

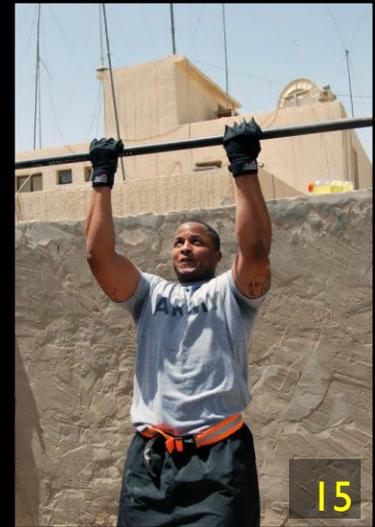


IRONHORSEMAN

August 2009 Volume 2, Issue 6



Transition



What's inside...

- 4-5 Col.Tobin Green—An Ironhorse Mid-Tour Assessment (Part II)
- 6-7 “Hotsteel” Joint Air Assault provides versatility to the ISF
- 8 “Muleskinners” prepare for relocation
- 9 The Free Shot! with Command Sgt. Maj.
- 10 LTC Holmes’ letter to Soldiers
- 11 Ironhorse conducts joint ammo training
- 13 Familiar Faces
- 14 “Ironhorse“ Commander meets with media
- 15 “Black Knights” test endurance
- 18 Wolf Academy teaches tested tactics
- 19 “Stallions” partner with community organization

ON THE COVER



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Sgt. Aaron Eckert, a cavalry scout who hails from Spokane, Wash. assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, teaches his Iraqi Federal Police counterparts how to properly flexi-cuff a detainee during a class of Wolf Academy at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal July 28.



The History of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery was first constituted in the Regular Army as Troop A and B, 24th Cavalry on 3 June 1916. Almost exactly one year later, on 5 June 1917, it was activated as Troop A and B, 24th Cavalry at Fort D. A. Russell, WY.

On 1 Nov. 1917, Troops A & B, 24th Cavalry were consolidated and redesignated as Battery A, 82nd FA and assigned to the 15th Cavalry Division. The unit first saw action in operations across the Rio Grande River. On 9 Sept. 1921, the 82nd FA was assigned to the newly organized 1st Cavalry Division and became its sole artillery regiment. The Dragons became known as the "Flying Horse Artillery" during service with the 1st Cav. Div. in the Southwest border with Mexico. Between that date and WWII, the unit accomplished two other reorganizations and redesignations.

The unit deployed to the Pacific Theater in WWII with the 1st Cav. Div. and saw action in New Guinea, the Bismark Archipelago, Leyte and Dazon.

Following WWII, the battalion performed occupational duty in Japan and was one of the first units to arrive in Korea in 1950. The unit was credited with seven campaign streamers in the Korean War. On 15 Oct 1950, it was deactivated and relieved from assignment to the 1st Cav. Div.

On 1 June 1958, the unit was reoutfitted as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Missile Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery and was activated on 24 June 1958 in Italy. The battalion was deactivated in Italy on 20 April 1964.

On 31 Oct 1967, the battalion was redesignated as the 1st Batt., 82nd FA. It was activated on 10 Jan 1968 at Ft. Lewis, Wash. and assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division. The unit was later assigned to Vietnam in Oct 1968.

The 1st Batt., 82nd FA was reorganized at Fort Bragg, N.C. on 30 Nov 1971, by Headquarters, Third United States Army and was attached to the XVII Airborne Corps Artillery. The battalion underwent another reorganization during the summer of 1972 when it converted from a self-propelled to a 155mm, towed howitzer battalion.

Redesignated once again, on 21 June 1975, as the 1st Battalion, 82nd FA, the unit became a self-propelled 155mm, M109A1 Howitzer Battalion and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, Texas.

In mid Oct 1990, the battalion deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield and subsequently Operation Desert Storm. The battalion supported 1st Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., during combat operations in Iraq. The Battalion redeployed to Ft. Hood, Texas in March 1991.

On 30 Aug. 1998 the battalion deployed and performed peace-keeping operations in support of Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In early March of 2004, the unit deployed to Eastern Baghdad, Iraq to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom II. For the next year, the Dragons conducted combat patrols, humanitarian missions, counter fire missions, and camp mayor duties at Camp Cuervo and Camp Eagle. The battalion redeployed to Ft. Hood, Texas in early March 2005.

On 15 July 2005, as a part of the Army Modularity Plan Charlie Battery 1st Batt., 82nd FA was deactivated. Effective 17 Oct. 2005, 1st Batt., 82nd FA became a Unit of Action Fires Batt. In addition, Forward Support Company Golf was attached to provide organic combat service support to the battalion.

On 7 March 2006, 1st Batt., 82 FA was redesignated as Task Force 1-82 in preparation for redeployment to OIF V. In addition, Delta Troop was organized from elements of 1-82 FA, 1-7 CAV, 2-5 CAV, 2-8 CAV, and HHT, 1BCT to provide maneuver capabilities on the battlefield. On 28 Oct. 2006, Task Force 1-82 FA deployed to Northern Baghdad (Camp Taji) in support of OIF 06-08.

For the next fifteen months, the Dragon battalion's primary mission was to secure and defend Camp Taji as the Base Defense Operation Center. The battalion also provided accurate, lethal, and timely artillery fires to multiple combat formations, including: Multi-National Division-North and Multi-National Division-Baghdad; 3 Brigade Combat Teams; and 7 separate Maneuver Task Forces. The battalion was credited for the first-ever combat fielding of the Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) and the Excalibur precision guided munition. The battalion also processed over 11,000 radar acquisitions and 1,400 fire missions for a total of over 6,000 rounds- the most in the Iraqi Theater of Operations for Rotation 06-08.

1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division Multi National Division- Baghdad

BCT Commander
Col. Tobin Green

BCT Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. James Norman

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Brian Carlin

Editor/Public Affairs NCOIC
Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti

Public Affairs Broadcast NCO
Sgt. Nathan Jones

Public Affairs Specialist
Pfc. Bailey Jester

Media Coordinator
Justin Carmack

Contributing Journalists

Pfc. Adam Halleck - 1-82 FA

Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, 211th MPAD

Sgt. Karl Williams, 2-8 CAV

Do you have a story to share?

The *Ironhorseman* welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the BCT Public Affairs office at shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil or brian.f.carlin@us.army.mil. Include the author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The *Ironhorseman* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

The *Ironhorseman* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Ironhorseman* are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 1st Cavalry Division. The appearance of advertizing in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 1st Cavalry Division, or the *Ironhorseman* of the products and services advertized.

All editorial content of the *Ironhorseman* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.

An Ironhorse Mid-Tour Assessment—Part II

From the desk of Col. Tobin Green



Ironhorse Troopers

In the July edition of the Ironhorseman magazine, I used this column as an opportunity to reflect on the unit's impressive accomplishments over the first six months of this deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. At its conclusion, I mentioned that the final half of this tour would likely be the most challenging time yet for the Ironhorse Brigade Combat Team, and that I would share a glimpse of where we are headed in the magazine's August edition. A promise made is a promise kept.

What is Changing?

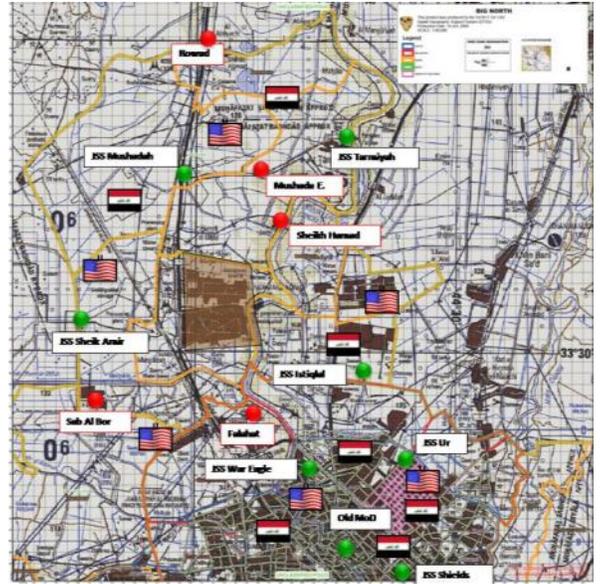
The coming weeks and months will be another extraordinary period of both change and continuity. Changes are in store for most units in the BCT - with more relocations of companies / batteries / battalions and Troopers in response to the dynamic conditions around us and the orders from our higher headquarters. The Ironhorse Brigade will greatly expand its area of operations and inherit additional responsibilities associated with new territory. We will re-mission and move forces to tackle those new tasks. Change will also come in the form of new Iraqi friends and partners. As the brigade's area increases in size, and some of the BCT's units move to fill that space with Coalition Force presence, Ironhorse leaders and Troopers will begin working with more Iraqi Security Force units and local officials who previously had formed relationships and partnerships with the units this task force will replace. And the new friends will not be confined to Iraqis. The brigade will now associate with a second embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (ePRT) based at Taji, in addition to our current ePRT at JSS War Eagle. Ironhorse will also assume command and control for a host of Coalition small units and other essential contributors to success in its future battle space. These teams include critical capabilities such as civil affairs teams, intelligence personnel, a psychological operations detachment, some additional medical care providers, and others. And we are pleased to know these "enabler" functions will be joining us very soon.

The picture on the next page provides an illustration of the brigade's current area of operations in the northeast (and most heavily populated) corner of Baghdad, and the Istiqlal Qada (a primarily rural expanse) north of the city and on the eastern side of the Tigris River. In that picture, you can clearly see Camp Taji, a very large facility that is home to over twenty thousand Coalition personnel. Camp Taji includes an adjacent / integrated Iraqi military base that is home to a variety of Iraqi Security Force (ISF) military schools, sustainment facilities, and warehouses. Camp Taji also serves as the traditional home for the Iraqi Army's 9th Division - the only armored division in the new Iraqi Army, with a headquarters and units currently committed to security missions inside Baghdad. The shaded areas all around Taji on the west side of the Tigris River represent the new terrain that the BCT will add to its battle space in about a month. It is a large area. Veterans of the brigade may find that our annexation of this land will stir old memories - because the area west of the Tigris represents much of the ground 1st Brigade was responsible for during OIF Rotation 06-08. In some respects, select members of the BCT will be returning to roads / villages / Iraqis they came to know so well in 2007.

Of course, if the brigade is going to gain more territory and responsibility, we need crackerjack units to apply against new problem sets. The good news for us all is that Ironhorse has exactly the right organizations for the big job ahead. The Black Knights of 1-5 CAV will provide an anchor for the brigade as they reposition to Taji during the month of August, and prepare to take over the area to the north of Camp Taji, including the potentially volatile city of Tarmiyah.

Continued on Pg 5

For the families of Black Knight Troopers back home, I want you to know that I fully understand how you might react to news that your loved ones are moving around yet again. For many of these Soldiers, relocating to Taji represents the fourth move they will have had to endure in seven months. And moves are always a pain in the back for everyone. All I can tell you is that I think this move might be their last one. Once settled in new digs, the facilities and life support available to Black Knight Troopers at Taji will far exceed what we have been able to provide them on much smaller bases inside the city. I also want you to remember what Soldiers want most in Iraq - a clear and challenging mission. The Black Knights will absolutely get a tough mission where they are headed next, along with increased freedom of action to go after the enemy there alongside new Iraqi partners. The new mission is a good fit for a proven outfit like 1-5 CAV. The Black Knights are a harbinger of progress down the path to peace and prosperity for the future of Iraqis in the Tarmiyah and Mushadah area.



And 1-5 CAV will not have to go it alone in the BCT's newly expanded terrain. I am happy to report that planned battle space adjustments include the return of the 1-82 Fires Battalion (the storied "Dragons") to the Ironhorse. For those who might not have known, the brigade's organic field artillery battalion has been task organized under our brother brigade (the 3/82 Airborne "Panthers") to the south since March. Although Ironhorse has missed having the Dragons with us during that time frame, the battalion has done a phenomenal job bringing stability to the rural areas on the southeast border of Baghdad City – in a large area that includes historic trouble spots like the town of Jisr Diyala. The Dragons have done such an effective job of stabilizing that area, making the timing right to pass off that terrain to another unit, and employ the Dragons in the Ironhorse brigade's expanded area of responsibility. Even as I write, the Dragons are headed back to their old (from OIF 06-08) base at Taji. From this location, the battalion will be responsible for three different "hot-gun" locations throughout Multi-National Division – Baghdad. But the Dragons will also serve as a maneuver force. The unit will partner with an Iraqi Army brigade and take on responsibility for security and civil capacity growth in a large area due west of Taji. The task is well within this outfit's capability, as 1-82 FA conducted its entire train-up at home station, including an NTC rotation, in anticipation of being "dual-missioned" as a landowning and precision indirect fires unit in Iraq. In the Dragon's, Ironhorse has the ideal team to handle the enemy support zone that lies west of Taji.

As the brigade's responsibilities expand, the headquarters will have to adjust as well. At present, Ironhorse employs two separate command posts (CPs). There is a forward CP at JSS Rash-eed, co-located with our primary partner, the 11th Iraqi Army Division. The Brigade Deputy Commander (DCO), LTC Von Brickhouse, leads that command and control (C2) node, and carries out the brigade's coordination with the Iraqi Rusafa Area Command (RAC). The RAC, in turn, directs all Iraqi military activity on the east side of the Tigris River. The Ironhorse Brigade's main command post will remain at JSS WarEagle. WarEagle is the place where Ironhorse 6 and 9, BSTB Cdr (and DCO for Civil Capacity) COL Maria Zumwalt, an embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, and the brigade staff all call home. But as the BCT accepts responsibility for the area surrounding Camp Taji, it must establish a C2 node there as well.

Continued on Pg 12

“Hotsteel” Joint Air Assault

Story by Pfc. Adam Halleck

JISR DIYALA, Iraq – The sound of Apaches echoed from above, as Soldiers from both the Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces furiously searched the small island for weapons caches or other criminal activity. The island, which is nestled in the middle of the Tigris River near the city of JISR Diyala, was used in the past to store illegal weapons and fire rockets and mortars into population centers on the east side of the river. The Soldiers of “Hotsteel” Battery planned, rehearsed and executed a successful combined air assault mission onto the island with officers, NCOs and Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Division. The objective of the mission was to not only search for weapons caches, but also to serve notice to the criminals operating in the area that Iraqi and U.S. Forces will not permit militant activity to occur in and around the island, and that no place is safe for them.

“We will continue to patrol and search this island on a regular basis,” announced the battalion operations officer, Maj. Lee T. Overby, a native of Houston, Texas. “We are sending a message to the criminal networks that we, alongside the Iraqi National Police, will remain vigilant and maintain our presence in the area.”

With Apache helicopters from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade providing air support, and Blackhawk helicopters providing transportation, the versatile combat operation was executed without incident. Once they arrived at the landing zone, Soldiers from both the Iraqi and American forces were off the helicopters and within minutes they had already began their swift and thorough search of the island. Within two hours, the mission was complete and the island was cleared. “It’s missions like these that are truly beneficial to the local forces,” said Staff Sgt. Wilson Lubin, a native of Columbia, South Carolina. “It expands their repertoire and



El Cajon, Calif. native Spc. Allen Blackard leads a group of Soldiers from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, as they search for weapons caches on an island that lays in the middle of the Tigris River near JISR Diyala. (Photo by Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas, AFN)



Pagsanjan Laguna, Philippines cache during an air assault near the city of JISR Diyala.

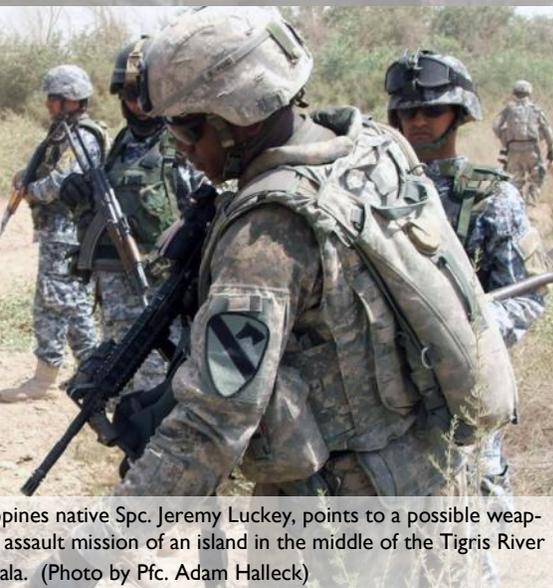
... provides versatility to ISF

confidence, as well as the confidence of the local residents that their security forces can provide adequate security for them.”

In a war fueled more on perception than statistics, maintaining a strong presence and elevating their versatility does wonders for the Iraqi National Police. Jisr Diyala, once a stronghold for insurgency, has become a bustling area that is willingly embracing the local security forces and the government of Iraq. With the new security agreement in full effect, the mission of the “Dragon” battalion has changed from day to day patrols oriented at leading security to their current role as advisors, helping the local Iraqi Security Forces when needed. Joint operations such as the island air assault provide newfound experience and flexibility between U.S. and Iraqi forces that appear to have endless boundaries. Utilizing the technology and capabilities provided by the United States Army only expands the lim-

itless growth of local security forces within the region. “The National Police are proving they are a serious security force,” explained Waxahachie, Texas native Sgt. Robert Santos. “I think the people of Jisr Diyala and all of Iraq should be confident in the ability all of their security forces to protect them. They continue to grow and expand their knowledge of combat operations to help secure the citizens of Iraq.”

It’s been a little over a week since the Iraqi Security Forces secured control of the cities within the country. In the greater Jisr Diyala area, the local security forces are proving they are ready to take the reins of the day to day operations. The Soldiers of “Hotsteel” Battery, as well as the “Dragon” Battalion, remain accessible for the security forces anytime they are needed, providing an operational partnership and bond that stretches further than combat operations.



...pines native Spc. Jeremy Luckey, points to a possible weapon-assault mission of an island in the middle of the Tigris River area. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

Photo by: Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas, AFN

“Muleskinners” prepare for relocation

By Pfc. Bailey Jester

JSS WAREAGLE, Iraq – Medics from Company C, 115th “Muleskinners” Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division began packing July 28 to relocate from Joint Security Station War Eagle to Camp Taji, Iraq.

“This is going to be a big move, we are anticipating more patients and responsibility once we arrive,” said Chino, Calif. native Sgt. David Freston, day shift non-commissioned officer in charge. “We will be responsible for about 20,000 people.”

“Muleskinner” medics are currently running a level two aid station out of a level one facility.

“A level two aid station has the ability to run lab work and take x-rays,” said Spc. Ruth Freston, a Co. C team leader. “Overall a level two is more advanced than a level one, which holds fewer patients and is not as well equipped.”

Moving to a bigger aid station, responsible for housing more supplies and treating a significantly larger amount of patients, may present several challenges.

“Being in a bigger facility with more responsibility will create more work for me and my Soldiers, and I strongly believe

“...I strongly believe that we are capable and ready for this challenge”

that we are capable and ready for this challenge,” said Sgt. Freston.

Although the responsibility of these Soldiers is growing, it isn’t the only challenge they are going to face.

To ensure that the equipment will make it to Camp Taji safely and in one piece, it will all be inventoried, tightly packed, checked and double-checked.

The inventory process includes conducting a thorough inspection of everything from high value items, such as x-ray and dental machines, to basic medical supplies.

The high value items will be secured in their cases and tightly packed into connexes to reduce the amount of shifting and sliding while en route.

“Making sure that all the equipment is accounted for and packed to ensure nothing will be broken or misplaced is harder than you would think,” said Spc. Freston.

While working on inventorying the equipment, Leesville, La. native, Cpl. Brett Montville, x-ray technician, said he was excited about the move to Taji.

“There is more to do in your free time and definitely better food,” he said. Then after chuckling to himself, he added, “but I will miss the people here.”

The “Muleskinners” headquarters is already based out of Camp Taji, which is one reason Ruth Freston is excited to be heading back.

“Not only will we be closer to our

battalion, but we will be closer to a bigger and better dining facility,” Ruth Freston said jokingly.

In order to help make the change-over process go as smooth and painless as possible, medics from the unit will stay behind to work with the new incoming medics.

“We will work right-seat, left-seat with the unit there at Taji and the one coming here to replace us,” said Ruth Freston. “This will help ensure a smoother transition in the end.”

The “Muleskinners” medics will supply the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. with enough basic medical equipment to begin their mission.

“We want them to be able to hit the ground running when they arrive,” said David Freston.

The Co. C Soldiers are moving to Taji to replace the medics from 382nd Pennsylvania National Guard.

“Not only is it almost time for them to be returning home, but us returning to Taji is a sign of being closer to the end of our deployment,” said Ruth Freston.

Even though relocating back to Camp Taji is exciting to many of the medics, some have mixed feelings about returning.

“I like it here at WarEagle,” said Orange County, Calif. native Pfc. Candice Stark, a medic for the “Muleskinners”, “but I will go wherever the mission takes me.”



Augusta, Ga. native Staff Sgt. Randolph Middlebrook (left) the noncommissioned officer in charge of lab work and Leesville, La. Native Cpl. Brett Montville (right), the x-ray technician work to inventory medical supplies in preparation for movement from JSS WarEagle to Camp Taji.



Gatesville, Texas native Spc. Delila Jones, medic, packs and inventories sick call equipment in preparation for the move.

The Free Shot!

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

Q: I heard a rumor we are leaving in Dec., is that true?

A: As of right now, there is no change to our timeline in regards to redeployment.

Q: When can we wear our patrol caps again?

A: The way the weather is going, we should be switching back to patrol caps in a while.

Q: When are we authorized to salute with our left hand?

A: Uhhh, never. Unless you don't have a right arm. (Check your 3-21.5)

Q: If a Soldier feels that they are being neglected and worked to death, but has too much pride to let the mission go undone, what can he/she do?

A: I don't think I've ever seen anyone actually worked to death.

Q: What is the process to change MOS's if you aren't in your re-up window?

A: The process starts with a visit to the career counselor. Each MOS is different because they all have different manning levels at each pay grade. Do not think of the career counselor as just a "re-up NCO".. They have the capability and the mission to accomplish so much more than most give them credit for.

Q: Is it true that we will be going to Afghanistan next or will we be returning to Iraq?

A: I have no clue what our deployment schedule looks like. The only thing we can do upon our return to homestation is reset the team and prepare for our next deployment, wherever that may be or whenever that may be.

Q: How do I enroll in college classes or get advice when there isn't an ED center on my JSS?

A: Have you ever heard of "goarymed.com"?



	1	8	4				5
7			5	6		9	
9		5		7		1	3
3		6					9
5		2				6	7
8						3	2
	8	3		2		4	1
		7		1	9		3
1				4	2	7	

Easy

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

What are YOUR questions for CSM Norman?
Send them to 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.

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

		6	9			4	5	
	7		1	3			9	
	4							7
					8	1		
			6	2				
		1	5					
3							4	
	1			7	5		6	
	8	2			1	3		

Medium

FAN OUR PAGE ON

facebook

search for Ironhorse BCT

	7						9	
2	8				6			
		3	2				5	8
		4		7	1			
	2	7	9		4	5	1	
			3	5		4		
8	1				5	3		
			1				8	5
	5						6	

Hard

LTC Holmes' letter to Soldiers

The Muleskinners have been deployed for over six months and I am still amazed by the Soldiers motivation and optimistic outlook about the role we are playing to change the plight of the Iraqi people. Our current mission has presented challenges at every turn, but we have executed our combat priorities to standard. As we continue to perform our duties in combat, we WILL and MUST be competent, committed, proud, demanding, calm, caring, confident, fair, loyal, punctual, flexible, safe, and team players all the time.

This is truly a year of transition and is unlike any other deployment. There's no comparison due to the ever and fast changing environment in Iraq and the role we will play in accordance with the Security Agreement that was implemented 1 January 2009. First of all, the signing of this agreement denotes the principal provisions and requirements that regulate our presence, activities, and our withdrawal from Iraq. This agreement serves as a stepping stone to our plan of exiting Iraq. I constantly stress to the unit that everything we do to adhere to the 30 articles under this agreement leads towards a positive end state despite all the changes we undergo that gives the appearance of a unit in disarray. I assure them that we are not in disarray nor is the sky falling, but I will say that all of this has us in a state of flux. However, we are adapting and retooling to meet challenges on every turn. My challenge in all of this is to find innovative ways to communicate timely information to them so that there is an understanding of the direction the battalion will take to achieve our goals.

A few months ago, we embarked upon the first major transition/adjustments (Joint Security Station transfers) within Baghdad and what I believe is the most complex adjustment we will face. The inherent complexity of synchronizing across space and time the actions of echelon-above brigade, organic, and contractor actions took a tremendous effort from everyone within the organization to achieve the commander's intent. This operation required us to support multiple Joint Security Station transfers, expansions, CSS commodity builds, and a continuous sustainment operation. This endeavor was of course intense and equated to the transfer and emplacement of over 2,200 barriers, 150 container housing units, and 150 MILVANs. To execute all of this, it required 223 combat logistics patrols and measured more than 18,000 labor hours by the Muleskinners, 10th Sustainment Brigade logisticians, and Iraqi contractors. The assault pack was definitely the BSB's best friend. A/115th had two CLPs perform continuous operations forward and one CLP maintaining sustainment operations. Amazingly, it only took us 38 days to achieve this logistical feat to transfer nine Joint Security Stations while sustaining the Ironhorsemen.

All of this was not accomplished without challenges and major adjustments to our normal distribution operations. However, the 1st BCT logisticians met these challenges head on and enabled the brigade to accomplish its first major security agreement implementation task. One challenge was the number of simultaneous JSS' to transfer and the aggressive timeline associated with them. The closure of JSS' and displacement of 1st BCT units was a sequential and building operation with multiple second and third order effects. For example, the failure to move 15 CHUs from JSS Apache to JSS Ur on 30 May potentially could have prevented personnel from HHC/2-5CAV from moving out of JSS Sadr City 20 June, which could have prevented us from moving CHUs out of JSS Sadr City destined to JSS Ur/Istiqlaal/War Eagle, which would have prevented JSS Sadr City force protection barrier movement, which could have subsequently caused failure to transfer JSS Sadr City in June and derailed the entire transfer and expansion plan. As we visualized this fight, every major muscle move that the BSB, 10th Sustainment Bde. and Iraqi contractors executed was a no fail requirement. Managers in my Support Operations' Section created an execution timeline to capture all moves and several decision points in order to effectively redirect or surge assets as required to stay on glide path. As we continued to execute, we were also confronted with the problem of maneuvering in small JSS' in which the areas were too tight to properly position our large movement platforms and to make it worse, CHU's were surrounded by T-walls and HESCOs that made it impossible to connect cranes to CHUs. We also used Iraqi contractors to augment our transportation and materiel handling equipment shortfalls. At the start of using contracted support, it was painfully obvious that our JSS transition and expansion plans relied heavily on contractor support, in essence this was a single point of failure. Specifically, our MHE contractor failed to deliver MHE on time or to the correct location two days in a row. On top of the issue of punctuality, we discovered that some of the equipment used by these contractors was substandard and incapable of lifting a 40 foot CHU. We had to emplace multiple mitigation measures to reduce the risk involved with contractor operations. To increase our options, we submitted a Letter of Technical Direction (LOTD) with KBR to use their crane assets in sector at the main effort locations throughout the operation. Finally, and perhaps the most impressive mitigation effort, our Allied Trades section spent an entire day fabricating equipment designed specifically for the movement of CHUs. Once we overcame these challenges with the Iraqi contractors, they were an invaluable asset and contributed to our success.

As we executed, my intent sought to link our efforts to a condition set that allowed capacity within the BSB to establish and maintain an effective partnership with our ISF partnered unit; make a smooth transition to changes that the security agreement will cause and continue to prove our commitment and competence to support the Brigade and help the Iraqi people improve security, their economy, and civil capacity within Iraq. Through all of this, what I asked of the Muleskinners was to embrace the transition and also to remember that as we strive to achieve our mission, Iraq is a sovereign country and all our actions in dealing with the people of Iraq could mean the difference between success with honor or complete failure.

I am very proud of what our Soldiers have achieved over the last six months in this vast and ever changing environment.

We Improve Every Day... PREPARED IN PEACE OR WAR!

Muleskinners!

LTC Gregory R. Holmes



August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Independence Day (Benin) Yorkshire Day
2 International Friendship Day	3	4	5 Independence Day (Burkina Faso)	6 Independence Day (Jamaica)	7 Independence Day (Colombia)	8
9 Independence Day (Singapore) National Women's Day	10 Independence Day (Equador)	11 Independence Day (Chad)	12 International Youth Day	13	14 Independence Day (Pakistan)	15 Independence Day (Bahrain, India, North and South Korea)
16 Independence Day (Cyprus)	17 Independence Day (Indonesia)	18	19 Independence Day (Afghanistan)	20	21	22
23/30 International Day of the Disappeared	24/31 Independence Day (Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago)	25	26	27	28	29

Ironhorse conducts joint ammo training



Clarksville, Tenn. native Chief Warrant Officer Karl Griffith, accountable officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division gives an overview of ammo surveillance. The ammo class was conducted to teach our Iraqi counterparts more about the various types of ammo and their functions. (U.S. Army photo)

Ironhorse will use MAJ Carl Michaud and SGM Richard Burns as the DCO and SGM team at Taji, with the task of coordinating activities for all Ironhorse units at Taji. The C2 node at Camp Taji will also carry out the brigade's partnership with Khark Area Command (KAC) – the Iraqi's controlling headquarters for all ISF units on the west side of the Tigris River. Upon our official assumption of the new battle space, Ironhorse will be the only brigade in MND-B with partnership and C2 responsibilities that include both the RAC and the KAC.

Despite all the movements and battle space adjustments taking place outside Baghdad for the next month, I believe the changes happening inside the city are no less exciting and important for the brigade or this division. And once again, you will find Ironhorse Troopers at the forefront of that change. The most important feature of the brigade's battle space reorganization will happen in 2-5 CAV. The Lancers of 2-5 CAV will play a crucial role inside the city, helping the BCT meet its bilateral security agreement to Iraqi Security Forces while also transforming how we operate in the populated area. Article 4 of the Security Agreement obligates the Coalition to support the ISF in a variety of ways at the Iraqis request. That assistance can take the form of training for ISF units, combined planning and targeting, combined missions together in the city, joint quick reaction forces, escorts for other Coalition members who need secure movement inside Baghdad, or other tasks at the request of the Iraqis. Perhaps the most important contribution Coalition forces can make to Iraqi partners is the provision of various "enablers" (such as UAVs, aerostats, route clearance teams, explosive ordnance teams, or military working dogs to help locate munitions and IEDs).

Inside the densely populated urban areas of Baghdad, the Lancers will provide the Article 4 assistance to the ISF. How will they do it? The Lancers will redesign several of its companies into what we are calling "super-sized" Military Transition Teams (or "Super MiTTs"). The Lancers will use their line companies to provide support to the Iraqi Army Brigade MiTTs. The addition of Lancer units will further enable those MiTTs to provide more robust advice, assistance, training, and support our ISF Partners. This assistance is still necessary because our lasting relationships with the ISF have not gone away. Just the opposite, Ironhorse is still obligated under the Security Agreement to continue our partnership and support to the ISF.

As a result of 2-5 CAV's internal reorganization, the Lancer's will be able support even more ISF units across an even larger area. The battalion will expand from partnership and support to one ISF brigade in the Sadr City area to three ISF brigades in the Rusafa, Adamiyah, and Sadr City districts. Lancers will be doing more support with less boots on the ground, accomplishing our common desire for a reduced "signature" in the urban neighborhoods while retaining enough forces and enablers in the city to help the ISF whenever they need help.

But the changes in store for the Ironhorse Brigade do not end with here. I have just outlined for you the immediate changes taking place over the next month. But if one looks a bit further on the horizon, plans are underway to bring the Stallions of 2-8 CAV back to the Ironhorse brigade as well.

Continued on Pg 16

- Super MiTT Battalion Tasks**

 - Provide C2 to Super MiTTs
 - Provide higher echelon Art 4 enabler support to IA
 - Oversight of Civil Capacity efforts
 - Provide augmentation in support of IA targeting
 - Assist in the Target development of IA targeting
 - Provide Logistical support to Super MiTTs
- Super MiTT Company Team / PLT Tasks**

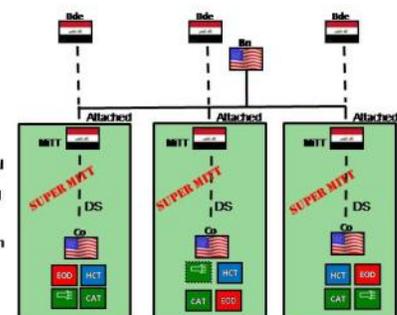
 - Provide Article 4 enabler support
 - Joint Operations Center
 - Force Protection
 - Quick Reaction Force
 - Mission Platoon
 - Training
 - Battle Field Circulation
 - Assist in advisory capacity

- Super MiTT Enabler Tasks**
- Explosives Ordnance Detachment- Train Iraqi Army & Federal Police
 - Human Intel Collection Team- Develop Iraqi Army targets and assist in human intelligence collection
 - Civil Affairs Team- Support & train Civil Capacity efforts
 - Tactical Psypsops Team- Develop & Train Iraqi Army Information Operations Campaign
 - Electronic Warfare Officer- Force Protection & Intelligence
 - Level 1- Provide care in remote isolated JSSs
 - Signal- Provide classified communications ability

Super MiTT Concept (Military Training Team)

Task: To Partner & Advise Iraqi Security Forces

Purpose: To continue the Iraqi Security Forces development into a legitimate and effective force while creating opportunities for the partnered unit to support. And to enable Iraqi Army to secure their operating environment through combined planning, training, and operations



Familiar Faces الله أكبر



“Ironhorse” Commander meets with media

By Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti

JSS WAREAGLE, Iraq—Steadily stampeding, next to the Iraqi Security Forces, in the support stage of the security agreement, the 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, continues to support the ISF when requested.

The “Ironhorse” Brigade transferred nine bases in 45 days, before the June 30th deadline and moved all combat troops out of the cities in compliance with the security agreement. Much of their mission now, is to stand by, ready to help, if requested by the ISF.

Sioux Falls, S.C. native Col. Tobin Green, commander of the “Ironhorse” Brigade held a media roundtable July 30 to further address his unit’s new mission. “The ISF are officially fully in control,” he stated.

During the relaxed engagement, Green explained to the media that “the actual transition from Coalition Forces to ISF in the lead has happened over a period of months.”

In attendance were curious reporters from National Broadcasting Company and Agency France Press with realistic hopes of better understanding the current status of Coalition Forces after the June 30 combat troop withdrawal from cities.

Fully transitioned into the support role, the “Ironhorse” Brigade positioned military training teams to facilitate coordination and provide support to the ISF. Green shared, “our advisory personnel are work-

ing closely with Iraqi staff, to plan and coordinate intelligence sharing, joint targeting, combined operations and mission essential assets or training when needed.”

The “Ironhorse” Brigade established joint operations centers at various locations to link Coalition representatives to their ISF counterparts. JOCs serve as a fusion of command and control—allowing easier communication to coordinate movements, request enabler support and training.

“So far, we have been able to assist by providing unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance and route clearance, access to military intelligence, some logistics, and civil affairs resources,” stated Green.

The “Ironhorse” commander answered all the questions the journalists had. He explained the role the Soldiers of the “Ironhorse” Bde. were playing and the vast improvements made in security and stability in Iraq.

After answering the many questions the journalists had for Green, they enjoyed a light meal and continued comfortable conversation.

“The fact that the ISF can be in the lead, so confident and capable today, is a testament to the effective partnership, training and equipping of the ISF to date. The “Ironhorse” Brigade units and transition teams stand ready to assist the Iraqis with enablers and other forms of support when they need it,” stated Green.



Sioux Falls, S.C. native Col. Tobin Green, commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, conducts a one-on-one interview with Al Ibraqiya June 30. He explained that his unit is now a support element for the Iraqi Security Forces.



Sioux Falls, S.C. native Col. Tobin Green, commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, addresses the media during a Media Roundtable held June 30. Green explained the changes his unit has faced as they continue the different phases of the Security Agreement and the way forward for the people of Iraq.



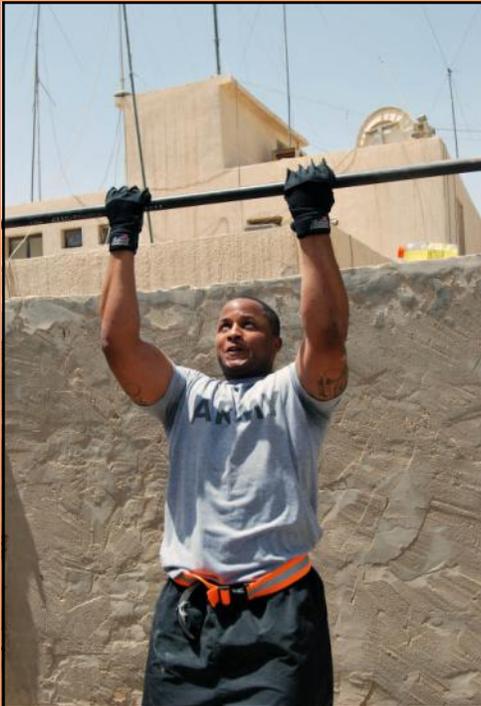
“Black Knight” tests endurance in 1000 competition



Benton, Ill. native Capt. Jason Harvey, the fire support officer for the 1st “Black Knight” Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pulls a sled with over 200 pounds, 100 yards during the “Black Knight” 1000 Competition. “Black Knight” created this partner based 7-event Morale, Welfare and Recreation physical endurance event to raise esprit de corps. (Photo by Lt. Scott Lewis)



Austin, Texas native Staff Sgt. Cliff Conner from the 1st “Black Knight” Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, flips a 110-pound truck tire while competing in the “Black Knight” 1000 Competition. The competition consisted of a 7-event course that required partners to try to win. (Photo by Lt. Scott Lewis)



Los Angeles native Spc. Hershell Brown from the 1st “Black Knight” Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, completes 100 pull ups during the “Black Knight” 1000 Competition. The competition consisted of seven partner based events. (Photo by Lt. Scott Lewis)



Killen, Texas native 2nd Lt. Brent Beadle drags a 75-pound Humvee tire 100 yards during the “Black Knight” 1000 Competition. The 1st “Black Knight” Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, held this 7-event partner relay to test the endurance and stamina of the soldiers. (Photo by Lt. Scott Lewis)

More to follow on that development in the weeks ahead, but I am confident that we will rejoin all 1/1 CD units back together over the course of the fall, and set the conditions for a smooth redeployment from this theater for all Ironhorse units – beginning with the Black Knights in December and concluding with the majority of the brigade following Iraqi national elections.

What is Staying the Same?

At the opening of this article I mentioned that the coming weeks would feature both change and continuity. As the preceding paragraphs suggest, there are plenty of things changing right now. Of course, in a place like Iraq change is inevitable and understandable. This is a theater of war. It is still a dangerous place, and there are enemies who seek to do us harm. But there are aspects of the BCT's current operations that we will work hard to sustain as well.

The cornerstone of all our efforts in Iraq is partnership. Professional and friendly cooperation with Iraqi Security Forces, tribal leaders, and local officials is essential to achieving sustainable security and forward momentum. It is all about the power of relationships – trust and transparency – in securing Iraqi support and commitment to working together for the benefit of the people. And nowhere is our partnership stronger than in Garryowen's area of operations throughout the Istiqlal. 1-7 CAV has established model relations with a host of Iraqi leaders in the qada. Troopers and leaders have forged a tremendous partnership with the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Federal Police Division, as well as government leaders and influential sheikhs from the region. These strong bonds between the unit and Iraqis have set the conditions for remarkable progress in reconstruction, reconciliation, and governance. Garryowen's accomplishments offer some continuity for the entire BCT as we move ahead. While the Ironhorse Brigade expands into the Taji / Tarmiyah area, we will sustain the incredible gains our units are making in the Istiqlal Qada, and use the results from the positive partnership there to track our success in Tarmiyah and inside the city following the reorganization in those locations.

The outstanding performance and contributions of the Brigade's Special Troops Battalion will provide another source of continuity for the BCT. No battalion in Baghdad has a more diverse mission set than the Centurions – and no BSTB does it better. In the weeks ahead, Centurion Soldiers will continue to drive partnerships with the 11th Iraqi Army Division's Engineer Regiment, Signal Company, and Intelligence Battalion. They will also expand those relations to embrace new Iraqi units and training opportunities at Taji. Ironhorse BSTB personnel already comprise many of the key members in the brigade's Infrastructure Coordination Element – the organization in the BCT headquarters which directs the Civil Capacity line of effort. Their leadership will be even more important in the future, as the brigade's operational environment increases more than two-fold, and our unit inherits dozens more active projects from the outgoing unit. With the arrival of a second ePRT at Camp Taji, and greater responsibility for managing projects inside the city to assist the Lancer SuperMiTTs, the Centurions will be stretched pretty thin in the months ahead. In that respect, the 1st Special Troops battalion is another unit who will be doing more with less. But I have so much confidence in this organization – and am certain that the Centurions will be a source of extraordinary strength and excellence in the second half of this deployment, just as they have been every day of this deployment to date.

The Muleskinner Battalion has been a stabilizing force for this brigade throughout its train-up and deployment into theater. And the extraordinary service provided by the 115th Support Battalion has only gotten better during Operation Iraqi Freedom. By any metric, this support battalion has accomplished more than other units of its type in Iraq.

Continued on Pg 17

The 115th BSB has delivered more supplies to Soldiers, and conducted more combat logistics patrols than its peers. At the same time, Muleskinner Soldiers have established a strong partnership with the 11th Iraqi Army Division's Transport Regiment, and supported the Iraqi units themselves on occasion. When the ongoing transitions are complete, the BSB will assume five new relationships with Iraqi logistics units, as well as support responsibilities across an expansive operational environment. In response to new requirements, the BSB has devised an innovative logistics approach that incorporates both aerial resupply from helicopters and an Iraqi truck company to carry some of the brigade's supplies to Soldiers on JSSs in distant or dangerous locations. This new distribution concept increases the BCT's ability to resupply all of its subordinate units, while also improving force protection for our combat service support Soldiers. The remarkable achievements of our Muleskinner Troopers represent a third area of certain continuity for the Ironhorse team throughout the remainder of this deployment.

So there you have it – delivered over the course of two magazine editions – a thorough assessment of where the Ironhorse Brigade stands at the midpoint of its OIF rotation, and a close look at our collective way ahead over the next several months. In the near future, you will likely hear stories from a variety of Ironhorse Troopers - talking about a new mission, a new area of operations, or perhaps new living arrangements at Camp Taji. Our officer and NCO leadership will do everything they can to ensure these transitions place the least possible burden on your loved one. By working as a team, and staying committed to each other, the Ironhorse BCT has surpassed every expectation and passed every test. But our success has not come without costs. Several Soldiers have been very seriously injured during the deployment, and two other Ironhorse Troopers lost their lives in Iraq. Those men and their families never leave our thoughts and prayers. But our mission is far from over, and Iraq remains an environment mixed with danger and opportunity. Command Sergeant Major Norman and I ask that you join us in rededicating ourselves to the next six months – to the tasks ahead, the Iraqi forces we support, and the people we protect. We must work together – one team – one purpose - at Fort Hood and in Iraq – to finish strong and return every Ironhorse Trooper to their loved ones.

**STAY AFTER THE ENEMY!
IRONHORSE NEVER QUILTS!
TEAM FIRST!**

**TOBIN L. GREEN
COL, CAVALRY
Commanding**



Wolf Academy teaches tested tactics

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

JSS ISTIQLAAL, Iraq – The Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment have spent the last six months refining their tactics, techniques and procedures in northeastern Baghdad. Raids, detainee searches, questioning suspects, cache searches, and evidence collection were everyday occurrences for the cavalry scouts of Blackhawk Troop, until the Security Agreement transformed their mission June 30.

Now, they pass their knowledge, skills, and experiences to their National Police counterparts during an ongoing block of classes titled Wolf Academy, at Joint Security Station Istaqlaal, here, July 28.

“Now with the new Security Agreement, we want to make sure the NPs know what they’re doing so they have confidence when they get out in sector [patrolling the streets],” said Spc. David Croft, a cavalry scout gunner assigned to the 1st Sqdn., 7th Cav. Regt., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Division, after he finished showing the class how to properly search a detainee.

“They’re always out there [on patrol] and since June 30, we’re here [on the base] for their support,” added Croft, a native of Plant City, Fla. “We give ’em these classes so when they’re out there taking care of their own country they will have

the know-how to collect evidence and if a guy goes to jail, they can show the judge the intelligence they’ve collected.”

The instruction for the day focused on the aftermath and the proper steps to take following a successful raid.

“These classes allow the ISF to further develop sites they raid,” said 1st Lt. Aaron Shattuck, a cavalry scout platoon leader from West Point, N.Y., assigned to 1st Sqdn., 7th Cav. Regt. “We’ve been out on quite a few raids and cache searches and when we give these classes, we tweak them a little so it’s effective for this environment.”

“The NPs are very efficient with doing things on their own...”

About 30 National Police asked questions and participated in collecting and labeling evidence, searching detainees, cross-examining suspects and searching areas for weapon caches.

According to Shattuck, the students learn a basic level of knowledge that is tested in combat daily.

“Whenever we go out in sector, it’s ISF lead,” explained Shattuck. “We pass off our knowledge to them...so when we go out in sector they’ll be able to show us what they’ve learned in the classes we’ve taught them.”

The tactics learned by the Soldiers while patrolling are integrated into the academy and, in turn, are soaked up by the NPs before they test the lessons on the streets. Not learning the information presented during Wolf Academy by the battle-tested cavalry Soldiers could have dire consequences for the students.

“Of course it might save my life, or the life of one of my fellow shirtas [policemen],” said policeman Ali

Abas Kadhem, assigned to the Iraqi Emergency Reaction Unit. “If you get into a house and don’t know this training, it’s very dangerous.”

Throughout the day’s lectures and practical exercises, the students remained aware of the importance of the lessons learned.

“It’s useful and very important classes,” Ali continued. “I feel very proud and thank the Coalition forces for that. It’s a big responsibility for us to be out in the community and we’re proud that we keep them [the Iraqi civilians] safe.”

“The NPs are very efficient with doing things on their own,” added Croft after the classes finished for the day. “The biggest thing is trying to give them our know-how so they can take over and try their best to be as efficient as us...we just can’t leave them high and dry.”

And according to Shattuck, the scouts of Blackhawk Troop won’t. Their tactics, techniques and procedures are being absorbed and adapted by their ISF partners in a new phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom by the joint venture called Wolf Academy. Though they may not be patrolling the streets every day any more, they’re at ease knowing their six-months of battle-tested experiences are still out on the streets.



Spc. David Croft (right), and his fellow scouts teach their National Police counterparts classes on what to do after a raid during an ongoing instruction block known as Wolf Academy at JSS Istiqlaal July 28.



An Iraqi National Police officer searches a fellow police officer during a training exercise for Wolf Academy as Spokane, Wash. native Sgt. Aaron Eckert (left), a cavalry scout, looks on at JSS Istiqlaal July 28.

“Stallions” partner with community organizations

Story by Sgt. Karl Williams

FORT HOOD, Texas – Developing community partnerships is an important part to being an integral part of a vibrant community in Central Texas. However, for Soldiers in Iraq these community partnerships are just as important.

Celebrate Killeen Committee of Killeen Volunteers, Inc., Copperas Cove High School, 1st Cavalry Association, and the Iraqi Security Forces have each formed a unique partnership with the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The purpose of these partnerships is to develop and reinforce ties between military and civilian communities by promoting community relations and mutual understanding, said 2nd “Stallion” Battalion, 8th Cavalry commander Lt. Col Mark Solomons.

“These partnerships create bonds that are instrumental for all sides understanding each other. Partnerships like these produce give-and-take relationships between Soldiers and civilians that last over time. We get to know what types of support these organizations can offer us, and vice versa, they find out what level of support the “Stallions” can provide for them,” said Solomons.

The partnership between CKC and the “Stallion” Battalion is one of many that exist between company and battalion-level units at Fort Hood and community organizations.

Shortly after the unit deployed to Iraq, CKC sponsored an initial get to know you appreciation barbecue for its newly Adopt-A-Unit Soldiers and family members.

Raymond Perez, member of CKC, said since the “Stallions” deployed in February, CKC members have kept in touch with the unit’s rear detachment commander, Capt. Robert Stigers and offered their supported to the Soldiers and family members.

“Whatever support they need, we are determined to help them with,” said Perez, from Killeen, Texas. “We don’t care about the recognition; we just want to help out.”

Another community partner promoting cooperation and community involvement during 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt’s deployment is CCHS. It’s been 2-8 Cav. Regt, Adopt-A-School partner for more than five years.

Amal Baty, a University Interscholastic League Academic & Activities Coordinator at CCHS, said Soldiers from the “Stallion” Bn., bring a positive message to students here about the other responsibilities that they play in the community, and at the same time gives students positive role-models to emulate.

“The “Stallion” Soldiers are wonderful, and Lt. Col. Solomons... he is the man!” said Baty, from Nazareth, Israel. “Even from Iraq, he’s a man of action, and I like that.”

Since the deployment they’ve contacted him from time-to-time to let him know what their needs were, and soon after someone from his brigade contacted us, coordinated efforts, and got it done. They can’t say enough good things about the Soldiers from 2nd Bn. 8th Cav. Regt., Baty said.

On the other hand the partnership between the “Stallions” and veteran fraternal organization 1st Cav. Assn. holds an historical significance for all 1st Cav. Soldiers.

With periodic reunions, current 1st Cav. Soldiers and veterans have a chance to make and preserve old friendships.

The legend that the present 1st Cav. Soldiers, to include the

current “Stallion” Soldiers, are living was written by veterans Soldiers from the “Stallion” Bn. and other Soldiers throughout the division, and that’s an important part of this partnership, said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Webster, 1st Cav. Assistant Executive Director.

“It’s important for active duty units like 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. to maintain contact with their former brigade veterans; they’re a part of their history, their tradition, and their legacy,” said Webster, from Copperas Cove, Texas. “The 1st Cavalry Division talks about ‘Living the legend’, well the “Stallion” veteran Soldiers and others like them have already lived that legend.”

In the same way forming community partnerships in Iraq are just as important for “Stallion” Soldiers as the ones back here at home.

By partnering with the ISF we are now part of the neighborhood family. The more the community trusts them the more they are willing to work with them and not against us, Solomons said.

“Not a day goes by where the Stallions and their Iraqi Army counterparts aren’t on the streets conducting combined patrols in and around the [districts],” said Solomons.

“Operating by, with and through our Iraqi security partners, we isolate the enemy intimidating the people. At the end of the day success equals the people of Iraq secure, the enemy resurgence denied, and our partnership with the Iraqis strengthened.”

Solomons added the people in the communities know they can count on us and we can count on them.

The bonding that comes together from community organizations and the military is instrumental in both of them understanding each other; it’s almost like a marriage.

In the true spirit of partnership and cooperation we overcome hurdles and obstacles together, Solomons said.



A smiling citizen of Fira Shia area west of Baghdad walks past Pvt. Matthew Schnell with a bag of humanitarian food. The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment partnered along with their Iraqi counterparts delivered over 100 bags of rations to the citizens at the al-Todook School. (U.S. Army photo)



IRONHORSEMAN