.”

The Black Dragons are set to complete their deployment in early summer, but for now they’re lighting up the Iraqi sky with illumination rounds and ready to make a positive impact in Maysan.



Long Knife photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop

Setting up shop

Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, ‘Black Dragons’ set-up tents in the living areas at Forward Operating Base Hunter, Iraq. The incoming Black Dragon troops are expanding the base to house the battalion’s field artillery unit that’s moving into the Maysan Province to support the Iraqi Security Forces.

Rough Riders dish out food handling techniques to Iraqi troops

By Capt. Robert Shaw
27th BSB

COB ADDER – Preventive Medicine Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrated food handling and dining facility inspection procedures to their Iraqi counterparts during a class with troops from the 10th Iraqi Army Division at the Coalition Forces Dining Facility here, Feb. 3.

The PM team assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion “Rough Riders” focused on food preparation and serving techniques during the Iraqi Army’s three-hour visit.

“Everything is very well organized here,” said Capt. Raheem Hmedy Hafan, an Iraqi officer who observed the American Soldiers.

The PM team and DFAC personnel also gave the group an in-depth tour of the facilities and showed them the daily process of receiving bulk quantities of meats and vegetables. The staff demonstrated the immediate transfer of food from distribution pallets to cold storage areas, thereby greatly reducing the risk of contamination and bacteria growth.

“Our food workers have to get a monthly check-up to work in Iraqi restaurants,” said Lt. Mohand Hmsam Abdul Khadm, an Iraqi Soldier present during the PM team’s inspection class.

The Rough Rider Soldiers

attempted to reinforce their points by citing examples of past incidents of food poisoning in the U.S. which resulted from the improper storage of meat at incorrect temperatures prior to serving. Each of those incidents has produced lessons learned and new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) that have prevented the recurrence of similar events.

“We were happy for this opportunity to share this experience with the Iraqis,” said Sgt. Jonathan Agrai, who is the PM team’s non-commissioned officer in charge, and

a native of Houston. “(This enables them) to further prevent many common food-borne illnesses in their restaurants and cafeterias.”

The 27th BSB ‘Rough Rider’ Soldiers are hoping the food-handling class will help prevent illness to Iraqi and Coalition Forces residing across southern Iraq.

“I have really enjoyed my experience as part of the PM team this tour,” said Spc. Alex Barnard, a chemical operations specialist with the PM team. “I really feel I am making a difference.”



Long Knife photo by Capt. Robert Shaw

1st Lt. Cory Smith, a native of San Diego assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, teaches troops from the 10th Division Iraqi Army during a hands-on food handling class at the Coalition Dining Facility on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Feb. 3.

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Thunder Horse improves Iraqi airwaves

By Spc. Rebekah Lampman
Long Knife PAO

COB ADDER – Building hospitals, improving schools and establishing water treatment plants are just a few of the civil and economic enhancement projects in the works in southern Iraq. Recently, the 1st Cavalry Division has added a radio station to that list.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment 'Thunder Horse' troopers put the finishing touches on the An-Nasr television and radio station in the Dhi Qar province Feb 11.

"It was very good working with the (American Forces); I can't believe how nice everyone was," said Naceem Naseer Hussaid, Engineer of the An-Nasr television and radio

station. "I had other engineers visit this station, and they were very impressed with the equipment and improvements that were made to the station."

When the Thunder Horse Battalion assumed duty in Dhi Qar in July of 2008, the Soldiers visited the Iraqi media site to find a leaky roof and multiple electrical problems. The unit's leaders immediately started the process to enroll the station in the Commander's Emergency Relief Program (CERP).

"I think it's something positive for these people here in An-Nasr," said Capt. Matthew Guevara, the Civil Military Operations officer for the Thunder Horse Battalion.

"Our guys have helped (local report-

ers) since we got here and we always invite them to our missions."

The An-Nasr station provides regional news from Baghdad to the Dhi Qar province, and also distributes daily local news to its Iraqi audience.

Guevara and Lt. Col. Scott Kendrick, commander of the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., took note of how much the station had benefited from the CERP program during the final inspection of the building.

The employees moved their equipment into a refurbished room, which will help improve daily operations. According to Hussaid, the improvements will help the station deliver news more efficiently to the citizens of Dhi Qar.



Long Knife photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Cpt. Matt Prescott, commander of Co. A., 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, puts on a microphone for his T.V. interview with the An-Nasr television and radio station in the Dhi Qar province Feb 11. The station underwent reconstruction using the Commander's Emergency Relief Program.

Head Hunters aid Iraqi village children

By Spc. Creighton Holub
Long Knife PAO

COB ADDER – The Head Hunter Squadron’s medical experts visited a small clinic, near the squadron’s headquarters in southeastern Iraq to provide medical assistance Jan. 30.

The local Iraqis lined up in single file near the clinic’s perimeter fence eagerly awaiting basic examinations and medical advice from combat medics and a physician assistant assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

“(The Head Hunter Squadron’s) help is very good for us,” said Amle Jaffer, one of the Iraqi nurses at the clinic. “We’ve generally have only Aspirin, water and basic medicines. Small clinics need lots of things that we don’t always have.”

The Head Hunter medi-



Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenk, the medical noncommissioned officer assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, listens to an Iraqi boy’s chest during a combined medical engagement at a clinic near Forward Operating Base Hunter Jan. 30.

— Clinic continued on page 7

MI team teaches IA, IP CSI tactics

By Spc. Creighton Holub
Long Knife PAO

COB ADDER – A small group of Iraqi criminal investigation professionals completed a month-long training course under the supervision of military intelligence personnel assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, ‘Long Knives’ at the 10th Iraqi Army Division’s headquarters in Camp Dhi Qar Feb. 10.

The crime scene investigation course, designed for Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army military intelligence specialists stationed in southern Iraq, involved one-on-one instruction on gathering and analyzing evidence in

the Dhi Qar, Maysan and Muthanna provinces.

“This was a very good course for us, especially the parts about tactical questioning,” explained 1st Lt. Mantaser Mohsen Septi, an IP from central Nasiriyah. “We’ve learned how to work with the Iraqi Army and how to pool our information.”

While the Iraqi military already has a similar course at Camp Taji, near Baghdad, the waiting list has been long. Creating a new course at the home of the 10th Iraqi Army Division, which is adjacent to COB Adder, made Camp Dhi Qar a prime location for the joint training.

“We already knew some aspects of the curriculum from

our classes in Taji,” said Iraqi Army Lt. Naji Hussein, a 10th Div. intelligence officer. “But we’ve learned new things from this team, and when we apply what we’ve learned, it will be easier to get the warrants we need to capture the criminals.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marc Losito, one of the American intelligence professionals, explained how the primary purpose of the course is to get the technical and tactical knowledge to the Iraqis who need it the most. Once these personnel are trained, they will be the instructors at the 10th IA Div.’s smaller bases.

— CSI continued on page 7



Medical assistance

Pfc. Rachelle Halaska, a combat medic assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Hartland, Wis., inspects a child's ear during a combined medical engagement at a clinic near Forward Operating Base Hunter Jan. 30.

Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Clinic from page 6

cal personnel taught the clinic's nurses how to get more out of the medicines and treatments than they were able to provide before the event. Despite the village's lack-luster medical inventory, the Iraqi nurses learned when to use certain medicines and the best way to apply them.

"These people don't have a

lot," said Capt. Julie Cyr, the 27th Brigade Support Battalion's medical planner who assisted during the mission. "It was a heartfelt deed because they need our help."

The medical advice varied from explaining to parents why their children won't sleep well at night to dealing with bacterial infections in the children's ears and mouths.

The 1-9's troopers also provided shoes and clothing to as many Iraqi children as possible during the event.

The operation was the squadron's first combined medical engagement since building Forward Operating Base Hunter in the Maysan province during September.

CSI from page 6

With improved knowledge on how to properly process evidence, the Iraqi troops and police officers can obtain information faster and more efficiently than Coalition Forces ever could, because the Iraqis are much more familiar with their terrain and people than anyone else is.

"The ISF have access to people and information that we can't reach," said Lt. Col. Monica Bradshaw, the brigade's senior intelligence officer, from Utica, Miss.

"(Training them better) is going to help their intelligence capabilities not only (in the Dhi Qar

province), but in the Maysan and Muthanna provinces also."

Bradshaw's intelligence collectors taught Iraqi personnel from three of Iraq's southernmost provinces: Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Maysan. Those students are set to pass their knowledge onto other Iraqi intelligence professionals at their respective bases.

"Some of the Iraqi Soldiers have never worked with IP officers before," Bradshaw added. "We want to leave these intelligence collectors working together. They asked us for this training; it was not something

forced upon them. They understand that one day we will be gone and they will have to do this by themselves."

"In order to maintain the respect of their people, they have to be able to protect them," Bradshaw added. "I'm excited about this training, but the real fruits will be realized long after we're gone."

For now, the new Iraqi intelligence students – soon to be instructors – are better prepared to rid Iraq's streets of criminals, and help the people feel safe.



Re-Up Stay CAV





Top Left: Chaplain (Capt.) Colt Randles, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's chaplain, cuts a wooden block for a new door handle of Forward Operating Base Hunter's Solid Rock Chapel March 5.

Long Knife photo by Spc. Creighton Holub



Bottom Left: A 'Black Dragon' trooper speaks with an Iraqi Army Soldier about a part on a IA vehicle that is broken and needs to be replaced. The Black Dragon Battalion is conducting classes that teach the IA how to order and replace parts.

Long Knife photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman



Top Left: Soldiers assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrate how to properly clear a room during a joint training event with troops from the 3rd Battalion, 41st Iraqi Army Brigade in the Maysan Province of southern Iraq. Bottom Left: Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, commander of the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division 'Black Dragon' Battalion, attends the re-opening of the al Kahla water treatment facility in southern Iraq.

Long Knife Photos by 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop



Iraqi Army displays Live Fire in Amarah

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

COB ADDER – After nearly two months of intense training, 48 Soldiers from the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade accurately called in a target and fired a 120mm-mortar system with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, ‘Garry Owen Soldiers’, Feb 16.

Sgt. Mishal Ghanim, a soldier from the 38th Iraqi Army brigade, stepped nervously to the tube and inserted an artillery round. Everyone covered their ears as the mortar exploded from the weapon and arced through a dull gray sky. A moment later, the radio crackled and a forward observer called in the impact in Arabic.

—— **LIVE continued on page 11**



Long Knife photo by Capt. Kevin Wolf

A soldier, assigned to the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade, loads a 120-mm mortar round during a live-fire exercise in Amarah, Iraq Feb 16. Amarah is located near Forward Operating Base Garry Owen in southern Iraq.

Junior NCO's take the lead

*By Sgt. Shannon Black
27 BSB.*

COB ADDER –Eleven newly-promoted noncommissioned officers, assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, participated in an induction ceremony at the Memorial Hall here Feb. 1.

A long table, draped with a red, white and blue table cloth and ceremonial punch bowl, was positioned in the center as three senior enlisted NCO's lit three candles as part of the ceremonial right of pas-

—— **NCOs continued on page 13**



Long Knife photo by Sgt. Shannon Black

1st Sgt. Curtis Jones and noncommissioned officer nominee Sgt. Rowdy Yager, from the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, drank their glasses of punch during the final phases of the battalion's Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony held at Memorial Hall.

Rough Riders reach out for Valentine's Day

By Sgt. Shannon Black
27 BSB.

COB ADDER —U.S. Soldiers, assigned to Co. A., 27th Brigade Support Battalion can't be with their family members during the upcoming Valentine's Day, but they've figured out the next best option.

The 'Rough Rider', 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers sent video-taped messages through a program called 'Heart To Heart' here Feb 9.

"It boosted my morale to be able to do something like that," said Spc. Gary Bush, a native of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., "It made me feel good to be able to show my appreciation to my family while we're out here."

The program was coordinated by the 27th BSB Chaplain's sec-

Live from page 10

"The instruction that we received gives us a specialty, something that (most no other Iraqi) Soldiers have training on," said Sgt. Mishal Ghanim, of the 38th IA's mortar battery. The 38th IA Bde. became one of the first units in southern Iraq to conduct a live fire exercise with Iraqi Army mortar crews and forward observers executing indirect fire missions.

The live fire exercise capped two months of mortar training that the Garry Owen Battalion's mortar section taught at the Iraqi headquarters. The American troops run daily

patrols to support the Iraqi Security Forces.

tion so the 'Rough Rider' Soldiers could record messages via DVD mini disc, and send it to their family members in time for the holiday.

Two camcorders were donated through the 'United-Through-Reading' program and the USO. The Soldiers could choose to either record a personal message to send back home, or they could read a book aloud to send to their children. If the Soldiers chose to read a book, the book was also mailed home so the children could follow along while the DVD played. Although the disc was small, it can be played in any DVD machine. Each disc holds up to 30 minutes of record time.

The 27th BSB command team donated hundreds of mini discs for the event, and the books came courtesy of the USO.

patrols to support the Iraqi Security Forces.

"Eventually were just going to be observing the (Iraqi Army)," said Master Sgt. Daniel Pilewski, the senior enlisted Garry Owen trooper in charge of the mortar battery.

The Iraqi Army's training with the Garry Owen Soldiers consisted of instruction on map reading, observing and adjusting mortar fire and firing the 120mm mortar system.

The partnership between the 38th Bde. and the Garry Owen Battalion has continuously strengthened

"Heart to heart is a program I came up with to help ease the tension and separation for Valentine's Day," said CH (CPT) Howard Bankston, the 27th BSB Chaplain. "The family members back home could also video a message for their family over here in Iraq, therefore, keeping family members connected through video for Valentine's Day."

Once the Soldiers completed their recordings, he or she received the necessary mailing material to mail the disc (and book if applicable) back to their families.

"It's another great tool that we have during this deployment to show our loved one's that we think about them and care about them—especially for Valentine's Day," said Pfc. Christopher Dotson, from Los Angeles.

since the American Soldiers first arrived last summer. The Maysan Province is becoming more stable every day, thanks in large part to the increasing capabilities of the IA.

After the live-fire exercise, the Multi-National Division Center Commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, congratulated the Iraqi Soldiers and handed out coins.

"I've said it before, that we're working ourselves out of a job here," said Oates during a brief to the Long Knife Staff. "The question is — Does anyone need to replace you when you leave."

Live The Legend

Long Knives celebrate Black History



Photos by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Left: The Contingency Operating Base Adder's "Dance Warriors" perform an interpretive dance during the Black History Month Observance at Memorial Hall Feb 27. "Dance Warriors" is a church group that performs dances to various gospel music. Right: Lt. Col. Monica Bradshaw, the Intelligence Officer for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, delivers a speech at the Black History Month Observance. More than 200 Coalition members were in attendance.



Black Dragons strong in Southern Iraq

By 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop
5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt.,+

FOB HUNTER – Within the base's fitness center here at any hour of the day, one will likely see a handful of the vibrant, red physical training t-shirts the Black Dragon troops are known for.

Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, also known as the 'Black Dragons,' coming off patrols or guard shifts during the early hours at this remote base on the southeastern border of Iraq, will commonly work out and lift twice their body weight in order to reach and maintain their fitness goals.

Being the strongest person in a section or battery is a sought-after title. The 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt. The Black Dragon Soldiers who can successfully bench press at least

300 pounds, with proper technique, receive the '300-Pound Club Patch' that can be worn on the sleeve of their unit shirt.

"Benching 300 pounds was something that other guys were accomplishing that I knew I was capable of," said Sgt. Martin Nofziger, a Black Dragon Soldier from Pacifica, CA. He began this deployment with a 185-pound bench press and is now lifting more than 325 pounds.

"In my 19 years of service, I have never been in a unit where so many Soldiers have strived to be stronger and faster," said Staff Sgt. Zennie Peterson, a native of Pensacola, FL, who helped build and staff the facility. "I think this is due

in large part to the battalion-level leadership and the fact that we know they will take care of us. Our physical well-being is just as important as theirs and we can easily see that."



Long Knife photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop

Black Dragon troopers display their unit pride by sporting their vibrant red physical training t-shirts at Forward Operating Base Hunter's weight room.

Long Knife, First Team

COB Adder brings in extra forces

By 1st Lt. Charles Harrison
4th BSTB.

COB ADDER –To ensure a safer environment for Coalition Forces to work and live in, the military is implementing the Task Force SAFE program designed to reduce the number of fire and electrical incidents on military installations.

The program began in August of 2008 as a result of 16 military electrical related fatalities (2003 – 2008) due to unidentified electrical and fire hazards.

A Task Force SAFE inspector team has been assigned to COB Adder; consisting of two master electricians and one fire inspector. On average they inspect seven to ten facilities per day and its projected

that the inspectors will remain on base until January of 2011. While conducting inspections the team look for hazards such as the presence of exposed conductors, correct cable breaker sizes being utilized and evidence of arcing, burning or overheating.

Some of the common hazards found include: power strips that are overloaded, uncertified or daisy chained; no batteries in smoke detectors; unauthorized heating elements (toasters, rice cookers, etc.) in living areas and fire extinguishers not being inspected monthly.

Coalition Forces can assist Task Force SAFE by: turning off electrical devices and switches when not in use, setting air conditioners on low or fan when not

in use, turning off lights prior to departing living areas, disconnecting non-essential devices such as hair dryers, laptops and game stations; keeping items such as bed linen and boxes away from electrical outlets; using European Conformity (CE) or Underwriters Laboratory (UL) certified devices and not allowing open flames in the living areas. If this were to happen, the Task Force SAFE endeavor would be maximized ensuring that all possible actions have been taken in order to eliminate or mitigate hazards.

These are essential tips and guides that will not only keep ensure living and work areas are kept safe, but they also prevent safety incidents and save lives.



Having too many devices such as televisions, DVD players and computers plugged into power strips causes overloading.



Hot plates, toasters ovens, or any items having a coil type cooking device are prohibited in the living areas.



All smoke detectors should have a serviceable battery installed.

— NCOs from page 10 —

sage from enlisted Soldier to NCO.

After each candle was lit, the nominees and all other NCO's in the audience recited the three paragraphs of the NCO Creed as the inductees prepare to officially grasp their leadership responsibilities.

Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Rodriguez, the senior enlisted NCO of the 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, reflected on the traditions and history of the NCO Corps, along

with all who attended the ceremony. Rodriguez, a native of Puerto Rico, addressed the nominees and challenged them to lead their soldiers by example and maintain a high level of professionalism.

“Some people don't believe that today's Noncommissioned Officers have the necessary skills to lead Soldiers because many haven't served in the Army for many years,” said Rodriguez.

“But many of (the newly inducted NCO's) who have only been in the Army for only a few years, have already been deployed to combat zones at least twice,”

After the NCO ceremony, the battalion's inductees turned and faced the audience of their peers and leaders, who applauded and then welcomed them all into the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers.

K-9 sniffs for violations on Adder

By 1st Lt. Aileen Farrell
4th BSTB.

COB ADDER –After several weeks searching the containerized housing units here, Spike, a Patrol Narcotics-Detector dog, found that residents, too, prefer to keep their noses clean. Spike, a four-year-old Dutch Shepherd, has been a military working dog for the past three years, and received advanced training on narcotics detection.

“The training the dogs go through is like basic training for Soldiers,” said Sgt. Phillip Smith, Spike’s handler. “They learn the basics and then they come to us (the handlers) for further and more advanced training.”

Smith and Spike are both stationed at Fort Knox, Ky. They searched approximately 10,000 units to make sure the base was free of illegal drugs or contraband. The dog and handler are known throughout Multi-National Division-Center for searching rooms and office spaces during health and welfare inspections, said the Jasper, Ala. resident.

During his stay on COB Adder, Spike led the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division military police around the base to look for illegal substances.

Every couple of weeks, the Provost Marshall Detachment conducts health and welfare inspections in the eight living areas on base, in hopes of deterring any individuals who may not abide by the rules.

According to Capt. Kenneth Decedue, the 732nd Provost Marshall Detachment Commander, Spike was responsible for making sure the ap-



Long Knife photo by 1st. Lt. Aileen Farrell

Lt. Col. Tim Norton, the Contingency Operating Base Adder Garrison Commander, awards Sgt. Phillip Smith and his partner, Spike, a Patrol Narcotics Detector dog, a Battalion Coin of achievement Feb 12 for their excellence and assistance with enforcing the rules and regulations of Multi-National Forces-Iraq during recent health and welfare inspections on COB Adder.

proximately 12,000 Servicemembers were in compliance with the rules and regulations directed by the Multi-National Forces-Iraq Commander.

“I love being Spike’s handler; it is a very rewarding job and I love what I do,” said Smith. “Working with a dog seems like a dream for most Soldiers, and it is, but it’s also a demanding job and you have to stay on top of your game.”

“It’s important to have a great

team to work with on these inspections,” said Lt. Col. Tim Norton, the COB Adder Garrison Commander.

“They are both professional and dedicated to their job.”

Norton awarded both Spike and Sgt. Smith with coins of achievement for their outstanding excellence in enforcing the rules.

For two personalities that are so alike, Smith and Spike excel at their work together, and produce exceptional results.

From The Pulpit

Packing-Up

*By Chaplain (Capt.) Edward Tolliver
2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.*

COB ADDER – The time is quickly approaching for us to begin the difficult task of packing our duffle bags, tuff boxes, and connexs for the trip back home.

Many realized once they arrived that they packed too much stuff and now, months later, have to make the tough call as to what will return and what will remain for the next unit.

In much the same way, many of us either brought a lot of emotional baggage with us or it was created during the deployment. Just as we sort through our possessions before leaving, so must we sort through our emotions and decide what and with whom we will share them.

Deployments are difficult times and many events occurred, both here in theater, and back home with those we love. Some of us lost family members, friends that deployed with us, and equally tragic, marriages that for many reasons didn't survive the deployment.

It is important that, regardless of what category you find yourself, you deal with the emotions of the deployment, preferably before we redeploy or shortly after we return.

Redeployment is a process, not a single event and it takes time. During the next couple of months there will be many opportunities to discuss the events

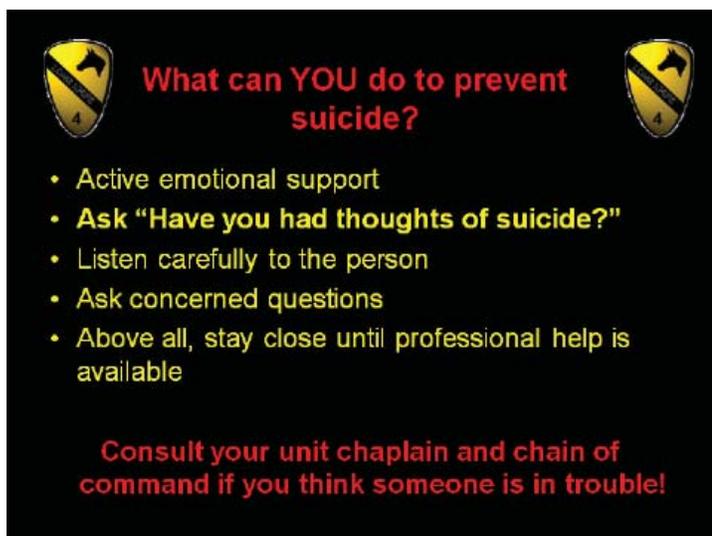
of this deployment with friends, fellow soldiers, and trained professionals.

There are many required briefs and exercises that help ensure soldiers have time to process their feelings and receive tools to help them cope with redeployment. Take time now to begin preparing for the trip home and get help now from the chaplains, mental health professionals, and health care providers before we redeploy.

You have served your country proudly and your families have sacrificed too, and it is our country's duty to take care of you during redeployment.

Ecclesiastes 3

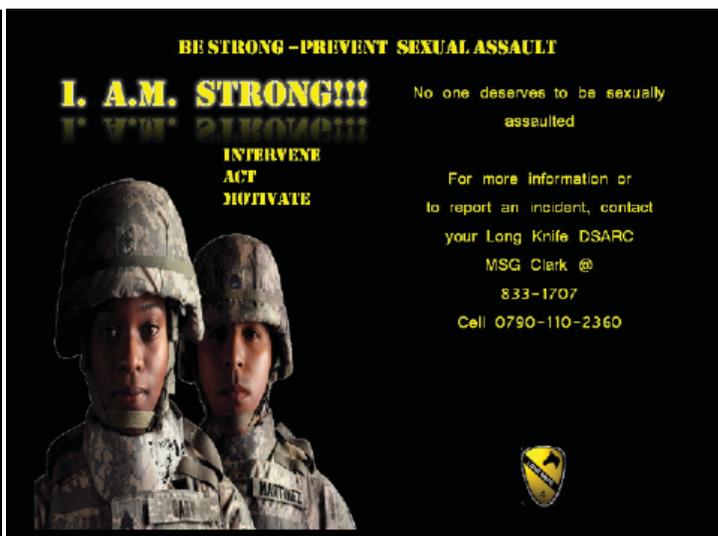
- 1 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.



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!!!

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Black Dragons, new home, new partners

*By 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop
5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt.*

COB ADDER – After two months of patrolling in northern Baghdad last summer, Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division helped reduce the rate of indirect fire received at the base there to its lowest levels since the war started in 2003.

With the intent of duplicating those results at their new location here, the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, also known as ‘Black Dragons,’ assisted the 41st Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division during ‘Operation Long Island,’ Feb 24.

“This was the first time we worked with our IA counterparts for an extended period of time,”

said Sgt. Robert Bercera, a Black Dragon from Winnemucca, NV. “I was surprised at how well they knew the area. They were cool-headed and anxious to take the lead.”

The training programs provided by the Americans at Camp Dhi Qar and the Besmaya Range Complex, which is where all IA units do their training before being considered ready to conduct operations in southern Iraq, helped lay the foundation for an effective partnership between the Black Dragon and IA units.

The training involved vehicle and foot patrols, searching vehicles and personnel at checkpoints and small-arms qualification.

By enabling the Iraqi troops to take the lead during joint patrols, the IA Soldiers were better prepared

to help continue the steady decline of violence in the Maysan Province. Iraqis who spoke with Coalition Forces during the mission were grateful for the increased presence, because they also want the negative influences removed from the area.

“In areas where there were coalition-only patrols, people would act indifferent to the patrols,” said Maj. David McCulley, the 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt. Executive Officer from Springdale, Ark. “With the Iraqi Army Soldiers now leading the patrols, the population is glad to see the IA Soldiers and treat them with a lot of respect.”

The Black Dragons look forward to continued joint patrols with their new Iraqi partners, and hope to help reduce the amount of indirect fire at FOB Hunter.



Long Knife photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Bishop

U.S. Soldiers, assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, execute a dismounted patrol of the objective area during ‘Operation Long Island.’ The operation was a joint patrol conducted with Iraqi Army Soldiers Feb 24.