

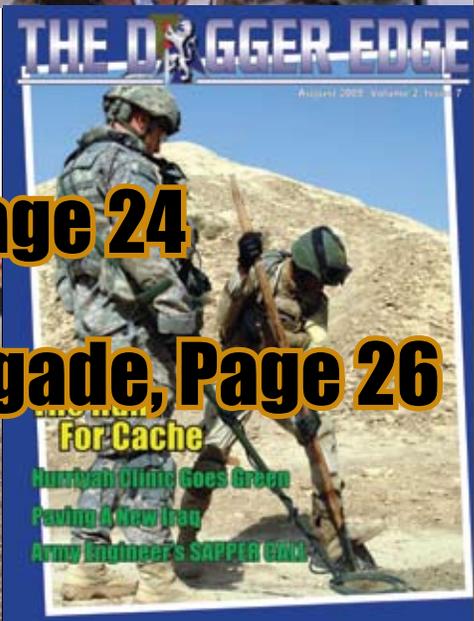
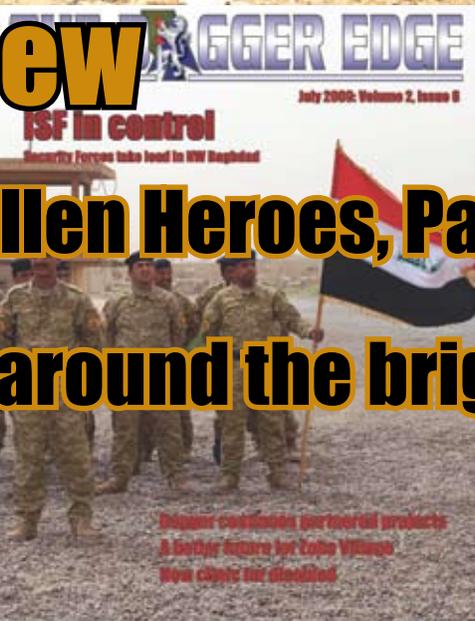
THE DAGGER EDGE



September 2009: Volume 2, Issue 8



Year in Review



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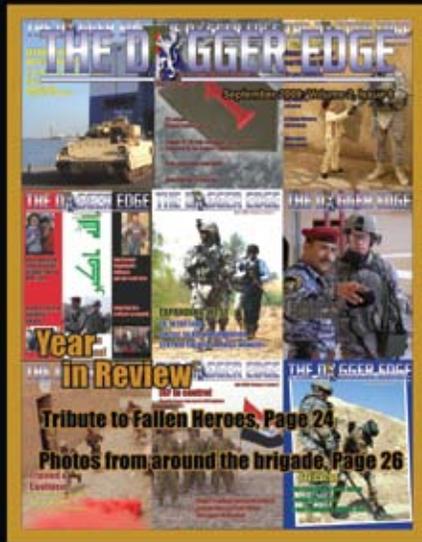
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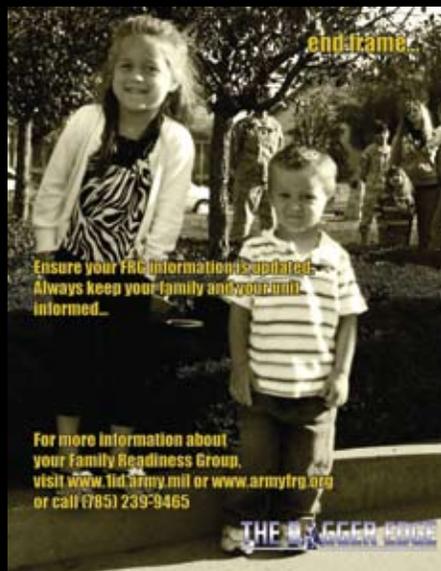
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In this special issue of the Dagger Edge, take a look at memorable photos from each Dagger unit, as well as fresh stories right off the press. The rumors are true -- It's the Year in Review!



◀ *A compilation of the Dagger Edge Magazines released during the Dagger Brigade's 2008-2009 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

▶ *Haven't updated your FRG info? Make sure your family and your unit is informed of all the opportunities available to you. Visit the Dagger FRG website for more information.*



The Dagger Edge
Informing the Dagger Community on the issues and events throughout the brigade.

September 2009: Vol. 2, Issue 8

2HBCT Commander
Col. Joseph M. Martin

2HBCT Command Sergeant Major
Donald L. Battle

2HBCT Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Koné C. Faulkner

2HBCT PAO NCOIC
Sgt. Brian Tierce

The Dagger Edge Staff

Editor/ Lead Designer
Sgt. Dustin Roberts

Designer
Spc. Jamie Mannion

To contact us, email suggestions to:

Email: brian.d.tierce@mnd-b.army.mil

Website: www.1id.us.army.mil/unitpage.aspx?unit=2bct

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Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the Command Information Division of the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.

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DAGGER SIX

2HBCT COMMANDER
COLONEL JOSEPH M. MARTIN



The Year of Transitions -- 2009 in Iraq

Fellow Dagger Soldiers, Civilians, and Leaders, as we finish strong in September, maintaining our momentum and sustaining our victories against a ruthless enemy, I remain the proudest commander in the Big Red One and Multi-National Division Baghdad. What a tremendous year...a "Year of Transitions"...where the Dagger Brigade Combat Team etched another chapter into its long history that began in 1917 in the muddy foxholes of World War I. Perhaps you haven't noticed some of the remarkable changes and achievements credited to our Brigade Combat Team since November of 2008. Let me take a few moments to sum up a few of the bigger ones for the team.

1. Security. The cornerstone from which all other brigade missions are based upon is better than ever in our section of Iraq. We're enjoying some of the lowest attack averages since the Fall of 2003. Since our arrival, attacks have decreased by almost 40% with an average per day of less than two in an area that experienced more than 30 attacks per day just over two years ago! What an amazing achievement in the face of a ruthless and ever-evolving enemy! All credit goes to Soldiers and Leaders at Company and below who relentlessly attacked the enemy, then stood watch and protected the people of Iraq. When RKG-3 attacks threatened to paralyze the main supply arteries to Coalition and Iraqi forces, for example, you pounced on the high-threat areas, denying them from use by the enemy. When EFPs and IEDs threatened our daily movements, you established over watch positions and dismounted to clear on foot—unleashing a vigilance that forced the enemy off Iraqi highways and roads. We have captured 250 insurgents to date, 12 of whom were High Value Individuals wanted throughout Baghdad. And, we sustain the highest number of warranted targets of any brigade in the division, over 4500, preparing our forces for swift detentions and prosecutable cases. Our core mission remained "...to protect the Iraqi people..." throughout the entire year and you have performed magnificently!

2. National Reconciliation. The Daggers and Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (West) has assisted in the return of more than 23,000 families who were forcibly displaced from their homes, easing the tensions within neighborhoods, districts, and throughout Northwest Baghdad. By first assuring security, then meticulously targeting to deter and prevent resettlement violence, then partnering with our Iraqi Security Force colleagues to influence their participation in the process, we set the conditions every day for the return to normalcy that Iraqis so richly deserve and desire. The echoes of sectarian violence are fading through your tremendous efforts, and it will be one of our many legacies. We also introduced more NGOs and Humanitarian Organizations into our area than any other Brigade, bringing much-needed relief to the citizens in crisis. Well done, Daggers!

3. Partnership. The Daggers have attained new levels of confidence in our Iraqi Security Partners, the 6th Division, 6th Brigade of the Federal Police, and the local police districts. We identified that they must carry forward the gains in security that we've combined to achieve, and they're READY NOW thanks to your efforts. Dagger units and leaders weren't just satisfied with the normal types

of partnerships—patrols, raids, cordons and searches, training—so we took it upon ourselves to develop counter-IED capabilities through our 2nd BSTB, and we tackled the unbelievably difficult task of fixing Iraqi Army Logistics by the herculean efforts of the 299th BSB. We embedded our command posts after 1 July to ensure that we could remain aware of all actions within the Iraqi security areas and sustain our coaching of their staffs and leaders. In essence, your efforts established an "Environment of Excellence" for the Iraqi security forces to flourish and provide the much-needed mantle of security that will provide for their future as a nation.

4. Civil Capacity Development. With improving security and stronger ISF partners comes the ability for local and regional civil capacity development. The Daggers have amassed a staggering array of programs and projects inside our over 400 square mile area. Over 280 CERP-funded projects have been opened, managed, or closed by Dagger brigade units, totaling over \$33.6 million worth of funds bringing relief and assistance to Iraqi civil infrastructure. The efforts by Daggers exceeded just CERP-funded events, reaching out to humanitarian agencies, international relief organizations and Iraqi institutions to infuse much-needed relief into the war-stressed areas of Northwest Baghdad and Abu Ghraib. Additionally, we fostered and mentored local government to be even more effective than we've seen them when we started and they will drive the engine of change up to the national elections for Parliament and the Prime Minister's position in the Fall of 2009.

As I close, take a moment to remember our brothers in arms from 4-10 Cavalry, and 4-42 Field Artillery, 2-112 Infantry (Stryker), A/403rd Civil Affairs, and of course, 2-8 Cavalry who will carry the legacy forward with our replacements, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker). They shared our foxholes and endured the same strain of combat to yield the same rewards and accomplishments. They are heroes and always our brothers- and sisters-in-arms. There are many and are now and always will be DAGGER Soldiers. Remember Private First Class Benjamin Tollefson, HHC, 2nd HBCT and Specialist Chad Edmundson, 2nd Bn., 112th Inf. Regt., who made the ultimate sacrifice as we pursued Iraqi freedom. They'll always be in our hearts and their Families in our prayers. We are better for having served with them both.

I said before in January 2009, and it remains true that "...every day, we leave it all on the field...". No Dagger rests at night without having given 100% of themselves to this mission, and now it's time to get back home, rejoin our communities, our friends, and our Families-the next phase of this campaign...reset. 

COL. JOSEPH MARTIN

Dagger 6

**"Polite, Professional, Prepared to Kill...
Ready Now!"**



DAGGER SEVEN

2HBCT COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
DONALD L. BATTLE



Success in partnership

Daggers, first I would like to say thank you for a job well done. It is just hard to believe that our time for departure is nearly here. I will be the first to admit that we as a brigade have exceeded beyond anyone's expectations. Regardless of the changes that came the Daggers' way, we adapted and overcame.

A month from now a lot of you will be asked to tell your story. As professionals we tell the truth, we tell it the way it is and we tell it with pride. I say this for a reason. Just think about it, there were a lot of great things happening in our OE as a partnership. It could not have happened if it wasn't for the relationship we had with our Iraqi partners working daily side by side. You made a difference in their lives and they also made a difference in ours. I would ask that you not focus on what you thought it should have been but what reality was. There are many ways to be successful and your way may not be the same as your counterpart. I would say that their solutions are working for their problems and improvements are happening every day. Just think about the drop in violence since our arrival. That was a reflection of you and your counterparts attacking the problems and providing more than one solution.

I would ask that you thank your partners as we get ready to move out the door. As your replacements come on board, show them what worked and what did not work. Let them know about the strong partnership you made in a year and how they can improve it even more. Don't give them the short version during your RIP/TOA as they will have time for the long version. We did not cut corners so don't allow them to. I know some of you will be gone by the time your replacements arrive but have that continuity book that is user friendly and will set them up for total success.

Soldiers of the Dagger Brigade, keep safety in mind. There are so many things that this brigade is moving forward on to make your return as smooth as possible. Accidents can happen at any time or any place when we are thinking well beyond the finish line. NCOs, continue to step up to the plate. Let's take care of our warriors. Don't allow anyone to get complacent, lose focus or get too relaxed. It could

cost a life.

I would also ask that each of you take the time to spend with your families. Remember, some of them had the hardest jobs back at home station. It is especially hard on families with little ones so think about it if you fall in that category. I expect everyone to take advantage of the first 96 hours upon return and relax. I also expect you all to return after the 96 hours and prepare for re-integration. Once the mandatory tasks and checks are complete, I advise you to take leave, kick off your boots and spend quality time with your loved ones. This time is well-deserved for you and your families.

When you look at the successes and the hardships of this deployment, know that your contribution to Operation Iraqi Freedom didn't just affect a nation for the better, but the entire world. Well done, Daggers. 



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. DONALD L. BATTLE

Dagger 7

"Nothing Further"



100th YEAR OF THE
UNITED STATES
ARMY
1878-2018

ARMY

ARMY





An honor and a privilege

Fellow Daggers and Silver Lions!

The Deputy Commander has long been a curious position. Considered by many to be the “unicorn” of the headquarters--a mythical creature that appears only when needed in combat--the Deputy Commander, “DCO”, or in some cultures, Deputy Brigade Commander (DBC), is actually one of the coolest jobs in the brigade. First of all, I work for one guy, the Commander! Too many of us have too many bosses, but in this case, I only hear one voice a day giving me orders. Second, I get to hang out with the Deputy Commanding Generals and have a “Deputy” moment, and we all smile knowingly at how it’s really cool being us. Another thing to consider is when I need something to get done, I just have to say, “hey, I’m the DCO!”, and people actually stir, wake-up a little, and pay attention. With a staff full of Lieutenant Colonels, it’s also nice to be the oldest of the group. Deputy Commanders get a PSD--a rather cool privilege--and we go where the Commander isn’t able to go, but we know he would go there if he had time. Then, at the end of the day, when Dagger 6 and I are chatting, and we’re talking about our day, he hears about mine and cries out, “Hey! I wanted to go there, too!” The PSD and I get to meet a lot of really interesting Americans, Iraqis, and other internationals every day. There was even a superstar--Miss Angelina Jolie--who I hosted on behalf of the Brigade Commander because he was on leave. See? Very cool to be the DCO.

The most important privilege about being Dagger 65 this year, however, is that I was honored to remain with this great brigade, the people who work and breathe life into it every day, and enjoy the camaraderie of the Soldiers, NCOs, and Leaders who answer the greeting, “Daggers, sir!”, with the counter-sign of, “READY NOW!” We are a unique set of personalities and characters, and there will never be another staff like this one. We’ll break apart, and we’ll be re-assigned elsewhere or even out of the Army, but for these few months in Iraq,

in the City of Baghdad, we were at the top of our games, and nobody can take that away from us. You’ve made life-long friends this past year and I challenge you all to stay in touch--keep up the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood. Don’t let time and separation undo what we’ve worked so hard to weld together.

It’s my distinct honor to be a senior Dagger Leader, a mentor, and a friend with all of you. My door is always open to anyone who needs something in the future if you served here with me and proudly wear the combat patch of the BIG RED ONE! 

**POLITE, PROFESSIONAL,
PREPARED TO KILL--READY
NOW! DUTY FIRST!
LT. COL.
CHRISTOPHER BECKERT**



▲ Lt. Col. Christopher Beckert, a native of Madison, Conn., deputy commanding officer, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, discusses with Sheik Maqمود al-Falahi at the Um al-Qura Mosque in the Ghazaliya district of northwest Baghdad Jan. 12. The meeting was to speak about the progress of displaced people, who left Hurriyah due to sectarian violence in early 2008, returning to their homes in Hurriyah.
(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B)

Mr. Mark Powell ePRT (W) Team Leader

Gratitude to the Dagger Brigade

“Why are we here today, Sir?”

I was asked this question by a Dagger Soldier on one of my very first missions outside the Victory Base Complex. Standing in the heat near an isolated farmhouse in rural Abu Ghraib, he was referring specifically to the work that day of an embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team. As I recall, my well-intentioned response described our task as increasing local Iraqi civil capacity, improving governance, and fostering reconciliation, but I owed that Soldier a more insightful answer, and I hope in this brief message to provide an answer to him and all of you.

I should have said, we were there that morning to advance, at a grassroots level, the President’s policy objective of ensuring “an Iraq that is sovereign, stable, and self-reliant.” With that as our guiding principle, we have worked closely with the Dagger Brigade to foster greater accountability of local Iraqi officials to their citizens; provide training to police officers and judicial officials to increase their professionalism, competence, and accountability; enable more effective local governance of Karkh, Khadimiya, Mansour, and Abu Ghraib; initiate Public Works Substations to bring essential services to areas of northwest Baghdad that had not seen adequate public service support (such as clean water) since 2003; provide opportunities for women whose horizons had traditionally been more limited; and, with brigade funding, conceive and implement a Mobile Rural Support Team to provide essential services to under-served areas of remote Abu Ghraib.

Through it all, the Dagger Brigade has provided an essential security platform from which the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have been able to implement a range of programs designed to establish a foundation for long-term cooperation between the U.S. and Iraq. None of what we have accomplished

together would have been possible without the unwavering commitment of Dagger Brigade Soldiers.

We of the ePRT – civilian and military -- are deeply impressed by your courage, professionalism, selflessness, and dedication to duty. Within your ranks, from top to bottom, is everything great about our country.

Daggers, you leave some very large shoes to fill. The ePRT wishes each of you all the best. 

Mark J. Powell
U.S. Department of State
Team Leader, ePRT Baghdad
West



▲ *Kamil Abbas, chairman of the Abu Ghraib District Council (left center, in black suit) and Shahr Fiza, Quimaqam of Abu Ghraib, cut the ceremonial ribbon signifying the establishment of the Mobile Rural Support Team outside of the Abu Ghraib Youth Center July 26. The MRST will help the citizens of Abu Ghraib with essential services such as trash and sewage removal. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B)*





A message from Vanguard 6

Greetings to the Friends and Families of all Vanguards, we hope this finds you well! As the school year is set to begin back at Fort Riley, the Vanguards continue to do well as we sprint toward the finish line here during our final days in Iraq. Our Iraqi partners are also excelling as we follow and support them in providing security to the people of northwest Baghdad. We have entered our final transition period of this deployment, and every day is an opportunity for us to finish strong and accomplish what we came here to do.

We remain exceptionally busy due in large part to the fact that we recently expanded our area of operations again. The Vanguards are now responsible for assisting our Iraqi partners in an area that encompasses 275 square kilometers and is home to 3.1 million Iraqis. Our area now stretches from the International Zone in the heart of Baghdad all the way to southern edge of the U.S. Base in Taji. Keeping up with our two partnered Iraqi Security Force Brigades, comprised of 10 battalions with over 7,000 Soldiers and Federal Policeman is enough to fill each day, but when combined with all of the tasks we are doing in preparation for redeployment we remain constantly on the go. No worries – the Vanguards have yet to ever encounter any myriad of tasks that we can't handle

simultaneously.

It is now but a short time until we walk off the plane and are reunited at Fort Riley, and I'm sure every Soldier and Family member is eagerly waiting for that day. What I continue to ask of each of you, however, is that you consider this not just as a time to be endured until we redeploy, but rather that each of the remaining days we have here is an opportunity to continue to make a difference in the world and finish our mission strong. When we get home, we will enter the final phase of the deployment which is reintegration. My promise to each of you is that we will ensure every Soldier is set up for success and prepared for the future by conducting efficient and effective reintegration while providing lots of time for each of us to enjoy our friends and Family that we have missed so much for the last year. Stay on task, Vanguards, we are almost there, but much remains to be done to set those that follow us up for the same success that we have enjoyed! As always, thank you for your tremendous sacrifices - you all continue to make an incredible difference in the world by winning the right way every day. It remains the most humbling experience of my life to have the awesome privilege of commanding this exceptional unit!

Lt. Col. John Vermeesch - Vanguard 6



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1 - Soldiers with Co. A, 1-18 Inf. Regt. secure the 2nd floor of a building after clearing rooms looking for enemy fighter during training held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait in October.

2 - Lt. Col. John Vermeesch and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Smith, 1-18th Inf. Regt. uncased the Vanguard colors Nov. 15.

3 - A Soldier of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, stands guard outside the Al-Farooq Mosque Dec. 3 in the Hurriyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad.

4 - 1st Lt. Ryan Fisher, 1-18 Inf. Regt. high-fives children during the Iraqi Provincial Elections in Kadhimiya Jan. 31.

5 - Kim Gamel (left foreground), of the Associated Press interviews Lt. Col. John Vermeesch, a native of Roscommon, Mich., commander, 1-18 Inf. Regt. March 2.

6 - 1-18 Inf. Regt. Soldiers Spc. Kyle Housand, of Big Rapids, Mich., Spc. Andrew Mestre, of Fort Wainwright, Ark., and Sgt. Christopher Marshall, of Pawtucket, R.I., sing with the Army Rock Band in April.

7 - Civic, tribal and security leaders of northwest Baghdad and members of the Iraqi media walk a market street in the Hurriyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad May 11.

8 - Iraqi Soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division march in formation at Joint Security Station Hurriyah II June 9.

9 - Sgt. 1st Class John Bissem and Capt. Nathan Williams, of the 1-18th Inf. Regt. observe the transfer ceremony of the Hurriyah Public Works Sub Station June 17.

GENERATOR INSPECTIONS

Story and Photos by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO

Coalition forces, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, are giving former Sons of Iraq the opportunity to find employment outside of manning checkpoints.

In implementation of this plan, students learn to repair and maintain generators in the Hurriyah Neighborhood of northwest Baghdad, where the IA partners with the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

The students have been working in the area for quite some time, already providing the services they have been training for, according to 1st Lt. Justin Casey, from Ogdensburg, N.Y., assigned to the Joint Projects Management Office, 2nd HBCT.

“The program provides a system in place to improve the electricity here,” said Casey.

The program is funded by Coalition forces, but everything else is taken care of by the Iraqis, according to

Casey.

“We’re the middleman,” he said. “We fund it and provide the equipment but the Ministry of Electricity provides everything else.”

The teams receive tool belts and a number of vehicles from Coalition forces to carry out their duties.

From Time to time, Casey personally inspects the generators and visits classes to ensure training is going properly.

With programs such as micro-generator repair training, former Sons of Iraq will transition into new jobs that will assist the Government of Iraq and their neighborhood with getting the country to a state of normalcy that will no longer require the aid of the Coalition forces.

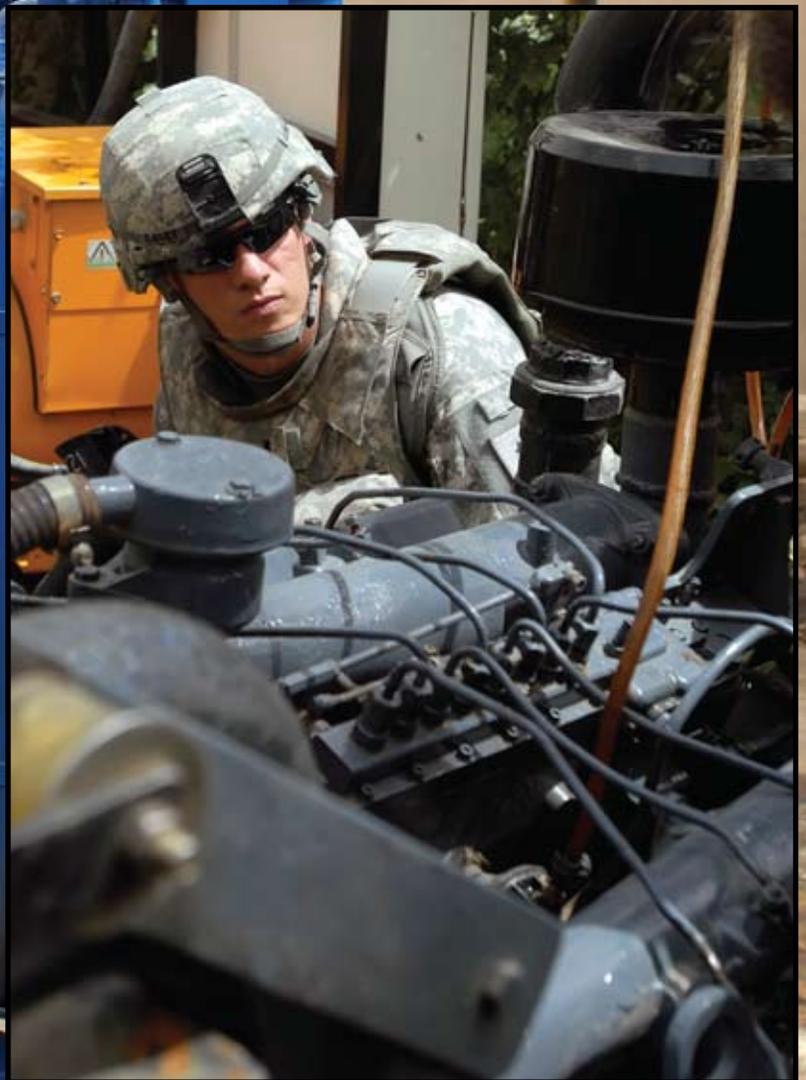
“This program helps remove the stress of the Iraqi power grid,” said Casey. “I think this program is paving the way for a better future in Iraq.”



IN HURRIYAH



▼ *First Lt. Justin Casey, a native of Ogdensburg, N.Y., Joint Project Management Office, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, gets a look at a generator being used to train Iraqi workers in the Kadhamiyah district of northwest Baghdad July 29. The workers are a part of the Demobilization, Demilitarization and Reintegration program, which was designed to give former members of the Sons of Iraq and recently released detainees training in high demand job skills.*





A message from Dragon 6

Soldiers, Families, and Friends of 1-63 CAB, Amazingly, we are about to eclipse the 10 month mark of our deployment. August will start the process of reuniting Soldiers and Families as we send off our torch party to Fort Riley, supplementing the rear detachment to ensure we have the proper systems in place for a successful redeployment for the majority of the battalion. At this stage of a deployment, it is fun to talk about what we will do when we get back, what our next assignment may be, plans for the holiday season, and so on.

It is (almost) fun to pack containers, ship equipment home, and prepare to integrate a new unit into Iraq to handle the responsibilities we have owned over the past several months. However, I cannot stress enough how important the final 60 days of our time in Iraq will be.

For the Soldiers here, you have accomplished amazing results with respect to developing Iraqi Security Forces. You have assisted cities and villages revamp their infrastructure, economic, education,

electric, and water networks. You have continued to make it safe for Iraqi citizens to go to the market, attend school, and conduct governmental meetings. Our challenge over the next several weeks will be to remain vigilant. Our Families and supporters at home are depending on us to finish our job the right way, and to finish it safely.

To our Families at Fort Riley and across the country, your patience and support for us has simply been incredible. Hang in there. We'll all be dancing at the battalion ball before we know it. Please continue to support your Soldier as we wrap things up on our end. You are undoubtedly the keystone to our success. You are all great Americans, enduring a sacrifice that so many will never understand, and I cannot thank you enough for what you do.

Thanks again to everyone in our organization. I am humbled to lead this organization filled with remarkable individuals, Families, and teams. Dragons!

Lt. Col. Jim Bradford - Dragon 6



1 - Mortar-men from Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1-18 Ar. Regt.'s Mortar Platoon put their skills on display at the ranges of Camp Buehring, Kuwait during a mortar live fire exercise in November.

2 - Spc. Ian Faling, from Jackson, Mich., who serves as the medic of Mortar Platoon, Company D, 1-63 Ar. Regt., talks with a soldier of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, Nov. 26.

3 - Soldiers serving with the 1-63 Ar. Regt. conduct a pre-mission brief at Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam July 23.

4 - Iraqis chant "Ya Hussein,"

while participating in Ashura in Kadhimiyah Jan. 6.

5 - Lt. Col. Jim Bradford, commander, 1-63 Ar. regt., of Lynchburg, Tenn., shakes hands with Sheik Hassan after a meeting with local Mahmudiyah sheiks in Mahmudiyah Feb. 25.

6 - Pfc. Paul Henry, 42, joined the Army in January 2008. He serves with Company E, 299th BSB, attached to the 1-63 Ar. Regt.

7 - A Soldier serving with the 1-63 Ar. Regt. displays his soccer skills to Iraqi youth in Zaidon, which is located in the Abu Ghraib district outside of Bagh-

dad, July 23.

8 - Lt. Col. Jim Bradford, commander, 1-63 Ar. Regt., and Command Sgt. Lance Lehr, the battalion's senior enlisted member, case the battalion's colors in the their Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah June 6.

9 - Spc. Thomas Marcello of Honolulu, 1-63 Ar. Regt, searches the ground beside a swamp near the Euphrates River for weapons caches during a joint search with the Iraqi Army.

MORE WATER FOR ZAIDON

Story and Photos by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO

Clean water may be a novelty some Americans overlook, however about two thousand families in Zaidon are looking forward to it.

Getting together with the local government in Abu Ghraib, the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment "Dragons," 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad conducted a ceremony to kick-off renovations to the Zaidon water treatment plant in Abu Ghraib July 30.

The project will take about two months to complete and will provide clean water to large areas in Zaidon, such as living areas around the Zaidon Market and Nasir Wa Salam, said Lt. Col. Jim Bradford, a native of Lynchburg, Tenn., commander, 1st CAB, 63rd Armor Regt.

"Once this project is complete and power is serving this line, it will have the capacity to serve almost everyone in the Zaidon community," he said. "It will affect children as well as adults."

The project is one of many in Zaidon that helps a large part of the population through essential services.

The Dragons recently completed a water flow project in Zaidon's health clinic, which provides health care to most of the citizens in the area.

Bradford said the significance of water projects is found in the reasoning behind them.

"It gets after the vital infrastructure that we are trying to get, not only in the Qada [rural areas surrounding Baghdad], but also in the Baghdad area," he said. "We still target businesses and we still look at improving businesses to help the economy, but things like health care and clean water, those things get after the basic needs of everybody."

When the work to the facility is complete, the people of Zaidon won't have to worry about dangerous bacteria in their water.

"A year ago many people who live in this area got sick by catching viruses from the water, so that's why this project will be very beneficial," said Fali Ismael, manager of the Nasir Wa Salam Water Department. "I'm very happy for the people of Zaidon to have a service they haven't had in years."

Ismael added that because the project is so vital to the population, everybody working on it will work diligently to finish it.

Although safe drinking water is the obvious purpose of the project, Ismael said there are some other underlying reasons.

"Everybody knows that when you get more projects, the area will be more secure and safer," he said. "The insurgents don't want anything good for the area and the government does; this is why the people are starting to trust their government more. The number of projects has significantly grown in the last five years."

Another reason the bond between the government and the citizens of Zaidon is because the Iraqi Security Forces' part in security.

"The Iraqi Army is working with the citizens very well and they have a good attitude with the people," Ismael said. "When we are hand-in-hand, the trust is there. Respect and trust is growing among one another."

As the essential services builds the trust among citizens and local leaders, the economy grows as well because the employment is local.

"The good news is that in this project, the contractor and employees that are in the contract are from the Zaidon and Abu Ghraib area," Bradford said. "Employment is already taking place just by working on this project and at the same time there are engineers and personnel that work at the treatment plant."

The cooperation among the project planners continues to improve as the people of Zaidon continue to experience the benefits of essential services.

"This is a great day; it's all because of good cooperation with the local governance and the Iraqi Security Forces," said Bradford. "Most importantly, we were able to do this because security and the people understand the importance of bringing up these essential services."





▶ *Soldiers serving with the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad stake a tour of the Zaidon Water Treatment Center, which will provide thousands of Iraqis in the Zaidon area with clean water after renovations of the facility are complete.*





A message from LongKnife 6

Long Knife Troopers, VICTORY! Well done! Exceptional performance across the full-spectrum of operations. Victory during combat operations against the 1920's Revolutionary Battalion and their RKG-3 throwing cells. Victory in successful stability operations in your development and professionalization of the Iraq Security Forces you were partnered with over the deployment. Victory in building the capacity of the local government to provide for the people the essential services they need to live improved and happier lives. You have accomplished the mission and exceeded all expectations. The time for redeployment is rapidly approaching. You will soon fly home and reunite with family and friends back in the United States and take some well earned time off.

You have helped Iraq become more independent through your training of Iraqi Security Forces. Your constant role modeling for your Iraqi Army brethren has ensured the security of the Iraqi people for the future. The unselfish hard work you have done has helped restore pride and safety to a nation of millions. This effort will go down in the history books, and future generations will look back and learn from what

you have accomplished here.

Now it is time to take care of yourselves, your buddies, and your families. Re-deployment and re-integration can be as dangerous as combat if you do not maintain the same level of self-discipline and unit discipline that you did here in theater. Continue to do risk assessments before everything you do, whether it is driving your motorcycle on a Sunday afternoon or going to Aggieville for a night out. Analyze the risk and ask yourself is this worth my personal safety, my rank, and my career? Take care of yourselves and each other. The mission is not accomplished until we complete re-integration and begin re-set on 6 December. Maintain your high standards and preserve the reputation of your troop, the squadron, and the Big Red One to the very end!

The Command Sergeant Major and I are proud to have led you through this deployment and are confident that the dedication you have shown and the sacrifices you have made will not only contribute greatly to the prospect of long term progress in Iraq but will also be a storied chapter in the history of our Squadron. Prepared and Loyal!

Lt. Col. John Richardson - LongKnife 6



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1 - As part of Personal Security Detachment training, troopers from the 5-4 Cav. Regt. practice MOUT operations to sharpen their skills in urban combat.

2 - Iraqi Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 54th Army Brigade, 6th Infantry Division and Soldiers from C Troop, 5-4 Cav. Regt., stand in formation during the transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Security Station Khadra, June 10.

3 - Lt. Col. John Richardson IV, commander, 5-4 Cav. Regt., along with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tompkins, unfurl the colors at the TOA ceremony Nov. 15 at JSS Ghazaliyah I.

4 - Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger,

commanding general, 1st Cav. Div., awards Lt. Col. John Richardson, commander, 5-4 Cav. Regt. the Bronze Star for Valor at Camp Liberty March 1.

5 - Iraqi Security Forces celebrate Feb. 14 at Joint Security Station Ghazaliyah IV after the 5-4 Cav. Regt. transferred the JSS to the ISF.

6 - Medical staff, patients and Iraqi Security Forces members traverse through the Yarmouk Hospital in northwest Baghdad. Iraqi medical experts and doctors met with medical staff with the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, hosted by the 5-4 Cav. Regt.

7 - Sgt. James Scaggs, who hails from Beaver, Ohio, 5-4 Cav. Regt., observes Iraqi Soldiers serving with the 6th Iraqi Army Division during simulated Combat Life Saver Training in northwest Baghdad May 6.

8 - Capt. Dustin Navarro (right), a native of Dallas and commander of C Troop, 5-4 Cav. Regt., and a member of the Government of Iraq sign the official paperwork transferring Joint Security Station Khadra to the GoI June 10.

9 - Capt. Mandi Breyman, a Republic, Ohio native, 5-4 Cav. Regt., helps cut a ribbon at the al-Hamza Center of the Disabled clinic in Yarmouk June 15.



DAGGERS COMPLETE

Story by Sgt. Brian Tierce, 2nd HBCT PAO

Local Iraqi leaders from the Karkh district of northwest Baghdad, along with leaders from the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division – Baghdad, and the Baghdad embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team gathered July 26 in the Salhiyah neighborhood to mark the completion of a major sewer network project that will provide sewage services to the area that

were not previously available.

The effort to restore essential services in Baghdad has seen a significant increase since the improvement of security throughout the Iraqi capital and for the people of Karkh, projects like the sewage plant are just what the neighborhood ordered.

“I was pleased to see this sewage project in our area,” said Mr. Mobarak, Salhiyah neighborhood council chairman. “We have

not seen a project like this occur in our area in over 15 years.”

The project was one of many started and seen through to completion by members of the Joint Project Management Office of the Dagger Brigade, but the project also held a special place due to the benefit it could provide the citizens.

“The people of Salhiyah will have a new sewer network that will last for decades,” said Maj.



▲ *Maj. Andy Attar, a native of Bristol, Conn., Joint Project Management officer, 2nd HBCT, speaks to local Iraqi leaders from the Karkh district during the a ceremony to commemorate the completion of a major sewer network in the Salhiyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad July 26. (Photo by Sgt. Brian Tierce, 2nd HBCT PAO)*

◀ *Iraqi construction workers move forward with progress on the recently completed sewer network in the Salhiyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad. The project was funded by coalition forces but the plan and execution were in the hands of local Iraqi Government officials. (Courtesy photo)*

SEWAGE PROJECT

Andy Attar, a native of Bristol, Conn., Officer in Charge, JPMO, 2HBCT. "It's a great sign of Iraq moving forward."

Following a small ceremony to commemorate completion of the project the contractor in charge of the project provided a luncheon for the leaders in attendance.

The luncheon was a chance for the leaders to discuss the importance of the project as well as reflect

on their choice of who should be responsible for the construction of the sewage plant.

"I was very happy to see this event turn out so successfully," said Mr. Jamal, Karkh Beladiyah Director General. "I was happy about the choice of the contractor because I knew he would follow up on his work."

Another positive sign for the project was the start to finish involvement by the local govern-

ment in the effort that shows Iraqis are ready to take and keep the lead on future reconstruction efforts.

"This sewer network was designed by Baghdad City planners," said Attar. "The work was supervised by their engineers daily with the Dagger Brigade in overwatch." 

2ND BRIGADE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

TOP LEFT - Sgt. Eric Engstrom, a tanker from Becket, Mass., assigned to Company D, 1-63 Ar. Regt., pulls security duty while his fellow Soldiers distribute pamphlets advertising micro grants during a patrol of the Khadir village in the Abu Ghuraib area June 22.



TOP RIGHT - 1st Lt. Joshua Jones, a native of Peach Tree City, Ga., 5-4 Cav. Regt., salutes during the playing of the Iraqi national anthem at the closure ceremony of Joint Security Station Yarmouk in northwest Baghdad May 16.



BOTTOM LEFT - Staff Sgt. Jeff Paluso of Chapman, Kan., of the 1-63 Ar. Regt., pulls security from the summit of a sand dune outside the village of Khadir, June 23.

CENTER RIGHT - Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tompkins (left), the senior enlisted leader of the 5-4 Cav. Regt., returns from a mission in the Ghazaliyah district of northwest Baghdad Nov. 26.

BOTTOM RIGHT -- Col. Joseph Martin, commander, 2nd HBCT, hands out pencils to Iraqi children in the Hurriyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad May 11.



BAGHDAD IRAQ DEPLOYMENT 2008-2009



TOP - Col. Joseph M. Martin, commander, 2HBCT, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Battle, the brigade's senior enlisted leader, case the Dagger Brigade colors in a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Liberty Nov. 20.

LEFT - Spc. Jon Morris of Lakewood, Ohio, a medic assigned to Company A1-13 Ar. Regt., stands with an Iraqi soldier during a joint combat patrol of al-Fallujean in the Abu Ghraib area here, June 24.

ABOVE - Wash. Native Jeffery Howell, serving with a Personal Security Detachment, 2nd HBCT, says hello to an Iraq girl in Abu Ghraib April 27.

REMEMBERING



Pfc. Benjamin Tollefson



A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier, who was killed in northwest Baghdad, was honored by friends and comrades for his ultimate sacrifice for freedom during a memorial ceremony at Camp Liberty Jan. 6.

Pfc. Benjamin Tollefson, 22, who served with the personal security detachment of Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, died Dec. 31 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds after Special Group criminals attacked his PSD with indirect fire in the Ghazaliya district of northwest Baghdad.

“We honor the sacrifice that he gave,” said Lt. Col. David Imhof, commander, STB, 2nd HBCT. “We recognize the spirit that was evident in his character, and we also strive together to declare the significance of his life.”

The quietly packed Warrior Chapel set the somber mood as Soldiers shared their memories and paid their respects to Tollefson, who was survived by his spouse, Natalie Tollefson, and their eight-month-old son, Mac Tollefson.

“Pfc. Tollefson was a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a Soldier,” said Capt. Ryan Cripps, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT. “I’ve had the privilege to serve with Benjamin Tollefson, and I will never forget him; he will always hold a special place in my heart.”

Imhof added that Tollefson understood the meaning of personal courage and loyalty to his country, sacrificing his life for the freedom he believed in.

“Sacrifice is the highest form of devotion to duty,” said Imhof. “When one is willing to sacrifice for a particular cause, it means he sees his part in a larger movement for a greater good whatever the price.”

Staff Sgt. Zachery Hasse, PSD, 2nd HBCT, said Tollefson always had a smile on his face – even when times were most stressful. “He was more than just a Soldier in the PSD,” said Hasse. “He was a friend, a comrade and a member of our Family. We’re going to miss him.”

Tollefson’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge.



FALLEN HEROES

Multi-National Division—Baghdad Soldiers remembered the life of one of their own in a memorial ceremony at Camp Liberty, May 30.

Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers serving with the 2nd Stryker Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, held the ceremony for Spc. Chad Edmundson, from Williamsburg, Pa., who died of wounds from an improvised explosive device during dismounted patrol operations in Abu Ghraib May 27.

Friends and comrades of Edmundson said a few words to describe just the type of character he had.

“Chad personified every aspect of the Army Values,” said Capt. Jason Hoffman, Edmundson’s company commander. “His character was defined by selfless service.”

Hoffman said Edmundson helped build a foundation of teamwork and camaraderie by aggressively completing any mission without hesitation or complaint and his attitude spread among the Soldiers around him.

“Spc. Chad Edmundson was a builder. By the work of his hands and his winning spirit he built up those around him,” he said. “He lifted up his squad and platoon with his high motivation.”

Edmundson’s fellow Soldiers agreed that his elevated motivation was kept on and off duty.

“Besides when actively engaged in military operations, I rarely saw him without a smile on his face,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Crum, who was in the same platoon as Edmundson. “He was always in good spirits and that attitude spread throughout our platoon.”

Crum said Edmundson’s patriotism and courage is something he will always remember.

“We will honor him for who he was as a man and a friend,” he said. “He is someone who will never be replaced and someone we will never forget.”

Edmundson’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Medal with “M” device, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Combat Infantryman Badge.



Spc. Chad Edmundson



2ND BRIGADE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



TOP LEFT - 2nd HBCT Soldiers work with 6th Iraqi Army Div. Soldiers at the Joint Operations Center at Muthana in Aug.

LEFT - Spc. Anthony Perez of Troop B, 5-4 Cav. Regt. and an Iraqi Soldier from the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division raise the Iraqi Flag above Joint Security Station Ghazaliyah III in the Ghazaliyah district of northwest Baghdad Jan. 1.

TOP RIGHT - 2nd Lt. Cait Smith, a native of Oswego, N.Y., 5-4 Cav. Regt. passes candy to children in the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan 21.

ABOVE -Members of the Haifa Street Guards wait in line Feb. 5 to be paid for their service guarding the historically violent street located in the Karkh district of northwest Baghdad.

BAGHDAD IRAQ DEPLOYMENT 2008-2009



TOP LEFT - Col. Joseph Martin, commander, 2nd HBCT, greets a sheik from the Hurriyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Dec. 3 outside the Al-Farooq Mosque.

BOTTOM LEFT - Sgt. 1st Class Deondre Lory, a native of Galveston, Texas, 5-4 Cav. Regt. stands guard on patrol in Ghazaliyah Dec. 1.

BOTTOM CENTER - An Iraqi citizen proves he voted by showing his inked finger, which signified he casted his vote in the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 31.

BELOW - Capt. Michael Nau, a native of San Diego, joint project management officer, 2nd HBCT, stands in front of the recently installed solar panels on the roof of the Ameriyah Clinic in northwest Baghdad Jan. 15.



2ND BRIGADE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



TOP LEFT - Cpl. Logan Arthur (left) and Staff. Sgt. Troy Watson, both from 299th BSB, discuss how they are going to maneuver concrete barriers in front of a voting site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 25.

ABOVE - Sgt. Derrick Junge (left), 1-7 F.A. Regt., observes an Iraqi Army platoon conducting traffic control point operations in Baghdad's International Zone Feb. 14.

CENTER LEFT - Cpl. Irving Aragon (right), 5-4 Cav. Regt., is presented with the Army Commendation medal by Maj. Gen Daniel Bolger, commander, MND-B, Mar. 1 at Camp Liberty.

RIGHT - Key Iraqi Security Force leaders, Iraqi government officials from the Karkh district, a tribal sheik, Dr. Carroll and Amb. Bennett join Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Battle, senior enlisted leader, 2nd HBCT, in applauding at the end of the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the 4-42 F.A. Regt., and the 1-18 Inf. Regt. at Forward Operating Base Prosperity March 4.

BAGHDAD IRAQ DEPLOYMENT 2008-2009



TOP RIGHT - Iraqi Soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division practice the use of hand signals while entering and clearing buildings under the direction of Master Sgt. Robert Eplee, a native of Brevard, N.C., Military Training and Transition Team 47693 during urban terrain training March 2 in the Kadhamiyah district of northwest Baghdad.

CENTER RIGHT - A family reunites at the "Operation Flight of Doves" detainee reintegration Feb. 22 in northwest Baghdad.

RIGHT - Actress Angelina Jolie with Lt. Col. Christopher Beckert, deputy commanding officer, 2nd HBCT, and Pfc. Luczak, 1st Lt. Bolton, Sgt. Paradiso, Spc. Walker, Staff Sgt. Ferguson, Spc. Wilson, Pfc. O'neil, Sgt. Lopez, Spc. Guenther, Staff Sgt. Sickler., all members of Beckert's personal security detachment in Baghdad July 23.

ABOVE - Kerrville, Texas native Spc. David Griffin, Battery A, 1-7 FA Regt., pulls security in the Mutanabi neighborhood of Baghdad May 8 during a combined arms patrol with Iraqi Army soldiers.





A message from Lightning 6

Soldiers and Family Members of TASK FORCE FIRST LIGHTNING! Congratulations on a job well done during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 09-10. You have performed brilliantly throughout our 12 months in Iraq and the battalion enjoyed great success because of your selfless service and commitment to excellence. The Command Sergeant Major and I want to commend, and thank, all of you for the commitment, flexibility and professionalism you've demonstrated every day of the last year.

First Lightning Soldiers, you set an incredibly high standard of performance during this deployment. You accepted each mission we received and executed those missions to perfection. Whether providing security to the nexus of Iraqi Government in the Green Zone; patrolling the streets of Baghdad to deter insurgents; escorting U.S. or foreign dignitaries to pave the way for future progress in Iraq; performing artillery missions by firing howitzers and manning counterfire radars; or sustaining the force by impeccably maintaining our vehicle fleet, you persevered with the

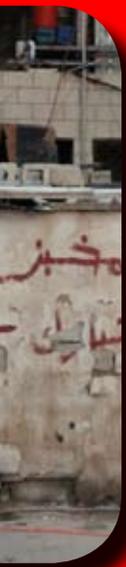
dedication and passion that embodies our regimental motto, "Never Broken by Hardship or Battle".

Of course, behind every great fighting force there is an equally great support structure and the catalyst for our success in this deployment has been our phenomenal Rear Detachment and Family Readiness Groups. The words "thank you" cannot adequately express our gratitude, but I trust you will take pride in knowing that our Soldiers excelled in Iraq because of the incredible support and strength we received from those at home. You are a special and integral part of our battalion and we are grateful for all you have done and the sacrifices you have made.

CSM Hunt and I are incredibly proud of the First Lightning Battalion and we are honored to have served with the tremendous Soldiers and Families of this organization during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 09-10. Thanks to each of you for your contributions and God bless you.

First Lightning!

Lt. Col. Robert Bailes - Lightning 6



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1 - An M109A6 Paladin Self Propelled Howitzer blast a round down range during a live fire exercise held on Camp Buehring, Kuwait in October.

2 - 1st Lt. Brian Inman, Spc. Joshua Lunsford and Spc. Zachary Lunsford, assigned to the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas National Guard, with their uncle, Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas Inman, 1-7 F. A. Regt. Dec. 7.

3 - Staff Sgt. Eric Bowman, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-7 F.A. Regt. contacts his during a dismounted portion of the patrol Dec. 10.

4 - Spc. Robert Koll, infantryman of the "Predator" Platoon, 1-7 F.A. Regt., guards the entrance to an apartment building Dec. 10.

5 - Soldiers from Battery B, 1-7 F.A. Regt. use a Paladin M109A6 howitzer to practice crew drills Jan. 24 at Camp Liberty.

6 - More than 250 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines from 65 countries take part in the U.S. Naturalization Ceremony at Al-Faw Palace March 3. Soldiers from the 1-7 F.A. Regt. Participated in the event.

7 - Spc. George Lemay of Bam-

berg, S.C., Co. G, 1-7 FA Regt. welds joints on a special mount to use for Mine Resistant Ambushed Protected Vehicles.

8 - Spc. Ryan Chapman, a native of Olathe, Kan., Battery A, 1-7 F.A. Regt., shakes hands with an Iraqi boy in the Mutanabi neighborhood of Baghdad May 8.

9 - Spc. Jesus Moran-Alvarez, a gunner and mechanic for his platoon in Company G, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, assigned to the 1-7 F.A. Regt., after becoming a U.S. citizen.



WORKING SIDE BY SIDE

Story and photos by Capt. Mark Peek, 1st Bn., 7th F.A. Regt.

In contrast to the new role of most U.S. forces, the Soldiers of Task Force First Lightning continue to work side by side with the Iraqi Security Forces securing the strategically important nexus of Iraqi Government known as the “Green Zone” and performing combat escort patrols from Forward Operating Base Prosperity located in the heart of Baghdad. In fact, while some units have seen their workload decrease since 30 June 2009, First Lightning Soldiers have seen their missions increase.

“More escort patrols are needed on the streets because U.S. forces who once operated in these areas are now gone,” said Capt. Rich Toland, Task Force Battle Captain. “Government agencies such as the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations still need to conduct business in Baghdad and part of our job is to escort them safely to and from their meetings.”

Additionally, logistics requirements haven’t changed for U.S. personnel operating in the Green Zone and Task Force First Lightning provides the primary escort support

to move logistics convoys through Baghdad or as far away as Al Hilla, Iraq, sixty-five miles to the south. To further support the Security Agreement and reduce the visibility of U.S. vehicles operating on the roads of Iraq, the majority of the logistics convoys take place at night. While reduced civilian traffic on the roads is an advantage to operating at night, Soldiers must be even more vigilant for insurgent activities such as Improvised Explosive Devices, which are commonly placed on roadways under the cover of darkness.

The 30 June withdrawal also changed the security situation within the city as Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police forces assumed control of areas once secured by Dagger Brigade and other Multi-National Division Baghdad units. This has increased the threat of attacks in the city and specifically attacks on the Green Zone by insurgents. Task Force First Lightning Soldiers man all entrances to the Green Zone along with Iraqi Army counterparts to deter insurgents from attempting to breach the security and conduct high profile attacks against government officials or agencies.



▶ *Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad link up with Iraqi Army counterparts within the city of Baghdad.*



First Lightning Soldiers also conduct quick reaction force patrols throughout the Green Zone, prepared to respond immediately to any threat or incident that might occur. To date, the combined US and Iraqi efforts have prevented any attacks from occurring in this critical hub of Iraqi government and international agencies that includes the embassies of the United States and six other nations as well as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq.

In addition to the missions executed from FOB Prosperity, Task Force First Lightning continues to provide artillery support for U.S. and Iraqi forces operating in the rural areas to the west of Baghdad. Upholding our Redleg heritage, the “Hot Gun” platoon stands on call to provide accurate and responsive cannon artillery fires in support of nightly missions to interdict insurgent forces operating in the area. While these bad guys, once operated freely under the cover of darkness to emplace IEDs or smuggle weapons into Baghdad, they now face the constant pressure of a First Lightning illumination round turning night into day across

the countryside and giving coalition forces the element of surprise and the opportunity to capture these insurgents.

As the Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10 deployment draws to a close for Task Force First Lightning, the Soldier’s of this formation continue to execute perhaps the most diverse mission set in MND-B – and they do so with dedication, pride and absolute professionalism. At any time of the day or night, you will find a First Lightning Soldier on the roads in and around Baghdad protecting important dignitaries or cargo; at Green Zone entry control points with their Iraqi Security Force partners providing the critical security that allows the Government of Iraq to govern the entire country; or continuously manning howitzers in support of maneuver forces ready to take the fight to the enemy on a moment’s notice. The performance of the Task Force in accomplishing these diverse missions has done much to set the conditions for sustainable security in the country and offer the citizens of Iraq the chance of a stable, secure and democratic future. 



A message from LifeLine 6

I would like to take this time to go over the great accomplishments that the Soldiers have accomplished over the deployment.

As soon as the Soldiers of the BSB arrived in theater they quickly set to work to establish the support network needed to ensure that all needs were met.

During the time here in Baghdad the Battalion has completed over 430 combat replenishment operations throughout the Dagger AO. The Supply Support Activity (SSA) assumed responsibility for over 440 different customers, processing over 117,000 requests resulting in the operation of one of the largest SSA's in theater. The Battalion had a very intensive maintenance program that was responsible for checking over every vehicle in the Battalion that was scheduled to go out on a mission. As a result of this program there was not a single mission failed due to maintenance.

Additionally, the maintenance Soldiers provided recovery and fire fighting response teams to any unit traveling through the Brigades area. On a moment's notice these Soldiers were prepared and ready to execute any recovery mission to ensure the safety of fellow Soldiers operating in this combat environment.

Throughout the deployment the Battalion has operated and managed the busiest Medical Treatment

Facilities on the Victory Base Complex (VBC). The medical Soldiers were responsible for the care of over 26,400 Soldiers and civilians, and were the prime aerial medical evacuation site for Camp Liberty.

A major mission was the Logistics partnership with the Iraqi Army 6th Division. The partnership was in its very early stages when the LifeLine Battalion assumed control and put dedicated teams with the Iraqi Division. Through this partnership the Iraqi logistical elements grew in their ability to provide the needed support to the Iraqi combat forces.

Soldiers of the LifeLine Battalion have truly made an impact on the mission here in Iraq. No one mission was more important than the other and the LifeLine Soldiers treated every mission this way.

I could not be more proud than to be able to say I have served with the LifeLine Battalion and led the finest Support Soldiers the Army has. As we close out the mission we can go home having accomplished our mission and done everything we could to ensure that the 702nd BSB has as much success as we have had. Continue to adhere to the Battalion Big Three, "Standards, Habits, and Discipline," and be proud of everything you have done this last year.

Lt. Col. Brian Tempest - LifeLine 6



1 - 299th BSB Soldiers ride in a roll-over simulator as they are observed by instructors in Kuwait in October.

2 - Sgt. Cameron Beckwith, 299th BSB, places a 1st infantry Division Combat patch on Pfc. Ericka Frederic, 299th BSB at the units combat patch ceremony Dec. 1.

3 - Chaplain (Capt.) James Brocato (left) and Sgt. Jeremiah Smith, 299th BSB, lead Soldiers in a Christmas song at Camp Liberty Dec. 24.

4 - Sgt. Jocelyn Gardner, 299th BSB, connects an Alaska barrier to a crane in front of an elec-tion site

in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 24.

5 - Staff Sgt. Randy Maurer (right), 299th BSB, shows the inside of a Heavy Armored Ground Ambulance to Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon, senior enlisted advisor to the Army Surgeon General, at the Riva Ridge Troop Medical Clinic March 5.

6 - Spc Ronald Taylor, a native of Chicago, and 1st Lt. Dwain Settles, who hails from San Antonio, TX., 299th BSB, carry a casualty from a field ambulance into the trauma room in April.

7 - Soldiers prepare to start off the "Year of the NCO" run at

Z-Lake on Victory Base Complex May 9.

8 - Staff Sgt. Jason Abraham (right), 299th BSB, shows Lt. Col. Mortadha Jafar Mosa, 6th Iraqi Army Division surgeon, an example of an Army document used to order medical supplies at Camp Liberty in July.

9 -Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon (right), senior enlisted advisor to the Army Surgeon General, shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Julia Kelly, senior enlisted leader, 299th BSB, at the Riva Ridge Troop Medical Clinic March 5.

SAFETY IS THE STANDARD

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Ford, MND-B PAO

Practicing safety is a standard operating procedure of the 299th “Lifeline” Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Hours before each mission, Soldiers of the 299th BSB are required to attend briefings and convoy rehearsals before starting their journey to support Soldiers on forward operating bases throughout Baghdad.

“We have briefings and rehearsals before each mission because we are concerned for the safety and welfare of our Soldiers,” said 1st Lt. Dwain Settles, a Universal City, Texas, native and executive officer assigned to Company C, 299th BSB, 2nd Bde, 1st Inf. Div. “Soldiers are the most valuable asset on the battlefield,” he added.

During the convoy briefings, Soldiers of the 299th BSB are quizzed on the primary and secondary convoy routes. They are questioned about different scenarios that could occur while on mission and they are also required to know the responsibilities of each job within the vehicle.

“Lifeline Soldiers are required to be familiar with all jobs on the convoy just in case someone gets hurt and can’t perform a particular job. This will allow us to continue the mission without it being compromised,” said Sgt. Tommy Evans, of Hereford, Texas and convoy security detachment noncommissioned officer in charge assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 299th BSB, 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div. “Our job is to be well prepared for any incident that may occur. The better prepared we are the less likely the chance of having an incident,” he added.

Lifeline Soldiers also prepare for missions through the use of convoy rehearsals. These rehearsals make Soldiers aware of the placement of recovery vehicles in the lineup. Knowing where recovery vehicles are located in a convoy is an important factor if a hasty vehicle recovery is needed.

“It is important each one of our Soldiers is familiar with our standard operating procedures so they can react instinctively to a situation such as a vehicle breakdown or an improvised explosive device attack,” said Evans. “The training we go through before each mission helps to build

muscle memory.”

According to Evans and Settles, safety is stressed every day by their battalion commander and battalion sergeant major. “The chain of command does not stress safety because they are required to, I think they stress safety because they care,” Evans added.

The 299th BSB has not had any major incidents because strict safety procedures and the welfare of their Soldiers are a primary part of their standard operating procedures. The standards set by the 299th BSB have become habits and these habits are evident in the discipline displayed by the Soldiers of the unit.





▼ Sgt. Tommy Evans, of Hereford, Texas, convoy security detachment noncommissioned officer in charge assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division watches as Spc. Derek Watson (left) of Stillwell, Kan. and Spc. Seth Oldre, of Blaine, Minn., both HHC, 299th BSB Soldiers demonstrate the loading and unloading procedures for an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, here at Camp Liberty, June 29. Loading and clearing weapons are part of the standard operating procedures put in place to maintain safety.

▲ Sgt. Darrel Whitton, a Gouverner, N.Y. native, and automotive logistics Soldier assigned to Company A, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, moves a conex with a Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) at Camp Liberty, June 26. The 299th BSB always use safety when moving large containers.





A message from Griffin 6

Griffins, your efforts and the support you provide to our Iraqi partners continue to make a difference in maintaining the safety and security of northwest Baghdad. I am extremely proud of every Soldier's efforts as you continue to execute all missions in a polite, professional manner to the highest standard. You have truly been out front, at the "Point of the Dagger," for eleven months.

As we begin our final month of this deployment, I want to remind each and every Soldier that while we continue to execute combat operations, our mission will not end until we complete our RIP/TOA with the incoming unit, safely redeploy to Fort Riley, conduct reintegration training, and enjoy a well deserved leave period. When all of the connexes are downloaded at Fort Riley, when all of the equipment is accounted for, and when everyone returns safely from each of the leave periods... then we will have achieved complete success. As I highlighted last month, the last 100 days of a deployment are almost as dangerous as the first 100 days. Again, there are six overarching lessons that make units successful: (1) Perform tasks to standard every time, (2) Learn all you can from the outgoing unit and from the veterans of previous deployments in your unit, (3) Maintain faith in your skills as a Soldier, your leaders, your fellow Soldiers, and your equipment, (4) Avoid becoming complacent, do not fall into a routine with predictable patterns, (5) Be decisive, but not overly aggres-

sive; conduct yourself as professional accomplishing the mission, and (6) Take care of yourself and your buddy.

Every Griffin Soldier has done a magnificent job of applying these lessons, but I want to emphasize that the last lesson, Take care of yourself and your buddy, is of paramount importance as we conduct redeployment and reintegration operations and execute block leave and maximum leave. Leaders will ensure success in this task by conducting composite risk management during every portion of the redeployment. This means that Leaders will continually evaluate the activity risks for every Soldier throughout the redeployment, reintegration and leave period.

I challenge every Soldier to make this deployment a complete success by following each of the lessons from The First 100 Days. Continue to apply these lessons during our remaining time in theater and then maintain vigilance by Taking care of yourself and your buddy during redeployment and reintegration operations and during leave period.

To every Griffin Soldier and Family Member, Thank You for your support, sacrifices, and effort. Every member of the Griffin team has truly made a difference, and every member of the Griffin battalion continues to maintain and build upon the legacy of the Big Red One! "GRIFFINS! POINT OF THE DAGGER!"

Col. David Imhof - Griffin 6



1 - Soldiers from Co. C, 2-1 STB, secure the balcony of a house during training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait in October.

JNN supervisor, 2-1 STB, trains Spc. Joshua Patton on monitoring the Joint Network Node Equipment Jan. 31 in Iraq.

STB mingle with Iraqi Soldiers serving with the 24th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Division at Forward Operating Base Constitution May 26.

2 - Spc. Anthony Knight of Augusta, Ga., and Spc Zell Doung of Westminster, Calif., both of 2-1 STB, test their vehicle's equipment before rolling out on a convoy in November. .

5 - An Iraqi instructor gives a DDR generator course to former Sons of Iraq in Baghdad in March.

8 - A Soldier from the 6th Iraqi Army Division demonstrates a feature on the Badger to 2-1 STB mechanics and operators at Forward operating Base Constitution June 11.

3 - Soldiers from Co. B., 2-1 STB run wires, which support the joint node network Dec. 8 on Camp Liberty.

6 - Soldiers from the 2nd Platoon "Knights" work as a team to troubleshoot one of the switches that enable the pathway for users to receive military phone and internet services at Forward Operating Base Justice in April.

9 - Pfc. Madelaine Moore, of Jacksonville, Ill., 2-1 STB, dances with an Iraqi Soldier at their first Sapper Call in Muthana in July.

4 - Sgt. John Vozzelli (right),

7 - Soldiers serving with the 2-1



GRIFFIN RECOGNIZES ITS NEWEST NCO'S

Story and Photos by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO

▲ Newly promoted noncommissioned officers serving with the 2-1 Special Troops Battalion, 2nd HBCT participate in the battalion's Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony on Camp Liberty Aug. 14.

The “backbone” of the Army was recently recognized for becoming stronger.

In a formal ceremony more than 40 newly promoted noncommissioned officers who serve in the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad were recognized for taking the next step in leadership Aug. 14 at Camp Liberty.

The freshly-striped NCO's gathered with their leaders to be recognized from a senior enlisted leader in Iraq.

“The Army requires leaders who are imaginative, flexible and daring,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, senior enlisted leader, Multi-National Corps – Iraq to the Soldiers. “Always remember, young noncommissioned officers, it's you who brings the fight to the enemy.”

In the ceremony it was the senior NCO's who reminded the young leaders what the NCO Corps was all about.

“This ceremony represented to me the pageantry of the United States Army because of the pride and dignity in which was shown,” said Sgt. Lauren Thomas, who

hails from Paradise, Calif., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT. “I think it was really special.”

To symbolize that the NCO's leadership was kicked up a notch, the senior enlisted wet each new inductee's rank as they passed through a wooden arch that represented the NCO Corps.

“My favorite part of the ceremony was when the NCO Arch was built,” she said. “During the ceremony I had chills.”

When the chills had passed and the ceremony came to a close, Grippe ordered them to do one thing.

“God bless each and every one of you warrior sergeants,” Grippe said to the new NCO's. “Get back to work; go forth and destroy the enemies of the United States. You're the tip of the spear to do it.”

In order to defeat enemies and complete missions, Thomas said it was crucial for NCO's to come together.

“I think camaraderie is very important in the Corps of NCO's because we tend to lean on each other in times of hardship,” said Thomas. “We are the ones who hold the Army together.” 



▲ 1st Sgt. Albert Edwards (left), senior enlisted member, Co. A, 2-1 Special Troops Battalion, and 1st Sgt. Millord Holms, senior enlisted member, Co. B, 2-1 STB, build the ceremonial arch during the Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony on Camp Liberty Aug. 14.

▼ Soldiers with the 2-1 STB recite the NCO Creed during the NCO Induction Ceremony on Camp Liberty Aug. 14.

▼ Sgt. 1st Class Newly Hall, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT, lights a ceremonial candle during the 2-1 STB Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony on Camp Liberty Aug. 14. More than 40 NCO's in the battalion were inducted in the ceremony.



TEACHING MARKSMANSHIP

Story and photo by Sgt. Philip Schratwieser, 2nd Bn., 112th Inf. Regt.

In spirit of the cooperation that has continued well past the June 30 Security Agreement deadline, which detailed the changeover in responsibility for the security of Iraq, U.S. Soldiers are working with their Iraqi partners.

U.S. snipers and squad-designated marksmen worked with their counterparts; giving tips, teaching lessons and allowing the Iraqi Soldiers from the 24th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division to improve their skills as marksmen at Forward Operating Base Constitution July 25-31.

For the past week Soldiers split their time between the classroom and the shooting range honing their shooting skills.

“Trying to communicate what we really expect of them is the biggest problem,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Lynch, a native of Mifflintown, Pa., the lead sniper from the 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment “Paxton Rangers,” 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, who are training the IA. “They’re just like American Soldiers; they’ll do really well, then they might forget a step. They just need repetition.”

The class is one of the U.S. Army’s “train-the-trainer” classes, designed to

saturate the students with knowledge and experience with the intent of having them go back to their units and train their Soldiers.

“The instructors are very knowledgeable and have given us so much to help make us better Soldiers,” said Sgt. Mustafa of the 24th Bde., 6th I.A. Div., who shot 37 of 40 targets on his first try.

The targets are 25 meters from the shooters and are sized down to appear they are between 50 and 300 meters away.

“We have a good group of instructors here. We have snipers, squad-designated marksmen and certified instructors. They know what they are talking about,” said Lynch. “With the help of some pretty good interpreters we can pass this knowledge onto the Iraqi Army.”

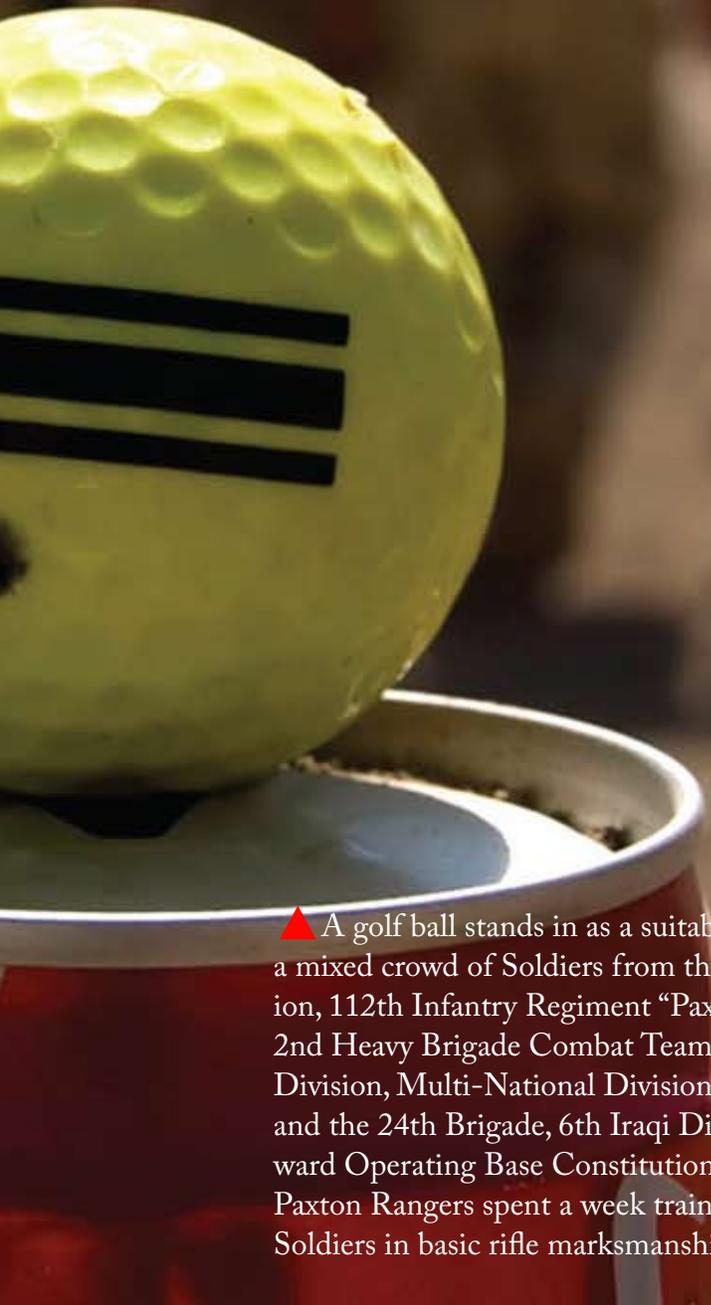
The class culminated with every student having passed the class, demonstrating proficiency with the M-4 rifle.

“I’m excited to be part of this,” said Sgt. Joseph McGowan of Carlisle, Pa, also a sniper from the Paxton Rangers. “I feel this mission helps cultivate a good joint-forces mindset especially when considering our future together.” 





▲ A group of over two dozen Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 24th Brigade, 6th IA Division participate in a course designed to improve marksmanship at Forward Operating Base Constitution July 31.



▲ A golf ball stands in as a suitable target for a mixed crowd of Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment “Paxton Rangers,” 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division—Baghdad and the 24th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Division at Forward Operating Base Constitution July 31. The Paxton Rangers spent a week training the IA Soldiers in basic rifle marksmanship.



During our campaign we brought improved security by killing and capturing nearly 50 terrorists as well as mentoring the Iraqi Security Forces. Through our civil capacity effort we brought light to dark streets, economic opportunity to impecunious communities, and provided an optimistic future with our commitment to the education of Iraqi youth. In our final days we must maintain the momentum, attacking the scourge of terrorism and building the communities and neighborhoods of Abu Ghraib. I want to acknowledge the support from the Dagger team. Our experience with the Daggers will long be remembered. I’m satisfied that we will return to the 56 Stryker Brigade leaving Abu Ghraib better than how we found it, with the conditions set for continued success by the Dagger Brigade until their own transfer of authority. Shukran il musaa’atek, ma’a as salama.

Paxton 6

“Quick, Silent, Deadly.”

Since March 2009 the 2nd Stryker Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel Hayes and advised by Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, was assigned to the 2nd HBCT until August 2009, when the ‘Paxton Rangers’ Battalion redeployed to Pa as part of the Pa. National Guard.

LEADING CHANGE IN ABU GHRAIB

Story and Photos by Sgt. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO

As northwest Baghdad was once a main-effort location to bring essential services to locals, representatives of the U.S. are focusing on the larger, rural areas of the Abu Ghraib Qada.

This job falls to the embedded Provisional Reconstruction Team-West, which works with the 2nd Heavy “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and is equipped with governance and economics specialists with expertise and experience from both the military and civilian realms.

The military and civilian leaders in the ePRT (w) and the Dagger Brigade share a common goal: to increase sustainability in the bond between locals and their political leaders to maintain the democratic establishment of Iraq for years to come.

The ePRT (w) looked for a simple way to strengthen that bond between citizens and their local government in Abu Ghraib through services that haven’t been carried out since well before the Saddam Hussein era.

One method of strengthening those ties is to ensure their roads are paved, their trash is picked up and they have clean water to drink.

“The rural areas around Baghdad have never had essential services, such as road repair, trash pickup, removal of old cars, some of the things that the Belladiyahs do in Baghdad and the urban areas of Abu Ghraib like Nasir Wa Salam and Abu Ghraib City itself,” said Stafford, Va. native and retired Marine Col. Gary Anderson, governance advisor, ePRT (w). “Outside those urban areas, people are traditionally dependant on their own.”

After countless hours of Abu Ghraib visits and planning meetings, the ePRT (w) decided to take the concept of Public Works Sub Stations, which are fixed public works facilities in the city, and put it on wheels.

In order to service all of the rural areas in the Qada, the ePRT (w) worked with the Baghdad Department of Public Works, or Belladiyah, and the government of Abu Ghraib to form the Mobile Rural Support Team: a convoy of dump trucks, a road grader, a backhoe, a few pickup trucks, and workers who could travel the countryside to places like Zaidon and Aqur Quf to do road repairs.

“I think that people prefer clean streets to cluttered or filthy streets, or prefer paved and smooth roads to streets that look like the surface of the moon,” said Centerville, Ohio native and State Department Representative Mark Powell, who has 20 years of diplomatic experience abroad. “I think the potential of this is tremendous; it’s something that people can get their heads around.”

Anderson said that more than three decades ago a similar concept was taken in well during the conflict in Vietnam.

“During the Vietnam War, when they were trying to get more presence in the provinces, they mixed U.S. and Vietnamese teams to go out and do the same thing,” he said. “We used that model because it had a lot of effect in bringing some areas under control in that time. It sounds like something that worked in the past so we wanted to take that concept and use it in this theater.”

Anderson added that some of Abu Ghraib’s citizens sit on the fence of insurgency because they don’t physically



◀ Mark Powell, team leader, embedded Provisional Reconstruction Team Baghdad – West, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, address local government and religious leaders of Abu Ghraib at the Abu Ghraib Youth Center July 26. The group gathered to witness the signing of the official paperwork allowing the Mobile Rural Support Team to start essential services work in different areas of Abu Ghraib.

see their local government doing anything for them.

After surveying the citizens of Abu Ghraib, Anderson said less than 15 percent of the population had seen some sort of local government manifestation in the area.

“By sending out these trucks with the Abu Ghraib Qada logo on them and they see their local government doing something, they hopefully will start to get the impression that their government does take care of them and they have a better chance depending on their government than they do the insurgency,” he said.

Abu Ghraib’s government and the ePRT (w) decided to try out the MRST for a 90-day period, first focusing on eight chosen problem areas and responding to citizens’ calls to where areas need services most.

“It’s very important that these projects aren’t our [long-term] goal because we need more in the district, but it is a good start to provide the people in these areas with services,” said Shahr Fiza, Quimaqam of Abu Ghraib. “I appreciate the efforts of the ePRT; we want Abu Ghraib to succeed and we are working very hard to help accommodate the people’s needs.”

Although the MRST is an American concept, the Abu Ghraib government and the Dagger Brigade hope it will be something worth keeping around.

“The idea is Iraqi Capacity. As we transition from a period of conflict and insurgency into an increasingly peaceful set of circumstances, we are trying to enable Iraqis at the local level, where the rubber meets the road, to where we get the local officials engaged with addressing and solving problems for their constituents,” said Powell. “By doing so, letting local citizens see that their government is able to be responsive to their needs, they feel more of a sense of buy-in with their local institutions and representatives, which we think strengthens those bonds and improves the governance.” 

STALLION 6



Lt. Col. Mark Solomons

Hello to all the Soldiers, Families and Friends of the Stallion’s. As we complete another month of our deployment, I want to again thank each and every Stallion Soldier for your efforts in executing every mission to the highest standard in a professional and disciplined manner.

Following the implementation of the next phase of the security agreement, we began another important phase of our deployment. Our Iraqi Security Force Partners are doing a fabulous job of maintaining a safe and secure environment, and we must continue to work with, support, and encourage our Iraqi partners to ensure continued success during this transition. I know that every Stallion Soldier is up to this task and I know we all look forward to the opportunity to partner with the Iraqi Security Forces over the next several months.

For the Stallion Soldiers here, you have accomplished amazing results with respect of developing Iraqi Security Forces. You have assisted cities and villages revamp their infrastructure, economics, education, electrical, and water networks. You have continued to make it safe for Iraqi citizens to go to the market, attend school, worship, and conduct governmental meetings. Our challenges over the next several months will be to remain vigilant. Our Families and supporters at home are depending on us to finish our job the right way, and to finish it safely.

Thanks again to everyone in our organization. I am humbled to lead this organization filled with remarkable individuals.

Stallion 6

“Honor and Courage”

2ND SQUADRON, 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

4th Squadron 10th Cavalry “Blackjack”



◀ Local Ameriyah Boys dive into the Ameriya Pool during the Grand Opening Celebration in November. The 4-10 Cav. Regt. helped build the place of leisure by hiring Iraqi contractors to complete it.



▲ Lt. Col. Monty Willoughby (left, in Army Combat Uniform), commander, 4-10 Cav. Regt., and distinguished guests attend the opening ceremony for the Ameriyah Technical School Jan. 24.



▶ Lt. Col. Monty Willoughby, commander, 4-10 Cav. Regt., presents the key to the Adl Shopping Center to a representative of the Iraqi Ministry of Trade following the transfer of the former Joint Security Station to the control of the Government of Iraq Feb. 2.



'BLACKJACK'



◀ Local Iraqis from the Hai Al-Adel community of Baghdad dance in celebration Dec. 3 for their newly reopened sports club after lying for years in dilapidation. The 5-4 Cav. Regt. helped refurbish the recreational facility by hiring Iraqi contractors.

Commanded by Lt. Col. Monty Willoughby and Command Sgt. Maj. Miles Wilson, the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment was assigned to the 2nd HBCT upon TOA until February 2009, when the 'Blackjack' Squadron redeployed to Fort Carson, Co.

▼ Members of a flag detail with the 4-10 Cav. Regt. stand at the position of attention during their TOA Ceremony with the 5-4 Cav. Regt.



4-42 FIELD ARTILLERY

▶ An Iraqi Security Forces member hangs up a banner in the Qadasiyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 20. Soldiers from the 4-42 F.A. Regt. checked numerous voting sites and checkpoints and provided guidance and mentorship to their ISF partners as they increased security to prepare for elections held Jan. 31.



Commanded by Lt. Col. Robert Kirby and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams, the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment was assigned to the 2nd HBCT upon TOA until March 2009, when the 'Straight Arrow' Battalion redeployed to Fort Carson, Co.

▲ Iraqi Army Soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, and Coalition Soldiers serving with 4-42 F.A. Regt., stand in formation during the turnover ceremony at Joint Security Station Sheikh Marouf in the Karkh district of northwest Baghdad Feb. 23.



'STRAIGHT' ARROW'



▲ Lt. Col. Robert Kirby (left), a native of Louisville, Ky., commander, F.A. Regt., and Maj. Hussein, commander, 1st Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, sign the official paperwork confirming the hand-off of Joint security Station Sheikh Marouf from Coalition forces to Iraqi Security Forces Feb. 23 in the Karkh district of northwest Baghdad.



▲ An Iraqi child shows off his collection of balloons at Zawra Park in the Karkh district of northwest Baghdad Dec. 9. Members of the 4-42 F.A. Regt. conducted humanitarian efforts throughout their region of northwest Baghdad.



◀ Lt. Col. Robert Kirby, commander, 4-42 F.A. Regt. and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams, the battalion's senior enlisted advisor, case the battalion's colors during their Transfer of Authority Ceremony in April at Forward Operating Base Prosperity.

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THE  GGER EDGE