



## Adhamiyah Kindergarten receives school supplies

By 1st Lt. Scott Lewis,  
1st Batt., 5th Cav. Regt.



Camp WarEagle, Iraq-One hundred and fifty Iraqi youngsters go to school day after day under-terred to a building with peeling paint, shattered windows, crumbling stucco and inoperable rest-rooms in order to get their kindergarten education in Muhallah, or neighborhood, 316.

The simple, small things give them hope. In this case it comes from American Legion Post 156 donating and supplying the children with yellow boxes of crayons, coloring books, paper, pencils, beanie babies and other school supplies.

"When I first went to the school, I thought to myself something has to be done to help these children. I knew when the members of American Legion Post heard about the kindergarten they would be more than willing to help," said Waltham, Mass. native Capt. Rick Murphy proudly.

For approximately the past five months, Mur-phy, team leader for the 401st Civil Affairs Team attached to 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division has organized through his hometown to provide the kids with necessary school supplies.

Mr. David Yawnick, commander of American Legion Post said, "When we heard from Capt. Murphy about the conditions of the kindergarten we knew we had to help. The folks at the Post had been gathering supplies for our troops in Iraq, so it was very easy for us to gather supplies children would need. The members of the Post feel we are lucky to be able to make a difference in the lives of the children."

In addition to the usual supplies for the stu-dents, American Legion Post 156 also sent sup-plies teachers would need such as calculators,



Above: Capt. Rick Murphy, team leader for the 401st Civil Affairs Team, hands out school supplies and toys to the Iraqi kids that attend Adhamiyah Kindergarten March 6. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Lewis)

staplers, markers, pens and etc.

For the teachers of Adhamiyah Kindergarten this was the first time they ever received sup-plies.

Asmaa Kamal al Deen, the headmistress of Adhamiyah Kindergarten said with a smile on her face, "I would like to say thank you to everybody who participated in delivering these gifts. The children are so happy there are people who think and care about us. It means so much to the chil-dren and teachers that people are trying to help us."



Above: A Soldier from 1st Batt., 5th Cav. Regt. Hands out candy donated by American Legion Post 156 to the children at Adhamiyah Kindergarten March 6. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Lewis)

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### Did you know:

- † Antarctica is the only continent without reptiles or snakes
- † An eagle can kill a young deer and fly away with it
- † In the Caribbean there are oysters that can climb trees
- † Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair
- † The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910



Coelacanth



## Leaders in Istiqlal work to improve the community

By 2nd Lt. Josh Risher, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment



JSS Istiqlal, Iraq – Police and local government leaders in Istiqlal have been putting forth efforts recently to beautify and improve their communities.

The Department of Public Works provided day laborers to help clean up the local area March 29.

Many aspects of civic infrastructure like sewage and waste management are not readily available in many parts of Iraq.

In Hussaniyah, the Qada’s biggest city, the local, national police and emergency response unit cleaned up a local market.

This area had illegal shops, unauthorized use of city’s water and power. The garbage was not collected for four months.

The local responding group cut down the illegal power lines, demolished some of the illegal shops and identified illegal water taps for future removal. They also brought pump trucks, garbage trucks and earth movers. Within a few hours they removed the sewage from the street in front of the market and



Above: Laborers and National Police work to remove the garbage from the public roadway in March. (Photo by Capt. Jonathan Britton)

picked up the piles of garbage.

Due to the initiative taken by the local people, government and the police the area is now a healthier and cleaner place to do business and shop.

The leaders and officials are working hard to improve the area and make their district a better place to live for the Iraqi people.

## Why we train

By 1st Lt. Leyla Law



Camp WarEagle, Iraq- Over the last twelve months, the Centurions completed numerous military training exercises in order to prepare themselves for Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10. Finally, the time has come to turn in the blank rounds and load our magazines with live ammunition.

As equipment arrived via sea and air, Centurions eagerly began to unpack their tools and put them to use. B Company of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion, established voice and data communications across the battlefield. Bravo Company Soldiers worked day and night to ensure the information flow from Camp Taji to JSS WarEagle was secure and reliable.

Beyond the security of the camp barriers, the Enforcers, the Military Police platoon of Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade



The “Enforcers” Military Police platoon, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion load equipment into the Armored Security Vehicles to prepare for missions. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Sgt. Dale)

Special Troops Battalion, rode along the roads of Baghdad with Soldiers from 1-5 CAV. “The people seem different, peaceful almost. But I’m still ready for action.” said Staff Sgt. Hriston Killian, Squad Leader for the Enforcers.

Enforcers are not the only ones who are confident about the year to come. All Soldiers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion execute their missions fearlessly around the clock, magazines loaded.

**FIRST TEAM**  
SAFETY AWARENESS

Do the job right...

Set the standard





## From the desk COL Tobin Green *Ironhorse Brigade Combat Team Commander*



I want to begin this month's column by sharing with you my thoughts on "preparation." Preparation is the first of my four enduring principles for our organization in Iraq: "Prepare your Soldiers and units under the most demanding and realistic conditions possible." Suffice it to say I am a big believer in preparation. Preparation reflects discipline. Preparation safeguards standards. Preparation builds confidence. Preparation promotes success. Preparation saves lives. And a commitment to preparation by any team protects mission accomplishment during exigent circumstances.

I was visiting the Muleskinner Battalion (the unit whose job it is to support the entire BCT) recently, and was invited to participate in patrol "pre-brief" in advance of a combat logistics patrol. ILT Wise was leading that patrol. She led this briefing – and she was on the mark. This officer provided an excellent presentation on all aspects of her pending mission – to include personnel readiness, vehicle readiness, the enemy situation and related threats, how her unit would organize and execute to counter those threats, other capabilities (such as route clearance) the unit would employ to improve the odds, and what she would do if anything went wrong. ILT Wise was prepared.

But a broader look at this "pre-brief" helps explain why she was so well prepared for the mission. Key members from the battalion staff are present for every one of the combat logistic patrol pre-briefs in the 115<sup>th</sup> Base Support Battalion. That's right – you will find the S2, the S3, the Support Operations Officer, and members of the current operations team attending every brief to answer questions and arm the patrol leader with essential information. The individual who received this briefing was actually the Battalion Commander. That's right – Muleskinner 6 himself takes every single briefing, personally coaching each patrol leader, and gently guiding his staff to provide even better support to the logistics patrols within their individual areas of expertise. Indeed, ILT Wise was well prepared because the Battalion Commander had ensured that the entire unit was involved in and focused on mission preparation. And the battalion commander led that effort. This experience only validated for me the extraordinary efforts that our leaders, soldiers, and units undertake every day to ensure that we set conditions for success in our operations. Details like repeated preparation to standard are the calling cards of good units – and we have a whole lot of really good units in the Ironhorse Brigade.

The other topic I want to share with you deals with the importance of being a learning and growing organization. Even in a combat environment, we can never lose our passion for improvement – for making ourselves and our teams better every day. About a week ago I hosted my first Ironhorse Commander's Conference at JSS War Eagle. In what will be a monthly staple for the brigade, every company commander across the BCT joined me for a day of fantastic discussion and cross-talk. At this conference I confirmed what I thought I knew -- that our Soldiers and leaders are innovative, adaptive, and good at problem solving. Each commander came to the conference prepared to share with fellow leaders a "best practice" they had learned in theater. A "best practice" is simply a good idea for how to get something done. And the good ideas were flowing. The challenges facing young leaders in a complex counter-insurgency and stability operations environment like Iraq are really extraordinary. It takes some special people at the front of those units to deal with the pressures and decisions that accompany command. But I was most impressed by the creativity and initiative I saw in virtually every "best practice" shared across the BCT. From constructing observation towers to give Soldiers better protection, to using money to defeat one's adversary – the quality of this dialogue among company commanders simply reminded me of how much better young leaders in the Army are today. This conflict has required our junior leaders to develop rapidly – and they have answered the call in spades. But the compliment belongs to more than just our company commanders. I see the same drive to get better every day in the sergeants who facilitate After Action Reviews following each patrol, in the Company Intelligence Support Teams who analyze the information our patrols acquire, and in a score of other leaders and small groups in every corner of the BCT. When one takes time to appreciate all of this energy, it is easier to understand why the Ironhorse BCT is such a high-performing outfit.

Operations in our area of operations are ongoing. The BCT has completed its movement to Iraq, and we are deep into steady-state security missions. In this BCT, every mission, route clearance, TST, PSD movement, CLP, and much more is a patrol.

I am proud of what you do each and every day. Stay alert. Stay vigilant. Seize and never surrender the initiative. Take the fight to the enemy.

**IRONHORSE!**

**TEAM FIRST!**

**Tobin Green  
COL, Cavalry  
Ironhorse BCT Commander**



The joint color guard saluted while the National Anthem played during the Mission Assumption ceremony. (Photo by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti)

*“This brigade combat team is here to assist and support the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government of Iraq...”*

## Ironhorse assumes mission

*By Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti*

Camp WarEagle, Iraq—On a clear and promising day the 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division held their mission assumption ceremony March 21 at Joint Security Station WarEagle, Iraq.

Ironhorse uncased their colors and officially assumed the task of further securing their operating environment.

“This brigade combat team is here to assist and support the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government of Iraq in protecting the Iraqi people and advancing the quality of their lives,” said Col. Tobin Green, the Ironhorse Brigade commander.

The ceremony was filled with local sheikhs, Iraqi national police, Iraqi Army, and other Iraqi dignitaries that the Ironhorse

Brigade will work with closely in the coming months.

Ironhorse plans to work by, with and through the Iraqis in order to facilitate a safer environment for the people of Iraq.

“Together we will provide for the safety of the people of Baghdad and ensure a prosperous future for Iraq,” confidently stated Green.



Photo by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



Photo by: Sgt. Edwin Bridges



Photo by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



Photo by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



## The Free Shot!

Q & A with CSM Norman, Ironhorse BCT Command Sergeant Major

**Q: When will Ironhorse get the ACS's?**

A: We are in the process of fielding the Army Combat Shirts as I type. The only problem is, that there will not be enough issued on the first go around to issue to every single trooper in the BCT. The manufacturer physically cannot produce them fast enough to field to every unit when they want them issued.

**Q: Where did the expression, less hooah...more dooah, come from?**

A: Actually, this is an old expression. What it means simply, is that it is more important to actually do something than it is to talk about doing it. HOOAH, can be interpreted in many ways, but more often than not, troopers in an effort to be "HOOAH" don't actually do anything.

**Q: What is the purpose of us pulling ECP guard if that's the Ugandan's job?**

A: The system was never designed to completely turn over our force protection to a civilian contractor. The Saber Corporation does provide a valuable service in alleviating our "Troops to Task" requirement and allowing the maximum amount of Troopers to perform tasks directly associated with putting pressure on the enemy.

**Q: Do you own property in Compton and if so, do you plan on returning to it once retired?**

A: Simple answer. No and NO.

**Q: What is the truth about us staying at WarEagle and possible movement?**

A: Great question. The issue of basing and where units are assigned to accomplish the tasks assigned to them is an issue that is best left to those that are in higher positions than any of us. Keep in mind thought that, our basing and tasks assigned are laid in agreements between our government and host nation government. Nothing is permanent.

**Q: What's the reason for the boonie cap mandate?**

A: The boonie cap was designed to offer protection from the elements on troopers' exposed skin. We have to take a more holistic outlook on this time of year and look at the effects of the terrain and weather on troopers as they do their daily tasks. We have to ensure sun block is being provided, erect solar shades over outdoor maintenance areas and maintain a larger amount of resources to treat heat injuries.

**Q: Why are we expanding WarEagle if we are moving?**

A: At this time, there is no direct decision on our basing on this installation. Having said that, it would be remiss of us to not raise the quality of life and work environment for the benefit of all.



**Q: Why do you wear your wedding ring on your right hand?**

A: As a safety reminder. My ring does not fit on my left hand because when I was a SSG, I broke my hand and crushed my ring into my fingers and the ring had to be cut off in the emergency room. It reminds me to always follow safety protocols for the task I am doing.

**Q: Why are males the only ones I've seen wearing the ACS?**

A: There are plenty of female Soldiers in theater that have been issued this uniform item. The vast majority of these individuals though, have been in country for a while and thus, the supply system was able to finally catch up to these units.

What are YOUR questions for CSM Norman?

Send them to [shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil](mailto:shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil) and next month CSM Norman will answer some more of your questions.

CSM Norman's answers are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division.



## What Leaders Do

- Be morally and ethically upright (barometer for your unit)
- Truthful in word and deed
- Always lead
- Vigilant and attentive (it will save lives)
- Never allow your Integrity and Character to be in question
- Aggressive/willing to take calculated risks
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
- Enforce standards ruthlessly
  - \*Simple standards save lives
- Train your unit for combat everyday
- Ensure your Troops' quality of life is sufficient
  - \*Don't let them live like pigs
- Learn about your Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, & Marines
  - \*Motivations & fears (understanding these helps you lead them)
- Empower your subordinates
  - \*Issue instructions and then check on execution
- Perform under stress (calm and control)
- Understand your environment





## New Hot Gun fires in central Iraq

National Guard Battery makes history once again  
By 2nd Lt. Josh Risher



JSS Istiqlal, Iraq – Not everyone gets to be a part of history. Sometimes it’s a matter of being in the right place at the right time. For the members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery Regiment attached to the 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division it was a matter of being the best men for the job. It might help that making history runs in their blood.

Soldiers from the battery made history again March 30. They loaded their 90-lb. illumination round the way artillerymen have done since breech-loading cannons were first invented.

They placed it on the tray and two soldiers wielding a ramming staff drove it home. After placing the charges and closing the breech they positioned the gun and nine cannoneers took hold of the lanyard. At exactly 8:40 pm they fired. About 20 seconds later the canister opened, deploying a parachute as a magnesium flare lit up the night sky over the nearby town of Subak Sur.

It was a routine shot, something they had trained to do and practiced hundreds of times, but there was a little more to it than that.

It had been almost 64 years since the last time their regiment fired a round in combat. It was the first combat round for any of them, many of whom have served in previous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. They soon followed up with three more illumination rounds.

### A History of History

These men are taking another step forward in a long line of history. Their battery is composed of two platoons, the Soldiers’ majority coming from 109th Field Artillery Regiment, and several more from the 107th and 108th Field Artillery Regiments. These units have a long history. How old, you ask?

The 109th Field Artillery descended from an Army unit which was first established in October of 1775. The unit saw action in all major armed conflicts from the American Revolution through World War II. They were mobilized and on their way to Korea when a train wreck killed many of the men in the regiment. Until now, the 109th had not fired artillery in combat since May, 1945. That happened when they were part of the spearhead into

West Germany following the Battle of The Bulge.

The 108<sup>th</sup> is not far behind. It was formed in 1840 and took part in the Civil War. It was the very first American Army body to use the designation, “National Guard,” borrowing the term from Napoleon Bonaparte’s work with the 19th century French Army. It’s been a while since that regiment fired in combat as well.

The majority of the Soldiers come from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 109th FA. The unit was attached to 1-108<sup>th</sup> FA in preparation for deployment to Central Iraq. The firing platoon recently arrived at Joint Security Station Istiqlal, their home for the remainder of the deploy-

*“I never thought I’d make history this way!”*

ment.

They are now co-located with the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry out of Fort Hood, TX. It’s a unit of the 1st Cavalry Division, and has a tendency to make history itself. The 7th Cavalry was led by Lt. Col. George A. Custer until its historic battle at Little Bighorn. 1-7 CAV later went on to make a better name for itself in the Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam War. It’s not often 1-7 Cav finds itself working with other units with such a long history.

### The Hot Gun

The “hot platoon” from B/1-109FA provides indirect fire support for units operating in central Iraq. JSS Istiqlal lies only a few miles North of Baghdad. Sadr City, one of Iraq’s urban hotspots, is within its reach. The platoon is ready to provide indirect fire on targets around the clock. When the call comes in, the Soldiers on duty are prepared to send artillery rounds to a target, either for illumination at night or for more traditional purposes, within a few minutes.

B Battery has a unique capability. For this mission they fire the 155mm M777A2 Howitzer. It is a traditional kind of cannon that must be pulled behind another vehicle, so cannoneers call it a “towed” howitzer. Back on home station, this is not the norm for them at all. They are part of a heavy brigade combat team, and normally fire self-propelled M109A6 Paladins,

which roll on tracks and are similar to a tank in appearance. The towed howitzers cost more than twice as much as the paladin, but at only 5 tons with its 19-foot, titanium alloy barrel, it is light enough to be transported by air on a cargo either plane or helicopter. This makes it more suitable for the rougher terrain our Soldiers encounter in places like Afghanistan. It works just fine for Iraq though.

Training on the Triple 7 began after they were mobilized last fall. Before conducting their regular pre-deployment training at Fort Dix, NJ and Fort Polk, LA, they spent a month at Camp Shelby, MS learning to operate and qualifying on the Triple 7. They practiced a lot and fired hundreds of times, loading each 50-110 lb. round by hand and pushing it into the cannon’s breech with a ramming staff. The practice has paid off for them. They frequently complete their “crew drills” in only a fraction of the standard time. They are very likely the only artillery unit in the country that is qualified to fire on both the Triple 7 and the Paladin systems.

### A Big Deal

Firing their regiment’s first combat round in over six decades was a big deal for them. There are only four firebases in the Baghdad area that even have a “hot gun” site, and for one platoon from a National Guard unit to have that opportunity is unlikely. Every brigade in Iraq has a Field Artillery battalion, most of which are performing other combat tasks. It is indeed a rare honor for these Soldiers to field the Hot Gun section. None of them had ever pulled the lanyard in combat before.

It was an especially big deal for the



Above: Cannoneers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery Regiment pose with their first combat fired illumination round on March 30. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Josh Risher)



## A symbol of duty: Dragons' combat patch ceremony

By Pfc. Adam Helleck



Camp Taji, Iraq-As the Soldiers of the Dragon Battalion began to settle into formation, the anticipation began to build. Over 200 Dragons received their first war-time service patch during the ceremony at Camp Taji.

For many Soldiers of the 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the current deployment to Iraq is their first tour of duty.

Therein lies the reason why many right shoulders were bare before the battalion held its ceremony to award their Soldiers the honor of wearing The First Team's patch on their right sleeves. The right shoulder patch has become a tradition used to designate the unit the Soldier has deployed with.

Battalion chaplain, Capt. Jeff Pyun started the ceremony with a prayer. With his words echoing off the surrounding buildings, he (who also received his first combat patch) recognized the Soldiers, past and present, who earned the honor of wearing the patch of the 1st Cav. Div. on their right sleeve. For the Soldiers in formation, remembering those who served before them instilled a sense of pride and duty.

"Wearing the 1st Cav. Patch on my uniform makes me proud. It lets people know that I serve my country with honor," said Louisville, Ky. native Spc. Hobbs, headquarters and headquarters battery.

The Dragons recited their motto with a loud and thunderous sense of pride when their senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Brown called them to attention.

The Soldiers listened, as the Dragon's history was read as one of the most decorated Artillery units in the Army. Many stood absorbing the significance of being a Soldier in such a respected unit for its exhibition of honor, valor, integrity as well as its continuous service for the Army during a time of war.

Once the history was read, their commander, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, received his combat patch symbolizing the authorization of all his Soldiers to wear their patch. Anticipation was replaced with relief, as the first time deployed Soldiers received their combat patch. It became a day of validation.

"Wearing the 1st Cav. Patch is an honor," said Uniondale, N.Y. native Spc. Francisco Campos a Soldier in HHB. "I am proud to be a Dragon and to serve my country with honor as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division."



Above: First-time deploying Soldiers from the Dragon Battalion receive their 1st Cav. Div. combat patches. (Photo by Pfc. Onuoha Okorie)

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Battery Commander, Capt. Joe Ruotolo. Ruotolo is a Harveys Lake, PA native whose father, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Leonard J. Ruotolo, was the battalion's 49th commander. Capt. Ruotolo has worked in artillery for several years as an Army officer, but his involvement doesn't end there. As a civilian, he is the Engineering Manager for all Field Artillery Programs at BAE Systems, a government defense contracting company. He is involved in the

design process for big guns like the Triple 7 and Paladin. Actually using the systems for their intended purpose is something he'll be able to brag about back at the office, but for him, it's more than that.

His father told him a lot about the regiment's history while he was still the battalion commander. He is proud to belong to this legacy. Capt. Ruotolo was proud to do this for both the regiment and his father. Commanding one of his father's batteries is a very big deal for him and his

family.

For Danville, PA resident Sgt. 1st Class Mike Hughes, it was a career highlight. At home he owns a cleaning and restoration business, and plans to retire from the Guard within the next two years. He first enlisted in the Armed Forces 28 years ago, in 1981. After spending the last eighteen years as an artilleryman he is now the Platoon Sergeant, or "Smoke" as

See HOT GUN page 9



## April 2009

### Cancer Control Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's Day	2	3 Ram Navan	4
5 Palm Sunday	6 Tartan Day	7	8 Passover begins @ sundown	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 Arbor Day	25 WWII Memorial Day & National Sense of Smell
26	27	28	29	30 Vietnam Liberation Day		

## Lancers maintain their tanks

1Lt. Stanley Olszewski



Above: Hickory, N.C. native Pfc. David Weiss, driver for Company B, 2nd "Lancer" Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducts maintenance on his M1A2SEP tank March 31 in Sadr City. (Photo by 1st Lt. Stanley Olszewski)



Above: Hickory, N.C. native Pfc. David Weiss (left), driver for Company B, 2nd "Lancer" Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and Milwaukee, Wis. Native Cpl. Michael Orwig (right), gunner perform preventative maintenance checks and services on a M1A2SEP tank March 31 in Sadr City. The two Soldiers are a part of the tank platoon supporting the "Barbarians" in this rotation in Iraq. (Photo by 1st Lt. Stanley Olszewski)

Below: Milwaukee, Wis. Native Cpl. Michael Orwig, gunner for Company B, 2nd "Lancer" Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division completes his maintenance checks on a M1A2SEP tank March 31 in Sadr City.





## Ironhorse Soldiers celebrate St. Patty's Day

By Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



Troops at Joint Security Station Wareagle ran 5k's in celebration of St. Patrick's Day March 15. The sixteen participants ran the perimeter of the JSS and reveled together on the early Sunday morning. (Photos by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti)



HOT GUN, from page 7

they're called in the artillery world. His Soldiers often joke that he was present when the last round was fired.

"It felt good," Hughes said. "It felt good to be in the artillery and actually get to do the job you're trained to do."

For all the Soldiers in that section, it was exciting. Normally only one man pulls the lanyard to fire the round, but seven of the eight cannoneers from the section plus the commander and "smoke" took up the "longer-than-necessary" lan-

yard for this historic opportunity. They wanted to share the opportunity together. The eighth man in the section filmed the event, preserving it for future enjoyment.

As far as making history, some of the Soldiers were impartial. Pvt. 1st Class Josh Brown of Wilkes-Barre, PA stated, "I never thought I'd make history *this* way." Most were just excited to be firing for real.

The next night, Soldiers from one of the other two sections of the hot platoon would tow out their howitzer for another

mission. The 109th is back in business.



Above: Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery Regiment prepare their guns for the historical firing. (U.S. Army photos)



## **Muleskinners conduct Sustainment Operations to Support Ironhorse**

*By Capt. Miranda Craig*

The Muleskinner Battalion started conducting sustainment operations with the unofficial uncasing of the battalion colors at Joint Security Station War Eagle. The symbolism of this action marked the beginning of the units operations that promise an opportunity to continue to prove commitment and competence to support the 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team.

Immediately following the Transfer of Authority ceremony, Lt. Col. Gregory Holmes, the battalion commander, stated “This year will be a year of transition for both the Iraqi people as well as members of the armed forces.” Since the Muleskinners arrived in Iraq, they have exceeded all expectations. Lt. Col. Holmes is confident that his Soldiers will excel, no matter the task.

The battalion’s missions during this deployment are vast and wide ranging. The Muleskinners will sustain the Ironhorse Brigade without failure or competent. We will partner with Iraqi logistical units throughout the Ironhorse operational environment to enable our Iraqi partner to be self-efficient. We will also operate world class mayor cells at various locations. Lastly, we will establish a base defense on Taji to ensure that our Soldiers remain as safe as possible.

In preparation for this deployment, theater specific training conducted at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. and Camp Buehring, Kuwait, provided unparalleled training for the battalion. Overall, the most effective training was the preparation over the last four weeks prior to the assumption. LTC Holmes also added, “The Muleskinner Soldiers are motivated, well-trained, and ready to endure this journey into history.”

For the time ahead, “The Soldiers of the Muleskinner Battalion have a moral duty that must be uncompromised”, stated LTC Holmes. All Muleskinners must remember that Iraq is a sovereign country and all actions in dealing with the people of Iraq could mean the difference between success with honor or complete failure. His closing remarks are, “We as Soldiers are entrusted not only by the American people but citizens world-wide to do what is right, treat people with dignity and respect, and to set the example in disciplined actions. We are writing a new page in the history of this battalion, brigade, division, and the Army.





## Familiar Faces





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Easy

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	5					7	4	
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8				9			2	
	1	2					7	
			4				9	
9	8				3	5		

Medium

## SUDOKU

*It's easy to play Sudoku!  
Simply fill every column  
so they contain every  
number between 1 and  
9.*

*Don't go too fast!  
The game is easy to  
play but difficult to*

Hard

### JSS Wareagle Religious Services

Fridays- 1200 Bible Study

Friday- 1800 Contemporary Protestant Service

Sunday- 0900 Catholic Mass

Sunday- 1100 Protestant Worship Service

Sunday- 1800 Confession

Sunday- 1830 Stations of the Cross

Sunday- 1900 Catholic Mass



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			7				3
	8			4			2
7		9		8	6		4
	2		7				1



## Ironhorse Spirit



**“NO CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES CAN REPAIR A DEFECT OF CHARACTER.”**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances.  
I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little.  
I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full  
or hand empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it  
through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”*

- Philippians 4:11-12 (THE MESSAGE)

**FIRST TEAM**



### Ask your buddy

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly, e.g., Are you thinking of killing yourself?

### Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury
- Calmly control the situation; do not use force
- Actively listen to produce relief

### Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to the chain of command, a Chaplain, a behavioral health professional, or a primary care provider

USACHPPM <http://chppm-www.a.pgea.army.mil/>

TA - 095 - 0605





## If Your Buddy is in Pain Help Your Buddy!



*You are a Warrior and a member of a team,  
You will never leave a fallen comrade!*



**SUICIDE AWARENESS**

## Safety Steve's Section

### M4 RIFLE / M16 RIFLE (5.56) UNLOADING & CLEARING PROCEDURES

1. ORIENT WEAPON A SAFE DIRECTION (CLEARING CONTAINER IF AVAILABLE)
2. REMOVE THE MAGAZINE FROM THE WEAPON
3. ATTEMPT TO PLACE WEAPON SELECTOR LEVEL ON SAFE
4. LOCK BOLT TO THE REAR
5. INSPECT THE RECEIVER & CHAMBER TO ENSURE NO AMMUNITION PRESENT.
6. WITH NO AMMUNITION IN CHAMBER OR RECEIVER, ALLOW THE BOLT TO GO FORWARD.
7. AIM WEAPON INTO CLEARING CONTAINER, ROTATE SELECTOR LEVER TO SEMI, SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER.
8. CHARGE WEAPON ONCE.
9. PLACE SELECTOR LEVER ON SAFE

### M249 SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPON UNLOADING & CLEARING PROCEDURES

1. ORIENT WEAPON IN A SAFE DIRECTION (CLEARING CONTAINER IF AVAILABLE)
2. REMOVE MAGAZINE
3. ENSURE THE WEAPON IS ON SAFE. IF WEAPON IS NOT ON SAFE, WITH THE RIGHT HAND PALM UP, PULL COCKING HANDLE TO THE REAR LOCKING THE BOLT IN PLACE.
4. WHILE HOLDING THE COCKING HANDLE, MOVE SELECTOR LEVER TO THE SAFE POSITION BY PUSHING TO THE RIGHT UNTIL THE RED RING IS NOT VISIBLE.
5. RETURN & LOCK THE COCKING HANDLE TO THE FORWARD POSITION.
6. SQUEEZE LATCHES TO OPEN COVER ASSEMBLY.
7. REMOVE AMMUNITION BELT & ANY LOOSE ROUNDS PRESENT ON FEED TRAY.
8. CONDUCT 5 - POINT SAFETY CHECK
9. CHECK THE FEEDER PAWLASSEMBLY UNDER THE COVER.
10. CHECK THE FEED TRAY ASSEMBLY
11. LIFT THE FEED TRAY ASSEMBLY & INSPECT THE CHAMBER
12. CHECK THE SPACE BETWEEN BOLT ASSEMBLY & CHAMBER
13. INSERT TWO FINGERS INTO THE MAGAZINE WELL TO EXTRACT ANY BRASS, LINKS OR AMMO
14. CLOSE THE FEED TRAY COVER.
15. WITH THE RIGHT HAND PALM UP, PULL THE COCKING HANDLE TO THE REAR, WHILE HOLDING THE COCKING HANDLE, PLACE THE WEAPON ON FIRE. SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER & RIDE THE BOLT FORWARD.

### M9 (9MM) UNLOADING & CLEARING PROCEDURES

1. ORIENT WEAPON IN A SAFE DIRECTION (CLEARING CONTAINER IF AVAILABLE)
2. PLACE DECOCKING / SAFETY ON SAFE.
3. DEPRESS THE MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON & REMOVE THE MAGAZINE
4. GRASP THE SLIDE BARRATIONS & FULLY RETRACT THE SLIDE TO REMOVE THE CHAMBERED CARTRIDGE
5. LOCK THE SLIDE TO THE REAR, USING THE SLIDE STOP, & VISUALLY INSPECT CHAMBER TO ENSURE IT IS EMPTY
6. RELEASE THE SLIDE STOP TO ALLOW THE SLIDE TO RETURN FULLY TO THE FORWARD POSITION.
7. AIM WEAPON INTO CLEARING CONTAINER, ROTATE SELECTOR LEVER TO SEMI, SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER.
8. CHARGE WEAPON ONCE.
9. PLACE SELECTOR ON SAFE.

Visit the ICD Homepage for more news!

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1st Cavalry Division  
Multi National Division--  
Baghdad**

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