



The Striker Torch

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Thunder, ISF lead the way In Adwaniyah



Our Iraqi Partners

STRIKER 6

On Line

By COL Pat White
2nd BCT Commander



Our Iraqi Partners

Since our deployment began, we have witnessed a remarkable progression in the professionalism of our Iraqi Army partners in the 9th IA DIV, commanded by Staff Major General Qassim and the 17th IA DIV, commanded by Staff Major General Ali.

This growth was accomplished by the hard work of the Military Transition Teams and Iron Brigade Soldiers.

In support of the Security Agreement implementation, we conduct all operations by, with and through our ISF partners. Our legacy is the proficiency and capability of the ISF after we depart, and I feel confident that we leave our partners in a position to execute successful National Elections

To get there, I tasked my staff with conducting bi-monthly meetings with our Iraq counterparts in the 9th and 17th IA DIV with a purpose of achieving awareness and coordination between coalition and ISF on key security initiatives and non-lethal targeting initiatives. Our effort reinforced what the Task Forces were already doing, and helped get the Iraqi Security Forces synchronized at all levels.

We trained the Iraqi Security Forces to organize, analyze and present vast amounts of information in a manageable manner in order for their commanders to make decisions.

This military decision making process is something that is intuitive for our Army, but for the ISF was almost non-existent.

We helped our ISF counterparts prepare briefs and operations orders and assisted their commanders in accomplishing their missions.

We are now focusing on training the ISF in maintenance, medical and, in honor of our Army's of

the NCO, development of the ISF NCO corps.

In the IA, officers currently do just about everything, and this hampers efforts to professionalize the force. We will help create an NCO corps that leads the ISF into the future and provides the backbone for their security forces. More importantly, we will educate the next generation of Iraqi senior leaders now. TF Knight, TF Dragon, and Task Force Thunder recently embedded IA officers in a two-week Iraqi Junior Leader Development course. The IA Lieutenants received training in counseling soldiers, mission planning and many other skills, with the most important thing learned being the interaction of the Officer Corps and NCO Corps.

This month we also welcomed back The Regulars of 1-6 Infantry after almost one year away from the Iron Brigade, and welcomed 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment into the family.

Finally, as we look to close out our mission here and handover responsibility to another brigade, I want to thank the Family Members for their unwavering support of our Soldiers here in Iraq. We will be home soon and each Soldier is looking forward to seeing their family and loved ones.

STRIKE HARD!

**COL Pat White
Commander, 2BCT
"Striker 6"**



STRIKER 7

On Point

By CSM Michael Eyer

2nd BCT Command Sergeant Major



Don't forget nothing!

Iron Soldiers and Families, we've had another exciting month in the Iron Brigade conducting competitions at brigade level that resulted in Sergeant Justin Santana, and Specialist Henry Howell, as the NCO and Soldier of the Year for the Iron Brigade. We've also conducted numerous boards giving the NCO's of the Iron Brigade the opportunity to become a member of the prestigious Sergeant Morales Club. During this year, the Year of the NCO, it is important that we continue to allow our Soldiers and NCOs to excel in competitions and boards like these. Any competition at Brigade level is a result of years of hard work by Soldiers and NCOs alike, mastering their skills and talents, and bringing them all together to compete against the very best in the Brigade.

The year of the NCO is not only about competition, it is the emphasis we put on highlighting the professionalism and dedication of our great NCOs. The Sergeant, the first man in contact of a fire team, has the ultimate responsibility for training and preparing the Army's greatest resource, the American Soldier. For it is the young NCO, that our great Soldiers look up to and want to emulate. It is important that our young NCOs have all the tools available to enhance their capabilities,



and mold their character, and sustain their stamina. The year of the NCO is designed to enhance all these capabilities. We should all be very proud of the NCOs in the Iron Brigade. For more than a year, they have continued to lead our great Soldiers through many diverse situations under various circumstances. They have been relentless in enforcing standards and discipline while endlessly pursuing their ultimate goal, that being the welfare of their Soldiers and the accomplishment of their mission.

For our Soldiers, I thank you for your continued support of the mission and flexibility in the shifting of our battlefield. As we draw to an end, it is our utmost goal to ensure the safety of all Soldiers within the Iron Brigade and continue to watch over each other in all you do. To the Families, thank you again for your unyielding support. Just a few more months until we return.

STRIKE HARD!

CSM Michael Eyer
"Striker 7"



Oh We're movin' On Up

By SSG
William Blackwell



TF 1-6 IN

To the southwest side, of Baghdad that is, FOB Falcon. Since moving from JSS UR to our new home at FOB Falcon we have already seen a dramatic change in lifestyle. Two man rooms in hard structure buildings, PT daily, sometimes twice a day, a PX at our disposal and the DFAC, oh the DFAC. It has been a long time since we have sat down and ate at a place of this magnitude. The seemingly unlimited choices have made every grown man feel like a kid in a candy store, and it's a good thing we can do PT twice a day. Everything about FOB Falcon has already made life easier for every Soldier and you can see the smiles on their faces once again.

But even with all the amenities that surround us now, every Soldier understands that we still have missions that must be accomplished. We're sharpening our marksmanship skills, conducting classes on safety, training on tactics and brushing up on those perishable skills needed for any mission. As Battalion plans them, we prepare for them. From Platoon to Squad, Team to Individual, we teach and train one another, honing our skills to better ourselves and to achieve the

Forward Operating Base Falcon PX. (Courtesy Photo)



Forward Operating Base Falcon Gym. (Courtesy Photo)

ultimate goal: Home.

AAHH HOME, the one thing everyone has been looking forward to since we started. You see it in their eyes, that thousand yard stare; everyone knows what each other is thinking. Newlyweds planning that honeymoon they might have missed out on. Daddies dreaming about the tender little kisses they will get from their kids. Thoughts of holding your loved one close to you while whispering "I Love You" in their ear. We all have something to look forward to upon return. For some, significant changes await for them. Families have begun and some have grown. These additions have made the Commando family better, stronger. All the stories shared among each other have made all of us feel like part of everyone's family. To the mothers who treated everyone as their son, to the Soldiers feeling like uncles to each others' kids and to the wives, well let's just say that you've gained some older brothers over this past year. All of us are focusing on the present while dreaming of the future. For we all know that day will soon come. When we finally come home and our mission is done.



Bridging Relationships

By 1LT
Karl Gunther



TF 2-6 IN

With one final twist of the wrench, followed by a loud pop, the two halves of the military ribbon bridge unlocked themselves from one another. The engines on the seven bridging boats from 341st Engineers, attached with TF 2-6 Infantry screamed as they struggled to help pull the bridge apart. Finally, after several minutes, a large enough gap was created to allow tons of trash and debris to begin floating downstream and breaking into smaller pieces. The initial part of the mission to unclog this stretch of the Tigris River near the village of Dura'yia in the Mada'in Qada was complete. However, the hardest part of the job had just begun.

3rd Platoon, Team Assassin, TF 2-6 Infantry was tasked to provide security for a platoon of engineers from the 341st MRBC (Multi Role Bridging Company) throughout this important non-lethal operation. The mission of the engineers was to clear months of debris that piled up along the upstream side of the military pontoon bridge that spans the Tigris River just south of Salman Pak, in order to ensure the safety and longevity of the

View of the bridge prior to the operation. Notice the large debris pile that is so compact that you could walk across it. In addition, vegetation was growing on the debris. (Courtesy Photo)



bridge. The bridge, first installed four years ago, has become a crucial lifeline for local Iraqi businesses as well as Iraqi families on both sides of the river.

The first day of the operation brought the arrival of the engineers to FOB Carver along with their eighteen trucks, seven bridging boats and one bulldozer. 3rd Platoon, TF 2-6 Infantry escorted the engineers down to the site of the bridge, where 1LT Lordeman, the engineer platoon leader, was able to get a firsthand look at what his platoon would spend the next several days fixing. Pontoon bridges, due to the nature of their design, do not allow debris to flow beneath them. After many months in the Tigris River, the bridge accumulated several tons of compacted vegetation and trash on the upstream side. The force of the debris pressing against the bridge in conjunction with the current of the Tigris River was so great that the bridge had begun to bow and was in risk of capsizing or breaking loose from its moorings. The engineers spent the remainder of the first day using their bulldozer to create a boat ramp and then testing the ramp by launching and recovering one of their boats.

The second day began bright and early with clear blue skies, which guaranteed a good day for working on the river. 3rd Platoon, Team Assassin led the way to the bridge with fourteen engineer trucks in tow. Upon arriving at the bridge, Team Assassin Soldiers established security and coordinated with their Iraqi Army partner unit. While the engineer trucks positioned themselves, 1LT Gunther met with 1LT Shakir, who was in charge of the Iraqi Army platoon from 2nd Battalion, 45th Iraqi Army Brigade, stationed on the east side of the bridge. 1LT Shakir's soldiers would prove crucial in

helping to control the curious local populace as well as redirecting vehicle traffic during the entire bridge clearing operation.

After launching all seven of their boats, the engineers spent the rest of the morning preparing to split the bridge into two halves. Civilian traffic was allowed to continue to utilize the bridge up until the last possible moment, in order to try and minimize the impact of the operation on the local populace. The nearest vehicle crossing points are well to the north in Jisir Diyala or well to the south in Wasit Province. At approximately 1300 hours, with the MNF-I Deputy Commanding General, MG Lefebvre, in attendance, the bridge was separated into two sections. Two boats pushed the smaller section parallel to the east side of the river, while the other five boats attempted to control the larger section as it was pushed by the current towards the west bank of the river.

Immediately upon the separation of the two bridge halves, the same river current that had caused the debris to accumulate behind the bridge began to push the debris down river. In a matter of 30 minutes a majority of the trash and other debris that had been collecting for months was cleared from behind the bridge. Coordination was completed at the Task Force level to turn off the recently refurbished Bunnia Pump Stations further downstream to prevent sucking the debris up in the new pumps.

The engineers spent the remainder of the day securing the two sections of the bridge to their respective shorelines as well as trying to get the remainder of the debris cleared out from behind the bridge halves. Reminiscent of a carnival bumper boat ride, the engi-

neers would use one boat as a broom, putting the broad side of the boat against the debris, while another boat would push the first boat from the side, in order to try and dislodge the trash and vegetation from the side of the bridge. While all of this was occurring, a young Iraqi entrepreneur utilizing a small motorboat ferried people and their cargo from one side of the river to the other. Throughout the afternoon, the Iraqi boy's boat could be seen carrying children to school, men returning from work and women on their way home from the market. At the end of the second day, 90% of the debris field was cleared from the bridge and all that remained for the engineers was to reattach the two halves.

The third day of operations also began with perfect weather as well as a slight breeze, which flowed off the river to help keep everyone cool. After launching their boats again, the engineers set about the task of rejoining the two bridge halves. This task would prove to be more daunting, since the boats would have to push the bridge halves up stream, against the river current. With all the boats in the water, the engineers were able to get the two halves of the bridge aligned with one another and locked in place by 1100 hours. Due to the shifting of the bridge down river with the current and pressure of the debris over time, the ramps from the new bridge to both shores did not line up with the dirt roads that ran down to the shoreline. The engineers spent the next several hours pushing the bridge several feet up river and then holding it in place while the bridge was tethered to both shores. As a last measure, while the boats were being



loaded back onto their trucks, the engineer's bulldozer was used to create a smooth approach to roads that led down to the bridge ramps to allow traffic an easier transition from the road to the bridge. By 1600 hours, forty-seven hours after separation, the bridge was back in working condition with local traffic passing freely across it.

The operation not only proved to be a success for Coalition Forces but also for the local populace. The engineers were able to complete their mission ahead of schedule which reduced the impact the closing of the bridge had on the Iraqi people who used it. Also, due to the cooperation between the Iraqi Army and

the Coalition Forces, there were no security threats or attempts on the engineers or any of the personnel surrounding the bridging operation. This was extremely important because the village of Dura'ya has a checkered past as a hot bed of JAI and AQI activity. Finally, the local populace was very grateful to have the bridge fixed and to have the debris cleared, since it allowed greater security and safety for all who transited the bridge. This operation proved to be a huge success in the continued effort to influence the people from the Mada'in to support the Coalition Forces and Iraqi Army team as we bring essential services to remote areas.



The military pontoon bridge that spans the Tigris River just south of Salman Pak after separation by a platoon of engineers from the 341st MRBC (Multi Role Bridging Company) . Notice the debris field is no longer present. (Courtesy Photo)



Team Dealer Partners



By 1LT
Todd Mori

With the 3/1-5-2 NP

TF 1-35 AR

When 1st Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, Team Dealer, part of TF Knight (1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment) arrived at 3/1-5-2 NP HQ to conduct a routine reconnaissance patrol in the area, they found that the NP commander had left to investigate a suspicious apartment in the Kuwaiti Apartment complex nearby. The NP Executive Officer, 1LT Saif, called CPT Mohammed Abbas to determine if he would like CF support. CPT Mohammed said that he welcomed the support, and gave directions on where to meet in the complex. 1st Platoon trav-

elled to the complex, and found CPT Mohammed at the edge of a cordon around an apartment building inside.

CPT Mohammed explained that the apartment residents became concerned when an apartment was abandoned by its owner after they confronted him about frequent absences from the area. They feared the apartment may have been rigged with explosives, endangering the entire building. CPT Mohammed arrived on the site and set a cordon around the area to prevent any civilians from entering the building. Looking relieved to see his

CPT Mohammed Abbas confers with 1LT Pope (Photo by SPC Jeremiah Shonka)



CF partners, he informed the CF patrol leader that he had requested IA EOD support, and was awaiting the arrival of his own QRF platoon to begin evacuating the building. He said that he had only five men, and needed assistance. The CF patrol leader agreed with his decisions, and offered to support the cordon on one side of the apartment.

The NP QRF platoon arrived, assisting in strengthening the cordon around the site. After scanning the door of the apartment with a mine detecting device, the QRF Platoon Leader, 1LT Thafer, said that EOD support was denied and that he had been instructed to evacuate the building, break into the room, and search it. The 1st Platoon patrol leader and the Commander for Team Dealer, CPT Dustin Ornatowski, advised the 1LT Thafer to wait for EOD assets to investigate the site, but 1LT Thafer said that his orders were clear. 1st Platoon held their side of the cordon, directing civilians to leave and stay out of the site, and helping the NP 1SG, 1SG Haithim, emplace his assets to better secure the area. The NP evacuated all residents from the building, and the 1LT Thafer broke through the door and searched the room, only to find it

completely empty.

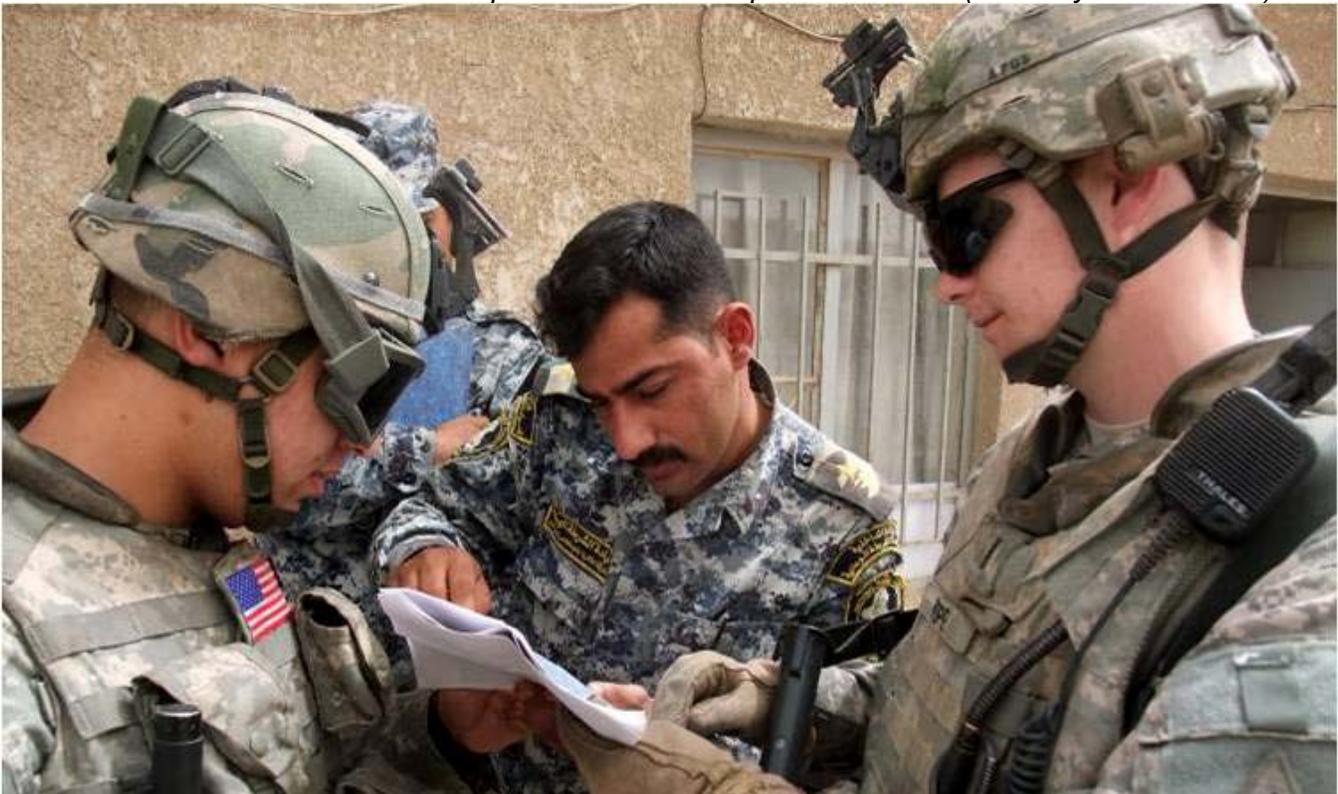
The ISF and CF constantly partner to conduct missions like this. CF move further toward a supporting role as the ISF grow more professional and competent. This operation is typical, as the ISF acted as the main effort, relying only on the CF as advisors and support for added security. Advice is not always taken and support not always requested, but this does not mean that the ISF and CF partnership isn't strong. The ISF have now grown to make their own choices, based on their own resources and orders.

"The ISF, and especially the NP in Baghdad, have displayed a great level of competence while working with us. They are taking great steps in securing a positive future for Iraq" SFC Roy Roberts 1st Platoon, Platoon Sergeant.

"The ISF are the future of Iraq, and our partnership with them gives them greater confidence and capability, even if they don't always make the decisions we recommend." 1LT David E. Pope, 1st Platoon, Platoon Leader



LT Saif of 3/1-5-2 NP conducts a map recon with 1LT Pope of 1/B/2-6 IN (Photo by SPC Shonka)



Thunder develops Iraqi Junior Leaders

By CPT
Justin Watson



With the eminent discontinuation of major combat operations by Coalition Forces in Iraq weighing heavily on the minds of Soldiers and Leaders alike in Operational Environment Thunder, Task Force 4-27 has recently implemented several programs geared less towards immediate tactical necessities and more towards the long term strategic stability of Iraq, especially regarding the professionalism of the Iraqi Army. One of these programs is the Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course. The Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course is a program through which Iraqi Army junior officers and non-commissioned officers are embedded for two to three weeks with a platoon of Task Force 4-27. The program focuses primarily on teaching the frontline leaders of Iraq's Army the basic administrative and tactical skills which form the bedrock of competence for America's Army. The intended long term benefit of the program is the sewing of core competencies amongst future senior leaders at this seminal phase of their career.

"The junior leader course is the most important operation we do, and working with junior officers before they accrue time in service with the IA is the ultimate goal. Providing training for young officers who will be high ranking leaders in the IA is the Coalition Forces' priority", said Lieutenant Colonel Michael Mammay, Commander, TF 4-27, when asked about the importance of the program.

The course began in Task Force Thunder on January 1st, 2009 with the enrollment of 2LT Saif Ali with 3rd Platoon, B/2-6 "Death Dealers." 3rd Platoon's NCOs and platoon leader, 1LT Charley

Smith, taught 2LT Saif the fundamentals of training management, maintenance and other administrative responsibilities assumed by officers in the United States Army. Dealer offered 2LT Saif not only classroom instruction but also the opportunity to experience multiple patrols with 3rd Platoon from planning and preparation through execution and after action review. 2LT Saif's graduation from the course was attended by the command teams of both the 55th Iraqi Army Brigade and TF 4-27, and Saif later went on to lead 55th IA's Commando Platoon.

Since 2LT Saif's graduation from Dealer Company's Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course, Task Force 4-27 has run three more iterations of the course. In early February, Alpha Battery, 4-27 graduated two Iraqi Non-Commissioned Officers, SFC Reidanni, and SSG Gayed from the tutelage of 1LT Steven Stamper and SFC Liviu Ivan, who taught the two Non-Commissioned Officers the same basic principles of administration, training, and planning as those imparted to 2LT Saif. Alpha Battery graduated another officer, 2LT Nazar, and another NCO, SSG Mohammed, on March 13th. The latest Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course in TF 4-27 was the first iteration for B/1-35, "Black Jack" Company, who graduated another Iraqi Platoon Leader, 2LT Majed, on March 16th.

In total, TF 4-27 has trained three officers and four NCO's to date, with every sign that the program will continue through to the Task Force's relief and possibly be adopted by the incoming unit. In addition to the real and measurable benefits in terms of competencies imparted to the



officer and NCO's participating in the program, the course itself is an indicator of the great strides the Iraqi Army has made towards professionalization. The 55th Iraqi Army Brigade has provided motivated officers and NCO's for the program who have shown up for work ready to learn. As CPT Jordan Bradford, Executive Officer of B/1-35 put it, "The often-questionable historical performance

of the Iraqi Army is common knowledge, but with their willingness to aggressively participate in programs like this one, the IA is showing a lot deeper commitment to the prosecution of their duties and improvement of their capabilities than many would probably give them credit for."



LTC Michael Mammay, commander of Task Force 4-27 with Ahmed Jassim, commander of 2-55 Iraqi Army Battalion and 2LT Majed (Courtesy Photo)



Election Support

Engineer Style

By 1LT
Lucas Irvine



40 EN

The Sappers of 3rd Platoon, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, better known as Black Sheep, are routinely sent out to conduct route clearance operations in the Mahmudiyah Province of Southern Baghdad, but this is not the full extent of their mission.

On numerous occasions they have been tasked to support maneuver units by searching for and destroying caches. This was how Charlie Company supported the recent elections; the best way the Sappers could ensure a safe voting environment was to remove the availability of threat from the enemy's hands. There is no Platoon better suited or with more successes in this type of mission than the Soldiers of Black Sheep.

The insurgents store their tools of threat at cache sites. The "cache" can be anything the enemy can use as a weapon against Coalition Forces or local nationals and often is just that: anything. With the help of the land-owning units, Sappers on the ground use engineer equipment and their knowledge of the enemy to find and destroy these caches and unexploded ordnance that are found throughout their battle space.

Some of the equipment they bring on such a mission includes the MV-4, a remotely controlled roller used for proofing, a ground penetrating radar to better find ordnance and other ob-

jects buried beneath the surface and a BLOODHOUND system which acts as a mine/metal detector, only much larger. Their efforts were most notable during Operations Panda Garden and Armageddon, which were both executed quickly and effectively. Operations which are well known to any Iron Brigade Striker Soldier.

The support plan for the elections used one of these named operations to better provide a safe atmosphere, free of any enemy distracters that may occur. Operation Armageddon II began with a thorough reconnaissance of the designated area where a plan of attack was then formulated. The selected targets and surrounding area were secured by the land-owning units so the Black Sheep Platoon could perform their searches with the reassurance that no harm would come to them from enemy attacks outside of the area.

From there, the Engineers began their search using various methods and techniques both mounted and dismounted. The large, vast areas are generally cleared and proofed using the crew-manned, motorized vehicles such as the M9 ACE and the Husky, while the more confined areas were cleared on foot, by Sappers, with mine detectors and the MV-4.

The MV-4 vehicle is a tremendous asset as it provides the Sappers



a way to clear areas that are susceptible to being booby-trapped without putting themselves in danger. The vehicle is capable of traversing even the roughest terrain with its 6,300lbs rollers destroying any possible initiation system or booby trap before an actual Soldier moves through the area. The first mission 3rd Platoon took part in that utilized the MV-4 was Panda Garden. This was executed in an attempt to clear a palm grove of suspected caches and improvised explosive devices. The local populace had long feared the area as being an Al-Qaeda hide-out and believed that it was booby trapped to prevent others from entering the area. Operation Armageddon was a similar mission.

The Engineers were tasked with clearing and destroying all and any caches, unexploded ordnance, or IEDs found in the objectives that defined Operation Armageddon. Furthermore, these sites are usually rigged with booby traps to protect the enemy's loot. The objective itself was quite vast and included both a palm grove as well as an open field which had been abandoned for years according to the local nationals in the area. Abandoned buildings and parcels of land owned by no one are often used by the enemy to hide their weapons. With the help from the land-owning unit, the Sapper Platoon was able to find and destroy over 1300 lbs. of explosives

and IED making materials, most of which were attached to some type of pressure switch or booby trap, within the three day operation.

During Operation Armageddon the Sappers of 3rd Platoon located over 17 different caches that contained small arms ammunition, rocket propelled grenades, RKG-3 grenades, and various other types of explosives and ordnance.

This operation, a prelude to the election and conducted in direct support of the Iraqi elections, proved to be a success for 3rd Platoon, Company C, 40th EN Battalion, as the Sappers on ground quickly but thoroughly cleared the way in an effort to make the operational environment safer for both Coalition Forces and local nationals.



JNN Platoon Sergeant In the Spotlight

By 1LT
Timon Kim



40 EN

SFC Suk Jun is the Joint Network Node (JNN) Platoon Sergeant for JNN 88 in the 589th Signal Company, Task Force 40th Engineer Battalion. She began her military career in 1990 in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea as a Multi-channel Transmission System Operator and Maintainer, Military Occupational Specialty, 31M. Her occupational specialty was later re-designated as 25W- Telecommunications Operations Chief. When she entered the Army, Jun decided upon a communications specialty because she was excited about the opportunity to learn the dynamic aspects of cutting edge telecommunications technology. She also saw great appeal in the military because of the opportunity for accelerated promotions. In her words, "It used to take long time to get promoted in the civilian company I used to work for in Washington State, 'National Semi Conductor'." However, since she joined the U.S. Army just over eighteen years ago, Jun has been promoted six times. Naturally, she hopes to be promoted to Master Sgt. before she retires. Today, Jun plans, coordinates, configures, directs, integrates, and supervises the installation, operation, maintenance and management of telecommunications systems and networks.

Another reason that Jun thoroughly enjoys the military is because of the wide array of jobs and positions that Soldiers get the opportunity to

hold. One of her most rewarding achievements in uniform came when Jun was serving as an Army Recruiter. During this time, she encountered and assisted a particular applicant who had failed the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test and additionally did not meet the Army height and weight standards. Inspired to help the applicant become fit for duty, Jun personally conducted physical training sessions for two months with the individual and also assisted him in studying for the ASVAB. Jun remarked that the enlistment of that one Soldier into the U.S. Army was the most thrilling and rewarding moment she has had during her service because she was able to successfully assist the Soldier in achieving his goal.

Previously deployed twice with Signal Battalions, her current deployment is her first with a Brigade Combat Team and third deployment overall. In her experience, Jun recognizes substantial differences between the roles of a deployed Signal Battalion and a Signal Company in a deployed Brigade Combat Team. According to her accounts, in a Signal Battalion, everyone knows what every other section is contributing to the tactical communications fight. It's different in a Brigade Combat Team, because not everyone has a signal mission. In 2BCT, the 589th Signal Company is the only unit that provides complete



signal support. It is a self-sustaining unit in terms of signal personnel, equipment and expertise. In any event, she has thoroughly enjoyed her involvement in the diversity of experiences.

When she returns to Baumholder, Germany following this deployment, she is planning to travel Europe, visiting countries such as France, Italy, Switzerland and the Czech Re-

public with her family. She is also planning on retiring from the Military after two more years of service so that she may spend more time with her family. After three tours of duty, Sgt. 1st Class Jun is ready to cease supporting tactical communications for deployed units and begin more up-close communication with her husband and children.



Assisting the Iraqi Army



47 FSB

By CPT
Abby Griffin

SFC Jennie Jones and SSG Samira Abdullah were sent on a mission to Alrashheed to assist the 9th DIV MTT team to train the Iraqi Army. The medical mission was to “train the trainer” on the combat life saver course. The objective was to demonstrate how the Army medical personnel train our Soldiers as combat life saver. The intended goal was for the Iraqi medical personnel to maintain the same standard as the Army while adding their own knowledge to be able to train there Soldiers. Along with an interpreter, SFC Jones and SSG Abdullah were able conduct a full 40 hours of instruction with a power point presentation which explained in detail each medical procedure along with the information that will be needed for a CLS to be successful. With the support and assistance from Colonel Rod, the division surgeon, as well as the medical providers, SFC Jones and SSG Abdullah were able to accomplish the objective. The program consisted of a classroom portion, an exam portion, and an evaluated simulated training exercise. The exercise was not designed to judge the skills of the Soldiers, who were very competent, but to gauge the effectiveness of their training. The exercise consisted of seven simulated casualties who needed to be triaged, treated, and manually carried to the medical vehicle under simulated combat conditions. To add to the course, instructors had smoke grenades and indirect fire simula-



SSG Samira Abdullah, HHD, 47th FSB, from Ontario, Canada looks on as Iraqi Army Soldiers practice basic combat life saving techniques near Al Rasheed, Iraq in March 2009. (Courtesy Photo taken by CPT Seth Norman)

tors as well as restless bystanders to cause additional stress and confusion. The high level of energy and motivation that was demonstrated by the Iraqi Soldiers was incredible and left all the instructors with a sense of accomplishment knowing that the Soldiers grasped the training and received everything they needed to be successful. The medical training was so successful that General Kaasum now wants all of his non-medical personnel go through the same training.



Iraqi Medics train on Hemorrhage and Casualty Evacuation

By CPT
Mark Craig



1-63CAB

As a relative peace has settled over AO Dragon, many Companies are engaging the Iraqi Army in military training. This development paved the way for TF 1-63 Medics to accompany Alpha Company, 1-63 CAB to IA Patrol Base Lutifiyah for life-saving skills training with IA Medics and Soldiers.

The Iraqi Army selects its Medics at random, and they often have no formal medical training. On March 5, 2009, TF 1-63 Medics engaged IA Medics and Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 25th IA Brigade, with training geared at hemorrhage control and casualty evacuation. Many of the concepts presented to them were new, but the IA Soldiers quickly grasped these ideas and procedures. SGT(P) Latrevis Stokes, A Charlestown, South Carolina native, was the senior NCO present on occasion. "These guys were really getting the concepts we were teaching them. With a little more training they will be strong medics."

SGT Christopher Broad, from Castle-rock, Colorado, an imbedded Alpha Company medic, was instrumental in assessing *An Iraqi Medic checks the vitals of a simulated casualties during training in Lutifiyah.* (Courtesy Photo)



SGT Christopher Broad, from Castle-rock, Colorado, an imbedded Alpha Company medic, oversees an Iraqi Medic checking the vitals of a simulated casualties during training in Lutifiyah. (Courtesy Photo)

the training needs and equipment challenges of the IA Medics. "We wanted to present something realistic, keeping in mind which equipment they would have with them when out in sector. Our goal was to teach them how to save their brother with their own stuff."

SGT Michael Joy of Jacksonville, Alabama, said of the training, "We want to give the IA Soldiers confidence in their Medics. We want them to feel like their Medics have got their back. We are happy if the other IA Soldiers can provide quick buddy aid that might save another Soldier's life."

TF 1-63 Medics, IA Medics, and Soldiers were pleased with the training. Dr. Mohammed, the IA Battalion Surgeon stated, "We must do more of this, this is very good training." Undoubtedly this is only the beginning of a partnership between TF 1-63 Medics and the Iraqi Army. Dragons!



Arab Jabour IP Combined

By CPT
Matt Wimmer

Medical Exercise



505 PIR

The Iraqi Police continue to show their competence and professionalism throughout the East Rashid area. This was exemplified during the Combined Medical exercise, March 22. The exercise was planned and led by the Iraqi Police of the Arab Jabour IP Station, with the focus of assisting and treating the civilian populace in the event of a mass casualty producing event.

During the drill, Iraqi Police established outer and inner cordons and assisted the casualties with first responder care and further evacuation to a medical center which was constructed inside the Arab Jabour IP station. Upon reaching the casualty collection point, the injured were treated by Ministry of Health physician, Dr. Abul H. Satter. Meanwhile, Coalition Force Medics from the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion and 1-505th Parachute Infantry Regiment evaluated and advised their Iraqi

An Iraqi Policeman assists an elderly woman from Arab Jabour to see the Iraqi doctor. The IPs did an excellent job of maintaining control over the site and spreading the word to the populace. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Bruce Adams, HHC. 1-505 PIR)



Ministry of Health doctor Abul Satter was the primary health care provider for the CME. His energy and obvious concern for his fellow Iraqi citizens were critical to the success of the event. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Bruce Adams, HHC. 1-505 PIR)

counterparts. In total, the Iraqi Police and medical officials treated over 230 casualties.

Sheik Tomah of Arab Jabour was quoted as being “extremely pleased with the outstanding efforts of the Iraqi Police,” during the Combined Medical Exercise. The populace of Arab Jabour holds their protectors in high esteem, as was evidenced by the large turnout of smiling faces who cheered on the Iraqi officials as they conducted the exercise. With each passing day, the Iraqi Security Forces and Government of Iraq officials grow more competent and capable. The stellar results of the Combined Medical Exercise further demonstrate that the Iraqi people are empowering themselves to lead their nation to greater heights.





Tractors

for

Rashid

By PFC
Evan Loyd

A line of ArmaTrac 602 tractors presented to local Sheiks in the Rashid Nahia by Task Force 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery during a ceremony held at Combat Outpost Meade March 5. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Evan Loyd, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

Iron Brigade Soldiers presented 14 new tractors to local Sheiks from the Rashid Nahia, during a ceremony held at Combat Outpost Meade March 5.

Troops from Task Force 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division used funds from the Commander's Emergency Response Program to purchase 14 new tractors. Each Arma Trac 602 tractor should help to cultivate an area over 25,000,000 square feet.

"When we were first asked [by the Rashid council] we immediately wanted to help," said LTC Michael Mammay, from

Merrimack, N.H., commander, TF 4-27 FA. "Agriculture is very important in helping this area."

Since November, the battalion leadership has worked on transporting these tractors from Turkey to the farmers who need them. Throughout the effort, the council has continued to help the Coalition forces daily in their efforts to secure a safe Iraq for everyone.

The improving security situation and decreased attacks against Coalition forces, Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi people has allowed the local government of the Rashid Nahia to continue improving



the local economy for a better quality of life. The tractors will allow the local farmers to grow crops and contribute to the stability of the Nahia.

“We won’t squander the goodwill of the Americans,” said Sheik Hamash, the chairman of the Rashid Nahia Council. “We will use these tractors to help bring back the area to its fullest.”

The Rashid Nahia is a primarily agricultural land with almost all of the

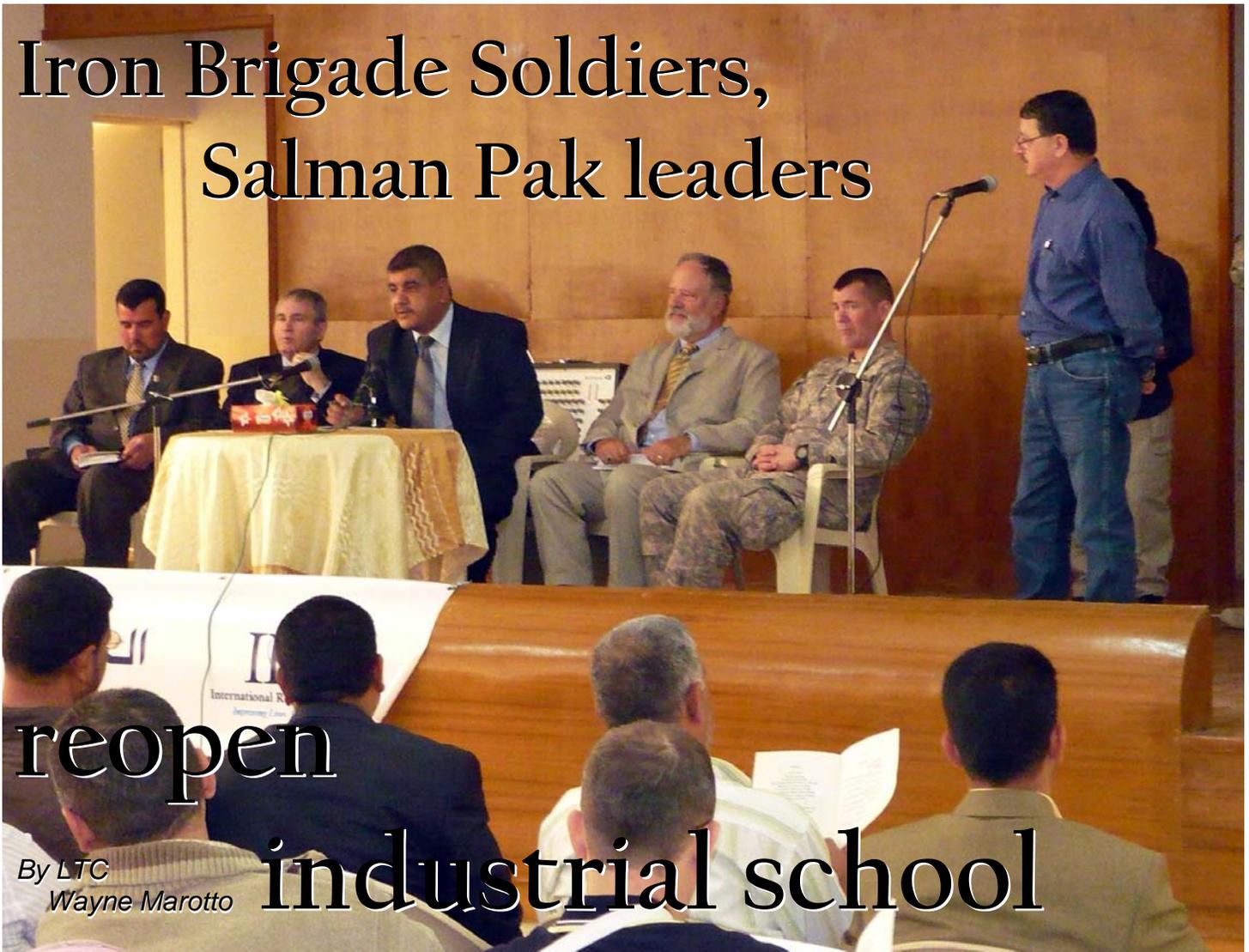
residents working as farmers. Previously the farmers could only work with hand-held or animal driven equipment. These 14 tractors will allow the entire area to rebuild their farmland many times faster.

“Every day we drive down the road, we can see the green returning to the area,” said Mammay. “With the tractors we are providing today, we hope to see even more green return.”

LTC Michael Mammay, from Merrimack, N.H., commander, Task Force 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery hands the keys to the new ArmaTrac 602 tractor to Sheik Musa, a local leader in the Rashid Nahia, during a ceremony held at Combat Outpost Meade March 5. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Evan Loyd, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)



Iron Brigade Soldiers, Salman Pak leaders



By LTC
Wayne Marotto

reopen industrial school

Qassi Mrweh (at microphone), the Mada'in Qada Council Chairman, gives a speech during the ribbon cutting ceremony held to celebrate the reopening of the Salman Pak Industrial School. The school reopened after a major reconstruction project was completed in Salmon Pak, March 24. The Industrial School will provide job opportunities for the area's young men and women. (U.S. Army photo by MAJ Fred Dixon, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

For years Salman Pak located on the southeast edge of Baghdad, along the east bank of the Tigris River, was on the front lines of sectarian violence in Iraq. The fighting between criminal groups, insurgents and al-Qaeda left the city, once considered a top tourist destination stop for all Iraqis, lawless and in shambles.

The Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces eventually suppressed the sectarian violence in the area and Salman Pak has slowly returned to normal.

In yet another sign of the improving security situation in Salman Pak, Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from Task Force 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, attended the grand opening of the Salman Pak Industrial School, March 24. The USAID provided funding for the \$600,000 renovation project.

The Industrial School reopened its doors after major reconstruction work was



completed after virtually being destroyed during insurgent led attacks at the height of sectarian violence in 2006-2007.

The Industrial school will offer eight courses available for up to 700 students to learn skills on sewing generator maintenance, welding, automotive repair, plumbing, electrical installation, masonry and carpentry.

Learning a trade for these men and providing job opportunities are important in keeping them from rejoining the insurgency by providing them an opportunity to obtain a steady paying job and support for their families.

The Industrial school also received new equipment for a women's sewing room, a machine and metal working section and a computer room.

The Ministry of Education will maintain the building grounds, hire and retain qualified teachers for the school, and provide a full-time guard for the school.

"This school has a 30-year history

and always represented a chance for learning and helping the youth of the Mada'in progress, but because of the violence in the area after the war it stopped," said Qassi Mrweh, Mada'in Qada Council Chairman.

The improved security situation brought by the ISF, CF and also by the local people who became tired of the instability, enabled contractors to rebuild the industrial school, according to Mrweh.

"This is an excellent example of cooperation between coalition forces and our Iraqi counter parts in the Mada'in Qada," said Christopher Crowley, mission director, USAID/Iraq, and a native of Wilmington, N. C.

Local leaders, partnered with MND-B Soldiers, continue to work to bring Salman Pak to its former glory days when the city was known for the Ctesiphon Arch and city amusement park and not as a battle ground of sectarian fighting.

The Salman Pak Industrial School boasts new equipment including new sewing machines for the women's sewing room. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the reopening of the school after a major refurbishment project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Salman Pak, March 24. (U.S. Army photo by MAJ Fred Dixon, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)



Healthy Chickens

By SPC

Jamie Vernon

Means Better Economy

An Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team from the U.S. Department of State, event sponsored by Task Force 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad to inoculate 22,000 chicks and deliver them to the Mahmudiyah Poultry Association was conducted in Mahmudiyah Feb 27.

Charles Russell, an eEPRT member and Agricultural Advisor, and Soldiers from TF 1-63 CAB traveled to the Poultry Agkardi Hatchery where 22,000 twenty-one day old chicks were sprayed with a vaccine to protect them from Gambaro disease. A second dose of the vaccine will be given ten days after the first. More vaccines are planned to be given to the chicks to prevent IB and New Castle Disease, on March 6, and 16.

The chicks were taken from the hatchery to the Mahmudiyah Poultry Association where they will be raised for 40 days when they will then weigh at least 2 Kg, ready to be sold as poultry.

In the past, due to poor management, care, and condition of the chicks it would take 60 days, and many times the chickens would only weigh 1.7-1.80 Kg, still not enough to be sold. This ePRT project reduced the amount of time needed to raise the chicks, which also cut back on the cost of feed and fuel used for their heaters.

"The profit is in the management. When the feed is not good, and the breed of chicks is not good, the management is not good. The water and feed needs to be changed twice a day," said Sheik Labid Khalid, owner of the coops and board of

director member.

In the past, the amount of warmth the chicks needed for successful survival and growth into chickens was not always sufficient, due to the expensive cost of fuel on the black market. This project created the funds necessary to buy the fuel

Charles Russell, a member of the Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, and Agricultural Advisor, sprays 21 day old chicks with a vaccine to prevent Gambaro Disease at the Poultry Agkardi Hatchery during an ePRT event sponsored by Task Force 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division- Baghdad in Mahmudiyah Feb 27.(U.S. Army photo by SPC Jamie Vernon,2nd BCT PAO,1st Armd. Div., MND-B)



needed to provide proper heat for the incubators at the hatchery and the heaters in the coops.

“The fuel from the black market is worth 80,000 Iraqi Dinars, and you will buy it for 175,000. It is very important to control and provide the right temperature for the chicks and this makes it difficult,” said Sheik Labid.

In the past the poultry association did not have many available healthy chickens to sell, and the people of Mahmudiyah could not rely on having enough poultry for their source of income. The ePRT funded this program to assist the Mahmudiyah Poultry Association by helping to create better management, which would then help provide job stability for the Iraqi people, and support their economy.

“This project established with US assistance is going in a smooth way. This is a wonderful project that creates a lot of jobs for many different tribes and helps the economy in the Mahmudiyah area. The money that went to cater to this project went to the right place,” said Mr. Shakeir, owner of the Poultry Agkardi Hatchery, and Board of Director of the Mahmudiyah Poultry Association.



Charles Russell, a member of the Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, and Agricultural Advisor, introduces 21 day old chicks to their water and feed at the Mahmudiyah Poultry Association during an ePRT event sponsored by Task Force 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division- Baghdad in Mahmudiyah Feb 27. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jamie Vernon, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.)



The Chicks are introduced to their water and food on their first day at the Mahmudiyah Poultry Association during an Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, event sponsored by Task Force 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division- Baghdad in Mahmudiyah Feb 27. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jamie Vernon, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

Iraqi Army soldiers prepare To field M1A1 Main Battle Tank



By PFC
Evan Loyd

An M1A1 Abrams tank is fired for the first time by an Iraqi Army Armor student being trained by Soldiers of Multi-National Support Team - Center and Military Professional Resource Incorporated at Besmaya range, March 21. The Iraqi Army purchased the 140 Abrams Tanks through the Foreign Military Sales Program from the United States and are scheduled to be delivered by August 2010. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Evan Loyd, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

The Iraqi Army continued on its path toward a more professional and capable Army when IA Armor students fired their first main gun shots while training on the U.S. Army's main battle tank, the M1A1 Abrams Tank at the Besmaya Combat Training Center located east of Baghdad, March 21.

The Iraqi Army purchased the 140 Abrams Tanks through the Foreign Military Sales Program from the United States and they are scheduled to be delivered by August 2010. The purchase of this sophisticated tank will greatly improve the Iraqi Army's capability to defend the country

and defeat its enemies. The M1A1 tank is a vast improvement over the old Soviet era tanks still in use by the IA.

In preparation for operating and maintaining these tanks, the Iraqi Army students have been in training with their Coalition Forces counterparts and the Military Professional Resource Incorporated civilian instructors at Besmaya range since Jan. 24.

Though the Coalition Soldiers are there to help the students, the main body of their instruction comes from the contractors in the Military Professional Resource Incorporated whose staff of 22 contractors



has over 500 combined years of experience on the M1A1.

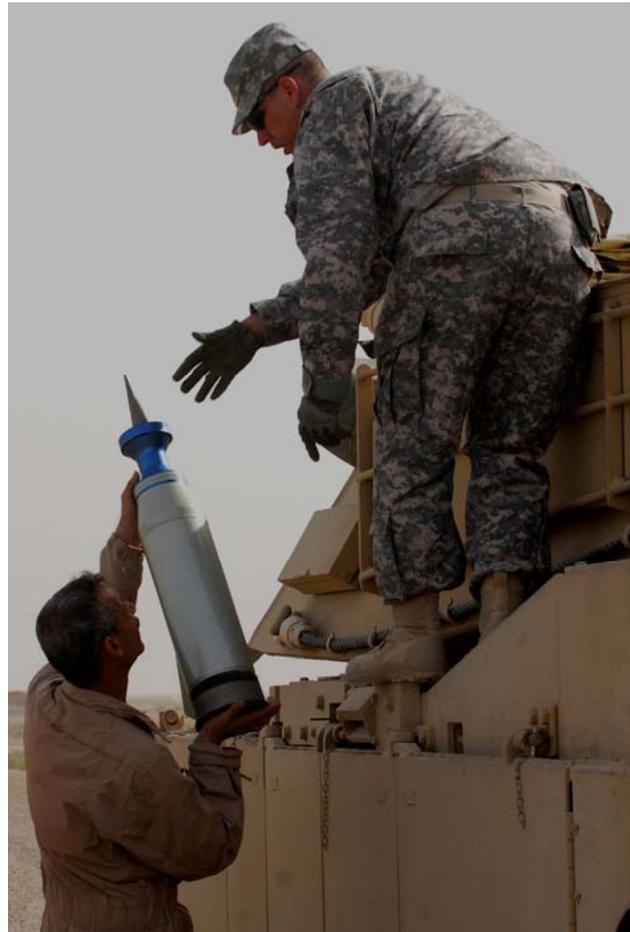
"I'm really happy with the results from the MPRI. It's hard to beat their experience," said MAJ Pete Berres, from Watertown, Wis., the M1A1 senior advisor at Besmaya. "Their experience is vital in their advice to the students and coordinating what supplies are needed for the training."

Each student is trained in a variety of skills on the Abrams including how to drive, load, fire, and perform basic maintenance. To be proficient in all areas of the Abrams the students will rotate between the four different positions on the M1A1 to learn the different skills needed to run the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. Previously Iraqi soldiers were only trained on their own position and knew little to nothing about what the other soldier's skills.

"We teach them the basics of tank maintenance, how to shoot, move, and communicate" said William Dunbar, the MPRI tank team manager. "Once they finish the training, these students will be the subject matter experts for the IA."

Another big difference in the training of the tank crews is the inclusion of a fourth man in the tank. Previously the Iraqis used the Soviet-designed T-72 which incorporated an auto loader that would load a new round after every fire. The M1A1 does not use an auto loader instead relying on a crewman to load the rounds.

"The Iraqis show lots of potential, and with this training they could be really good," said SSG Joseph



An Iraqi Armor School student (left) lifts a Sabot round to SSG Joseph Romano (right), from St. Petersburg, Fla., a non-commissioned officer and instructor in the Multi-National Support Team, as they load the M1A1 Abrams in preparation for the Iraqi's training by Soldiers of Multi-National Support Team - Center and Military Professional Resource Incorporated at Besmaya range, March 21. The Iraqi Army purchased the 140 Abrams Tanks through the Foreign Military Sales Program from the United States and are scheduled to be delivered by August 2010. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Evan Loyd, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)



Romano, from St. Petersburg, Fla., a noncommissioned officer and instructor in the Multi-National Support Team - Team. "What they need now is repetition to build muscle memory."

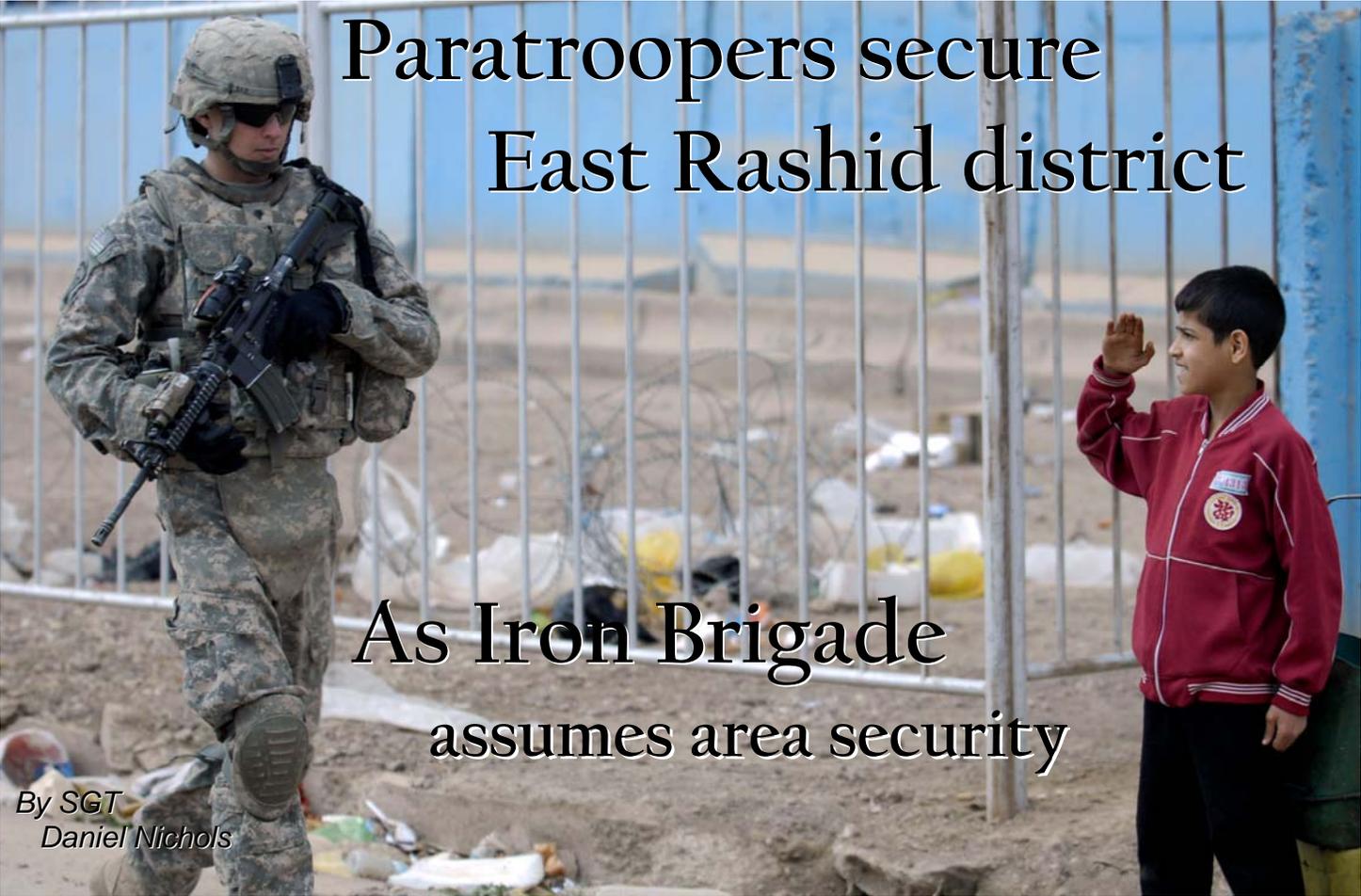
The Iraqi students' training will be broken up into two phases. Currently they are in the first phase of their training in which they learn from the Coalition Soldiers and MPRI instructors. In the second phase of the training the students will take the role of the instructor and will train a new group of Iraqi Army soldiers in the use of the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank while being supervised

by the Coalition Soldiers and MPRI instructors. This is a train the trainer concept important to the IA especially with Coalition Forces leaving Iraq in the near future.

"This tank is about more than selling and buying tanks," said BG Salazar, commander of the Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team, while speaking to the Coalition Soldiers instructing the students at Besmaya. "This is about building the relationship between the Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Army."

SSG Joseph Romano(left), from St. Petersburg, Fla., a noncommissioned officer and instructor in the Multi-National Support Team, and an Iraqi Armor School student (right) load the rounds M1A1 Abrams 240C machine gun in preparation for the Iraqi's training by Soldiers of Multi-National Support Team – Center and Military Professional Resource Incorporate at Besmaya range, March 21. The Iraqi Army purchased the 140 Abrams Tanks through the Foreign Military Sales Program from the United States and are scheduled to be delivered by August 2010. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Evan Loyd, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)





Paratroopers secure East Rashid district

As Iron Brigade assumes area security

By SGT
Daniel Nichols

A young Iraqi boy stands and salutes SPC Todd Bair, command security detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, currently attached to 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., Multi National Division – Baghdad, as Bair walks by during a combined patrol in the Dora Market area, Baghdad, March 3. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Daniel J. Nichols, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

There's no need to worry about this area, there's paratroopers on the ground," said LTC Dave Bair, of Fairfax, Va., commander, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat, 82nd Airborne Division, Multi National Division – Baghdad, while speaking of the operations environment of the East Rashid district where the 1-505 PIR is working every day.

The Soldiers of the 1-505 PIR have been in place for the last three months in the east Rashid district of Baghdad holding security patrols in addition to civil affairs efforts to help the people and the local economy.

Soldiers from Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division will

assume responsibility of the west Rashid district.

The paratroopers are now currently attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, which assumed the Rashid district on March 5 from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division who are redeploying back to Fort Hood.

The increasing capacity of the ISF enables one coalition BCT to now operate across an operational area that previously saw the presence of four BCT's.

"The battle-space transfer illustrates the steady progress of the Iraqi Security Forces transition throughout Iraq and demonstrates the increased role the ISF is playing in maintaining security and stability in Iraq," said LTC Wayne Marotto, 2nd

BCT spokesman, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B.

One central area of interest for the 1-505 PIR is the Doura Market, a thriving marketplace filled to the brim with a variety of shops selling everything from bread and fruit, to clothes and music.

The Soldiers of 1-505 PIR have been working consistently with small business owners here to help improve the economy, and increase the good relationship between the citizens of East Rashid, Baghdad, and coalition forces.

Compared to prior deployments, and other areas of the Iraq Theater, the current level of security and safety is an encouraging sign for both the citizens living in the East Rashid area, and the Soldiers who patrol it.

“When you’re not getting shot at and there’s not firefights going on, that’s a good thing,” said 1LT Chris Timmerman, of Russia, Ohio, 1st platoon for Company C, 1-505 PIR, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div. “It says something about the units that were there before you and the progression you’ve made between what it was like during the last go around and what it’s like now.”

Although the 1-505 PIR is the primary Coalition Force in the area, officers from the 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division are the lead element in the security of the area.

“I’ve seen the national police generally lead while we follow and support,” said Timmerman. “We’re trying to convey to them that they’re the ones in charge, and we’re here to provide the support if they need it.”

“In the past we’ve been conducting a lot of combined patrols with the National Police,” said 1LT Michael Telford, of Cincinnati, Ohio, 3rd platoon leader for Company C, 1-505 PIR, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

“The ISF (Iraqi Security Forces) are very strong,” said Telford. “They’re confident, and talking to the guys [in my unit] who were here last time in Bayji, the ISF are a lot more confident now than they were before,” said Telford.



1LT Chris Timmerman, of Russia, Ohio, 1st platoon leader of Company C, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, currently attached to 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., identifies a building in the distance with the assistance of his translator. Timmerman and his Soldiers received a report of a possible improvised explosive device that was found outside of a nearby residence and arrived on the scene to conduct a combined investigation of the report with officers of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, Baghdad, March 4. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Daniel J. Nichols, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

Constant communication, and building a working relationship between the 1-505 PIR, and National Police forces, has been constantly progressing since the paratroopers arrived on the ground a few months ago.

“Since we’ve been working with them on a daily basis we’ve developed a really good rapport with them,” said Timmerman. “The benefit of getting to know them really comes out when it comes time for operations. They’re much more open with us on things like hey ‘we’re going to do this cordon and search,’ or ‘we have a lead on an IED that was found last week,’ and they’ll share a lot of that [information] with us at the company level as opposed to us waiting for their brigade or battalion to send that information to our battalion and then send it down to us.”

The 1-505 PIR will be attached to 2nd BCT 1st Armd. Div., until the Iron Brigade re-deploys later this year.

Soldiers train, graduate Iraqi Officer at FOB Dolby



By SPC
Kevin Holden

2LT Ghazwan Wafeaq Majed, proudly holds his diploma he received after graduating from the Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course at Forward Operating Base, Dolby March 16. Majed is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division and embedded for 14-days with Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, Task Force 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division- Baghdad. Majed became the first Iraqi Army officer to graduate from Co. B, 1-35 BN, TF 4-27 FA Regt., Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Kevin Holden, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div MND-B)

Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division continue their important mission of training the soldiers of the Iraqi Army. The 'Iron Brigade' Soldiers in support of the Security Agreement implementation have shifted their focus from combat operations to advising, training and mentoring the IA.

The goal of the training is to continue the improvement of the IA and pre-

pare them to assume an ever increasing role in providing for the defense of Iraq. The security situation in Iraq has dramatically improved and now the mission is to sustain the improved security environment when Coalition Forces are required to re-deploy from Iraq in 2011.

There is no question the Iraqi Army has progressed rapidly in just a few years. Iraqi Army 2LT Ghazwan Wafeaq Majed, a member of the 2nd Battalion,



25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division is a great example of this progress when he became the first Iraqi Army officer to graduate from Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, Task Force 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course at Forward Operating Base Dolby March 16.

Majed embedded with the MND-B unit for the 14- day course and received training in counseling soldiers, property accountability, patrolling, maintenance checks, mission planning, patrol briefs, rehearsals, pre- combat checks, and pre-combat inspections. These are responsibilities MND-B Soldiers take for granted, but are not part of the culture of the Iraqi Army.

“In the beginning of the course I observed American officers, learned the non-commissioned officers and soldiers role, and the responsibility of a second lieutenant in an operational unit,” said Majed.

There are similar programs being used by other units in the MND-B operating area to train the IA officers, NCO’s, and soldiers. The IA and MND-B commanders work together to provide training, interaction, and experience to junior leaders in the IA.

“The junior leader course is the most important operation we do, and working with junior officers before accruing time service with the IA is the ultimate goal. Providing training for young officers who will be high ranking leaders in the IA is the Coalition Forces priority”, said LTC Michael Mammay, of Merrimack NH, commander, TF 4-27 FA.

The graduation is another step toward the future for the Iraqi Army and Iraq. Since January 1, 2009 the IA and MND-B



CPT Allan Carroll, of Kailua, Hawaii, and Commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, Task Force 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi- National Division- Baghdad, presents 2LT Ghazwan Wafeaq Majed, of 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, a diploma for completing the Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course March 16 at Forward Operating Base Dolby. Majed became the first Iraqi Army officer to graduate from Co. B, 1-35 BN, TF 4-27 FA Regt., Iraqi Junior Leader Development Course. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Kevin Holden, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div MND-B)

have officially partnered in planning, preparing and executing missions. As more and more of the IA soldiers graduate from leadership courses and operate independently, it communicates to Iraqi citizens and the world Iraq is a sovereign country.



Making gains in Mahmudiyah



By SPC
Jamie Vernon

COL Pat White, commander, 2nd “Iron” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division—Baghdad, shakes hands with a local Sheik after a meeting held in Mahmudiyah Feb. 25. During the meeting, MND-B leaders and the sheiks discussed ongoing infrastructure projects as well as progress with regards to security and reconstruction efforts in Mahmudiyah. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jamie Vernon, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

Leaders from the 2nd “Iron” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division met with nine Mahmudiyah sheiks at a residence here Feb. 25 to discuss security and infrastructure progress in the area.

With Mahmudiyah being a largely agricultural area, the sheiks and military leaders focused much of their discussion on determining methods to create more jobs for locals by developing agricultural and rural industries, as well as refining the irrigation systems in their areas.

Brigade commander, COL Pat White and LTC Jim Bradford, commander,

1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment, discussed what the recent Iraqi election results mean for the local community, the continued transition of Sons of Iraq security members and maintaining security while also transitioning Coalition focus to essential services, governance and economy.

“The meeting was designed to bring influential sheiks of Mahmudiyah together to discuss the future and to ultimately prioritize how we can help citizens of Mahmudiyah with the resources available to the coalition without interfering with Gov-



Government of Iraq efforts,” said Bradford.

The sheiks said the current and future focus of reconstruction efforts should be on irrigation, agricultural industry, financial industry and electricity to create more jobs and to continue success with security.

“Our road is long and we are only on the first step. All our energy and focus is on the reconstruction of the Mahmudiyah area,” said Sheik Sadoon Mohsen Al Ajam Al Kalabi, chairman and organizer of

the Sheik Advisory Council.

The sheiks voiced concern that even though a lot of energy and money has funded projects to develop the Mahmudiyah area, some of the projects focus only on the urban centers, with more needing to be done for rural areas.

In addition, the sheiks discussed their plan to form an advisory council for the Mahmudiyah area to assist Coalition Forces on what future projects are needed and where.

LTC Jim Bradford, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, Multi-National Division- Baghdad, of Lynchburg, Tenn., shakes hands with Sheik Hassan after a meeting with local Mahmudiyah sheiks in Mahmudiyah Feb. 25. During the meeting, the sheiks said in order to foster successful reconstruction efforts in their area, the current and future focus should be on irrigation, agricultural industry, financial industry and electricity to create more jobs. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jamie Vernon, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.)



Iron Knights assume Authority of Baghdad's West Rashid District



By PFC
Evan Loyd

LTC Rich Morales, of El Paso, Texas, commander of Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, stands at attention as LTC Matthew Elledge, commander of 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., speaks during a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Falcon Mar. 4. The 1-22 Inf. Regt., ceded responsibility of the West Rashid district area to the 'Iron Knights' of TF 1-35 Armor Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B. (U.S. Army photo by SFC Lawrence Ebert, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

The 'Iron Knights' of Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, assumed authority of West Rashid from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.,

after a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon Mar. 4.

The 1-22nd Infantry Battalion de-

ployed to Iraq in February 2008 and has made great progress in rehabilitating the West Al Rashid district area in the southern portion of Baghdad.

"It is great to have a seasoned unit to assume responsibility of Rashid," said LTC Matthew Elledge, commander of the 1-22nd Inf. Regt. "I am confident the Iron Knights will do a fantastic job."

Security conditions continue to im-



improve within the Rashid district and the assumption of authority transfer demonstrates the steady progress of the area and the commitment of MND-B to provide security for the Iraqi people.

The two units have been conducting side by side operations over the past week with the 1-22nd Inf. Regt., showing the Iron Knights the new area and preparing them to conduct full spectrum operations in the neighborhoods of West Rashid along with their Iraqi Security Force partners.

Task Force 1-35 Armor has already helped the Mada'in Qada in reestablishing itself as the breadbasket of the Baghdad province and is ready for any challenges it will meet in the coming months.

"Task Force Regulars with the help of GEN Faisal and his Iraqi National Police have made amazing progress in Rashid," said LTC Rich Morales, of El Paso, Texas, commander of TF 1-35 Armor. "Task Force Knight will not let you down in the coming months."

LTC Matthew Elledge, commander, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and CSM Timothy Guden case the 1-22 Inf. Regt., colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Falcon Mar. 4. The 1-22 Inf. Regt., ceded responsibility of the West Rashid district area to the 'Iron Knights' of Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Kellen Blythe, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)



IA, Iron Brigade conduct Staff Officer training



By SGT
Daniel Nichols

1LT YaRub Kahtan (right), 17th Motorized Transportation Regiment, 17th Iraqi Army Division, explains the role of staff officers to other soldiers in his unit during a Staff Principles 101 class held on Forward Operating Base Falcon, March 19. The class is the first of 13 courses designed by the 17th MTR Military Transition Team, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, to teach soldiers from the 17th MTR, 17th IA Div., about command and staff functions, planning, decision making and other foundational staff concepts. (U.S. Army Photo by SGT Daniel Nichols 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B)

Irraqi Army soldiers from the 17th Motorized Transportation Regiment, 17th Iraqi Army Division, finished the first week of classes in a new Staff Officer training course developed by the 17th MTR, Military Transition Team, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division – Baghdad, held on Forward Operating Base Falcon, March 21.

The course includes training on everything from basic staff officer principles and roles, to information on military decision making procedures, troop leading procedures, and mission planning and execution. The class itself was initiated by a request from the 17th MTR commander and was developed in coordination with

their MiTT team.

“Right now our unit doesn’t work like a good unit with a strong staff structure,” said MAJ Dhamad Shaial Menahi, commander of the 17th MTR, 17th IA Div. “They don’t know their special duties; they don’t know how they are supposed to cooperate together or how they are meant to assist their commanders. So this training is very necessary, so that the officers and the soldiers know their jobs and duties and how they cooperate together so that they work as one team.”

After the request had been made, the 17th MTR MiTT Soldiers began to work on a plan.

“Their commander requested the training, so he sat down with our team, we

did some brainstorming and came up with a plan,” said Anthony Cisneroz, 17th MTR MiTT, 47th FSB, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., a native of San Antonio, Texas, who took the lead on supervising and preparing the course material.

“What we’ve come up with is a 13-week course which we’ve kind of broken down like college courses,” said MAJ Stephen Turner, team chief, 17th MTR, MiTT, 47th FSB, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., a native of St. Louis, Mo. “You have the 100-500 levels, and under each of those categories, there are different classes.”

The course is structured to start with simple concepts and work its way up throughout the following 13-weeks.

“We’re starting with the very basics, basically staff principles, staff roles, moving on into estimates, both logistical and operational, and ending the 100 series with what the commander’s responsibility is to his staff. And with 200 and onward we just keep on building up.”

“We are starting with the basics because that is the right way to learn,” said 1LT YaRub Kahtan, 17th MTR, 17th IA Div., who was the instructor during the first week of class.

Drawing from different resources, the instruction now being taught in the class was stripped down to the bare essential concepts and foundational principles of staff functions.

“We got a lot of the guidance from FM 5-0, which is operations and plans, and we pulled a lot of the classes out of there,” said Cisneroz. “We also pulled a lot of the classes off of the MND-B website. MND-B has a section for the Iraqi Security Forces, and so we basically went in their website and pulled off a lot of their classes and tailored them into these basic courses.”

“For instance, the OPORDER

(operation order) class identifies the five parts of the OPORDER and a little bit more, it doesn’t get very extensive,” said Cisneroz. “We’re talking about a 2-3 page OPORDER. In the U.S. we have 30 page OPORDERS with 16 annexes but they’re not ready for that yet. So we tailored the classes up, I would say about 50% of the classes were already complete and we developed the other 50%. There’s no sense in recreating the wheel, so we pulled off what we could use and it got approved from Maj. Dhamad and our commander.”

The course consists of three days of classroom instruction each week. During the other days, Iraqi Army instructors from the 17th MTR are learning the material for the upcoming classes from the 17th MTR MiTT.

“Initially we were going to teach the class ourselves, but how receptive are they going to be to that? I would rather have my own personnel up there if I were an IA student. So the instructors that we have are good, they can converse well and I think we’re making a lot of money off the train the trainer process.” said Cisneroz.

The classes are given by an IA instructor with the assistance of power point slides translated into Arabic, and are taught to small groups of students ranging from eight to ten people at a time. The size of the class lends itself well to discussion and interactivity as opposed to large scale lecturing.

“All of the students are very receptive and they participate well in the class,” said YaRub Kahtan.

The course material, although based on U.S. Army principles, is not designed to teach them the ‘American’ way of running a unit.

“The key thing here that we have to remember is that we’re not trying to teach



them the 'American' way of running a unit.

"The key thing here that we have to remember is that we're not trying to teach them the U.S. way, we're trying to give them tools that they can take and use on their side," said Turner.

"We're just trying to show them again some kind of standard to follow, it doesn't have to be U.S. standards, just any standard to follow," said Cisneroz. "We're only in our first class, but I think it's a great program to give them a foundation to build on."

The success of this program and other facets of training with the 17th MTR, is largely due to the strong relationship between the Iraqi Army soldiers and their U.S. Army MiTT team.

"The relationship has been pretty strong since the beginning since we've been on ground with them for about three months now," said Cisneroz. "We had good rapport with the old commander and we have good report with the new com-

mander that just came on board. He knows that we're there to help him."

"I really appreciate my brothers and sisters and friends in the MiTT team, they help me, they support me, they teach my soldiers to make them better at their jobs, and I appreciate that," said Dahmad Shaial Menahi. "And I appreciate all the MiTT teams that have worked with me since five years ago when I was a lieutenant. I cannot find the words to describe how I feel about these people."

At the end of the 13-week course, the 17th MTR, 17th IA Div., officers and NCOs will graduate and be awarded a certificate of Staff Officer Training completion. "At the end of the course, they are going to be staff qualified," said Turner. "Right now, I'm just kind of excited to see the final product; I believe this to be a major stepping stone for the IA staff process."

The end of the Staff Officer Course is scheduled in June.

1LT Raeed Salman, (right) 17th Motorized Transportation Regiment, 17th Iraqi Army Division, writes down additional information on copies of the course slides during the Staff Principles 101 class held at FOB Falcon, March 19. The class is the first of 13 courses designed by the 17th MTR Military Transition Team, 47th Forward Support Battalion, to teach soldiers from the 17th MTR about command and staff functions, planning, decision making and other foundational staff concepts. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Daniel Nichols 2nd BCT PAO)



S1 Personnel

By SSG Matthew Duncan
2BCT, 1AD S-1 NCO



The New Post- 9/11 GI Bill What you need to know

New education benefits and transferability rules associated with the new Post-9/11 GI Bill will take effect on August 1, 2009. The new bill will cover the full cost of education at any public school in the country to include many private schools. It will also provide a long-awaited system by where unused benefits can be transferred by service members to spouses and dependents. It is important to know and understand the military service remaining requirements associated with the new bill. To qualify for the benefits, a veteran has to have served at least 90 days of active duty post-9/11 and have remaining entitlement. Only post-9/11 active duty service counts toward this benefit. Any remaining entitlements can also be converted into this new education benefit. There is no requirement to buy in to qualify, and the new benefits last for 15 years after separation from the military.

The post-9/11 bill discards the outdated benefits package and replaces it with a system that provides up-front tuition payments directly to the school. Tuition

payments can be used at any public or private school but are capped at the cost of the most expensive public school in the state. However, more expensive private schools offering a veterans-only scholarship will also be matched dollar-for-dollar up to the full cost of tuition. Additionally, book/supply stipends of \$1,000 per year as well as a monthly living stipend are two significant additions. The monthly living allowance will be based on the Department of Defense Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) for the region in or closest to the school's location. The stipend is geared towards the SGT/E-5, with a dependent rate for the zip code of the school.

For more information on the new benefits, log on to <http://www.gibill.va.gov>, or contact the US Veterans Administration directly at 1-888-442-4551.



Safety Bulletin

By Jerrold Scharninghausen



Redeployment Safety

We are under 90 days until transfer of authority. This causes a large number of soldiers to start thinking about home and not paying attention to their current mission. There is a trend for the number of accidents to spike during the last 90 days of any deployment for this specific reason. As we start packing up to re-deploy, the best way to avoid accidents is to emphasize the basics for leaders and soldiers.

The greatest contributor to serious injuries and fatalities while operating a motor vehicle is the use of seatbelts. Seatbelt use is mandatory, even in a combat zone. If you are lucky and get caught by the MPs, failure to wear your seatbelt will just result in a ticket and possible action of Uniform Code Military Justice. Non-use of seatbelts due to the seatbelt being inoperative or not installed is a high risk factor of any vehicle operation. High risk approval authority rests with the first O-6 in the chain of command. In other words, if your seatbelt is broken, the vehicle is dead-lined until you either replace the seatbelt or receive authorization from the Brigade Commander to proceed with the mission.

Approximately 35% of the non-reported accidents that occurred during the deployment have been hand injuries. A good percentage of these accidents have been caused by individual loss of situational awareness and resulting in an up-armored door injuring their hand. This is especially true during periods of high winds. Another cause is the miss use of proper personnel protective equipment. The Army has issued soldiers several types of gloves. Ensure that

the gloves you are wearing are designed for the activity at hand. Nomex gloves are designed to protect against flash burns. They are not designed for coiling concertina wire. Perform your PCC/PCI's and make sure that you are using the proper equipment.

We have had relatively few eye injuries during this deployment. This is due to the Brigades mandatory policy on Personal Eye Protection when outside. Don't stop now. This is also true of using your Hearing Protection. Once you lose your hearing it cannot be replaced and you will receive no VA compensation other than a discount on hearing aids.

With receiving re-deployment orders, there will be a substantial increase in vehicle movement inside the wire. If you hear a vehicle, make sure that you put eyes on it. There is no guarantee that the driver will see you, so don't just assume that it is safe just because you have the right of way. When loading flat bed trucks, make sure that you wear your reflective gear even in daylight. This allows you to be more visible to the driver and prevents your uniform from blending into the background. Ensure that your ground guides understand the proper procedures for unloading vehicles and that they are familiar with the correct hand signals. If your ground guide is using wheeled vehicle hand and arm signals to guide a tracked vehicle, or vice versa, it will only confuse the driver.

While this portion of the deployment has an increase in risk from all the additional moving pieces, if these risks are properly mitigated, the tasks can be completed safely.



Safety Bulletin

By Jerrold Scharninghausen



Spring Safety Campaign

Making your redeployment accident free

Ammunition – The hazards of hauling multiple types of ammunition improperly increase as personnel rush proper procedures to meet the re-deployment deadlines. Whenever possible package the material in original container.

Hazmat – Unserviceable or expired materials need to be properly disposed of and properly marked. Excess hazmat should be turned in through supply.

Heat Injuries – Daily temperatures will increase until re-deployment. All personnel need to consume sufficient amounts of water to prevent heat injuries. It is important to increase the amount of water and drink less fluid with caffeine.

Container Loading – Ensure container loads are evenly distributed and follow guidelines. Do not allow metal to contact the container, blocking and bracing are required for load shifting.

Heavy Equipment Transporters Loading – Ensure personnel ground guiding flatbed vehicles are familiar with hand and arm signals. Only authorized personnel in areas of material handling equipment.

Load Planning – All personnel must be licensed the vehicle they are operating. Vehicle operators remember situational awareness of surroundings. Only authorized personnel in areas of material handling equipment.

Sleep Deprivation – Sleep is a physiological requirement. Lack of sleep will decrease alertness and slow down reaction time. Leaders need to develop and enforce adequate sleep for all personnel.

Motorcycle – Any personnel that require the motorcycle safety foundation course needs to submit personal information to their Battalion to receive classes in Baumholder.



Chaplain's Corner

By CHAP (MAJ) NANA BASSAW
2nd BCT Chaplain



Golden Moments

Have you ever experienced the wonder of the spring weather, with the trees in bloom and flowers sprouting out and wondered in amazement the spectacular beauty of nature? It is one of those times we wish we could stop the clock and savor the moment, and wished it would be like this for ever. However, life's excitement reaches its crescendo with the ebbs and turns that each day brings.

The golden moment would lose its charm, if it was indefinitely extended, because life's interest does not lie in sameness but in contrast.

It is, after all, hunger which gives food its taste. It is thirst which makes cool clear water taste like nectar.

It is tiredness which makes sleep a boon. It is toil which makes rest the thing the body and mind crave for.

It is loneliness which gives friendship its value.

It is the dark of the night which gives the dawn its glory. It is parting which makes reunion a happy thing.

Spencer had it right in the "Faerie Queene": *"Sleep after toil, port after stormy seas; Ease after war, death after life does greatly please."*

It is indeed the contrast between the dark and the light which gives life both its pathos and its glory. And even the golden moment, if it was extended, would in the end have a sameness which would turn it into weariness.

Let us embrace life, with all of its contrast.



Striker Justice

By SFC Emanuel Mines
2nd BCT Task Force Paralegal NCOIC



Terminating your German Lease

So you enjoyed living in Germany for a couple of years but now it's time to return to the States and terminate your off-post housing? Because you rented off-post housing you have to follow German laws when terminating your lease.

As soon as you know your date of departure from Germany you should give your landlord the notice of termination of your lease.

Check through the lease for how long the period of notice is that is required. Indefinite leases usually require a three months notice unless the contract specifies a shorter notice period. The regular three months period starts at the beginning of each month if the landlord has received notice within the first three working days of the month. If you used the standard form contract provided by the Housing Office it will most likely contain a military clause which allows you to cancel your lease with only one month's notice due to military reasons, like a PCS move.

You can pick up the necessary paperwork to terminate your lease from the Housing Office. Sign the termination notice and mail it to the landlord with return receipt via German Mail or deliver it personally to your landlord in the presence of a witness.

You will not be able to withhold the last one or two months' rent unless your landlord agrees to it and chooses to cover the outstanding rent with your security deposit. If you fail to pay the rent due, your landlord can hold on to your property still located in the rented apartment as collateral.

Always conduct a pre-inspection with a representative from the Housing Office and your

landlord a couple of weeks prior to your move-out date. This would give both parties an opportunity to identify any damages and potential claims. It is you who has the burden of proof to establish if any damages were present in the apartment before you moved in.

One problem likely to come up concerns the settlement of your payments for utilities.

While residing in the apartment, you have been making advance monthly payments which now need to be reconciled. Your advanced monthly payments were made on estimates and you will either have to pay more or get money back depending on your actual usage. The landlord will have up to 12 months to provide you with this reconciliation statement. Make sure that the meters are read when you move out and that you provide the landlord with your contact information in the States.

Reimbursement of your security deposit is due at the time of move-out if there are no claims in dispute. If the landlord requests reimbursement for damages or renovation he has up to six months to specify his claim before reimbursing your security deposit. It's advisable that you inform a trustworthy person and provide him with a power of attorney so that he can help you with any claims and reimbursement after you left Germany. You landlord has up to three years to file a claim for outstanding rent and utility payments.

Before terminating your lease make sure that you contact the Housing Office for advice and assistance.



Doctor's Desk

By CPT (Dr.) Joseph May, MD
2nd BCT Surgeon



In this ongoing series, Doctor's Desk is introducing members of our 2BCT Medical Team to let them present to you why it is that they chose their profession in medicine. This edition features LTC Anne Resty, who is the Physical Therapist for 2BCT/IAD. She is also the senior physical therapist in Theater. LTC Resty is based at the Camp Striker Troop Medical Clinic, and she regularly travels to see patients at various COPs and JSSs throughout the Striker operational environment.

Why did you become a Physical Therapist?

"I chose to be a physical therapist because I enjoy helping people feel better and maintain independence in their lives. I knew in college this is what I wanted to do when I started working with athletes and students with sports medicine injuries. It was neat knowing that your intervention is a big factor in helping the person return to sports and a more normal life with less pain. There is a wide range of subspecialties in physical therapy which include pediatric, orthopedic and sports medicine, geriatrics, pain management, cardiac rehabilitation, oncology, and women's health."

What educational pathway did you take to become a Physical Therapist?

"Go Jayhawks! I needed money for college and I was lucky enough to get a 4-year ROTC scholarship at the University of Kansas. I ended up graduating from the University of Kansas Medical Center with my degree in Physical Therapy in 1989. In 1995 I became board certified in Orthopedic Physical Therapy. Since then, I went back to school and earned my clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy."

What's different about Physical Therapy in the Army from what your civilian counterparts do?

The Army has a wonderful Orthopedic, sports medicine model because of our Soldier Athletes and physical therapists are key players in this model. Consequently, Army Physical Therapists are privileged to order imaging studies (MRI, bone scans, xr, CT's), prescribe NSAIDS and muscle relaxers, and coordinate directly with other health care providers. In summary, we can follow the patient from the point of injury to the return to full function. Civilian Physical therapists do not have the luxury to order their own imaging studies or medications, but rely on the primary care provider to order these items.

What's the most exciting part about your job?

The most exciting part of my job is to see patients return to full duty, full function, or the best that they can be. With some injuries, patients are never going to be 100%, and sometimes it is difficult to motivate them to keep working hard, even though they have pain. I think it is difficult for patients to realize sometimes that what's really important in an improvement in function and that pain may be part of the process to get better. With that said, I never try to push patients through too much discomfort, less they won't come back to physical therapy!



STRIKER TORCH

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