# THE RAIDER Tribe

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"To The Objective!"

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# RAIDER 6

## COLONEL JOHN NORRIS

### 4SBCT COMMANDER

Fellow Raiders, Families and Friends of the Raider Brigade,

Greetings from Iraq! I write you for the first time from the Raiders new home in and around Western Baghdad. These past few weeks have been highly challenging, but the Raiders have proven time again that they are up to the task. We are now fully operational and capable, already catching the attention of not only our higher headquarters at Multi-National Division-Baghdad (MND-B) and Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I, and currently I Corps), but from our adversary as well.

On Sept. 28, while the battalions were training hard in the 110-degree heat in Kuwait, the brigade headquarters and Headquarters and Headquarters Company successfully conducted a professional and effective Relief-in-Place from our Dagger Brigade brothers in the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan. They welcomed us with open arms and I would like to recognize them and their outstanding efforts.

I want to take a moment now to lay out for you the symbolism contained within the title of our magazine. The name Raider Tribe was chosen as it is steeped in the history of our parent division, and speaks as well to the future achievements already in motion for this brigade. The meaning behind the name is threefold.

First, *Tribe* refers to the history contained in our divisional patch, emblazoned with the "Indian Head". The Native American Warrior depicted in the center of the patch signifies the first and original American, and became the 2nd Infantry Division's official symbol in 1918.

Second, the *Tribe* refers to and includes all of our loved ones and friends at home, and their close connections to us. In order to ensure the Raiders success, we need to work toward a Unity of Effort with numerous organizations. The support from our "Raider Tribe" back at home has been great over this accelerated, fast and furious year, and will only get better over the course of our deployment in Iraq. Thank you for all the prayers, postings on Facebook, support of the new Raider Family Center and for the hard work you all are doing every day in support of the Raiders. Whether it is our families, our numerous Adopt-A-Company friends, or the Second Indian Head Division Association, the Soldiers appreciate all your thoughts, prayers, phone calls and e-mails.

Finally, at the forefront of all of our minds right now, is the third element of the Raider Tribe that we are dealing with daily. Much like the Native Americans represented in our division's patch, our Iraqi counterparts' social culture relies heavily on their tribes and their close-knit family organizations. The relationships that we have started with our Iraqi counterparts over the past month are setting us on the road to the successful completion of our nation's mission here in Iraq. Our Iraqi Security Force partners are improving daily and their

commanders are dedicated to helping us understand how we can best assist and prepare them for our eventual departure. This relationship will only grow over time, and I am confident that by the time we redeploy, our Iraqi Army and Federal Police partners will view us as an integral member of their "tribe" that assisted them in stamping out the remaining pockets of extremists in their country, and set them on the road to irreversible momentum and a prosperous Iraq.

I applaud all the members of the Raider Tribe, and thank each of you for your efforts. Keep up the good work.

TO THE OBJECTIVE!

Raider 6

# RAIDER 7

## CSM JEFFREY HUGGINS

### 4SBCT COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

**RAIDERS**

You have accomplished great things! The Raider Brigade has overcome many obstacles to get to where we are now. Our accomplishments are numerous and include an accelerated deployment time line, a hot, humid, fun-filled summer Joint Readiness Training Center rotation, compressed train up in Kuwait, assumption of our battle space with a very nontraditional hand over, and now continuous combat operations. Your hard work and dedication to duty have allowed the Raider Brigade to set the example for what can be accomplished when we come together in a Unity of Effort.

As the Iraqi Security Forces continue to grow and become more capable, our mission and objectives will continue to change. The coming year will require us to stay flexible, improvise, adapt and overcome. We will continue to improve our "foxhole" and the conditions on the ground allowing the people of Iraq to choose their path to prosperity.

For most of you who have deployed to Iraq before, this is a different operating environment then it was just a few years ago. Quality of life for Iraqis has improved, and attacks on U.S. Forces are down, but make no mistake about it; if given the opportunity, your enemy will attack. I remind all of you to stay vigilant, and remember that the enemy has a vote. The enemy does not enjoy the same freedoms it once did. They will wait until they see an opportunity to exploit and strike. Staying vigilant is your best defense against the enemy and complacency will be your greatest challenge.

The people of Iraq have benefited from our sacrifice and hard work in the past and will continue to benefit from our efforts in the future. It is incumbent upon us to set the example for the people of Iraq and, most importantly, the Iraqi Security Forces. We must show them what right looks like. I am proud of every member of the Raider Team for their accomplishments thus far and look forward serving proudly with you in the RAIDER TRIBE. It is truly an honor to serve as your brigade command sergeant major.

Remember:

BE SAFE....
BE SMART....
and when required....BE LETHAL!

Raider 7

# 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment

MANCHUS

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

(Above) Staff Sgt. Rosenthal watches out of the gunner's hatch of a Stryker during a mission with the rest of the scout platoon.

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

(Above) Sgt. Gonzalez checks a Stryker gunner's weapon before their platoon's mission.

(Below) Spc. Sumrall adjusts Spc. McCane's ammo pouches before a mission with the scout platoon.

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

# Lt. Col. Mark Bieger

## Commander

## 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment

**MANCHUS,**

The battalion arrived in Iraq in mid-September, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment's mission is to follow and support the Iraqi Security Forces and partner with the 24th Iraqi Army Brigade in order to protect the Iraqi population. Now, one month later, the Manchus have developed strong relationships with our Iraqi partners of the 24th IA Bde. and continue a combined effort to improve peace and stability within the area of operations.

As a symbol of partnership and following historic Army traditions, we recently invited the leadership of the 24th IA Bde. to the Manchu's colors uncasing ceremony on a field in Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam here. Both skepticism and anxiety were evident on the faces of our new friends, but as the ceremony ensued, their demeanors relaxed and were replaced by revived spirits and an honest belief that we would achieve victory through this partnership. Below is an excerpt from that day's ceremony:

"…There is another group of men that we honor and recognize today. They are the Soldiers of the 24th Iraqi Brigade. Their colors stand proudly in their brigade headquarters and their men stand solidly already securing this area and the qada. These men have fought courageously over the past six years for their country, their families and for each other.

They, along with the Coalition, have made significant progress in reestablishing security within this area and all over Iraq. This success has not come without sacrifice, but they continue to serve and fight when necessary.

Today, we pledge to them and to the Iraqi people of this qada – the Manchus will stand side by side with the 24th to continue this progress and irreversible momentum towards peace.

I have spoken to two groups this morning – the 4th Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment and the 24th Brigade of the 6th Iraqi Army Division. These two groups have many things in common. They have hopes and dreams. They have families that they miss and love.

They are loyal to their country. They are wearing their nations' colors and they are committed to this critical mission – but most importantly – they are Soldiers.

Be proud of that. In the year ahead, stand tall and strong, always.

For the rest of your lives, take pride in the fact you have served and sacrificed for your nation – and forever you will be called a Soldier."

**Manchu 6-**
**"Keep Up the Fire."**

# 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment

VIKINGS

## 2-12 FA Soldiers prepare for 13T skill set certification

***Story by 1st Lt. Matthew Brooks***

BAGHDAD – The Army has established a new 13T military occupation specialty into the Field Artillery branch where previous 13S and 13W MOS-trained personnel will go through a certification process resulting in a single combined skill set.

Soldiers who successfully complete the certification process will be qualified and responsible to hold the position as a Field Artillery surveyor and meteorological crewmember.

For Soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad who are qualified in either survey or meteorological operations, the certification process will require intense cross-training between MOS specific vehicles and equipment. Obtaining the new title as a 13T will require dedication on the behalf of each Solider and will require them to sacrifice hours to train even after their duty day has ended.

**Sgt. Joseph Reyes instructs Pfc. David Watson on their meteorological operations vehicle called a Profiler. Both Reyes and Watson are qualified as field artillery meteorological crewmembers with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment.(U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Brooks, 2-12th FAR, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B)**

The certification process is based on a four-level progression system, increasing in difficulty as the Soldier advances. Skill Level I is the broadest, however, requiring general knowledge on radios and antennas as well as showing the ability to execute basic survey and meteorological tasks taught during advanced individual training. However, to be reclassified as a 13T, the Soldier only needs to obtain a Level I certification.

"I am excited to train and pass on my knowledge to younger Soldiers in the unit as well as take the time to learn new skills that will aid me in progressing my Army career," said Sgt. Jerrel Casey, who is currently serving as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of his 2nd Bn., 12th FA Regt.'s survey section. Casey has been selected to be the overall NCOIC during the 13T training and will be required to obtain a Level III certification before he can qualify others. Survey and meteorological operations are essential in the Field Artillery branch. They provide critical information to the howitzer gun line and Fire Direction Center (FDC) that allows for accurate predictive fire based on environmental conditions. By having a single Solider trained in both skill sets will increase the capability and flexibility of a Field Artillery battalion conducting 24-hour operations and will certainly benefit the brigade they support.

# Lt. Col. Kevin Murphy

## Commander

## 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment

**VIKINGS,**

September proved to be a busy month for Task Force Viking as the main body personnel departed Fort Lewis, Wash. and moved into Kuwait. The flights were a great opportunity for all the Soldiers to try to relax before all of the batteries hit the ground running.

Upon arrival in Kuwait, the battalion began a final training exercise. Soldiers were motivated to start training on the M-777 howitzer. For some, it had been a long time since training with the M-777. This training proved to be extremely valuable. To certify on the M-777, crews had to complete missions such as "time on target", "fire when ready" and "at my command". Every crew completed the missions flawlessly. This meant Task Force Viking successfully completed howitzer section certification training which was necessary to move forward into Iraq.

Task Force Viking Soldiers also received additional crew serve and individual weapons familiarization and qualification training as well as simulations in the HEAT (HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer). The HEAT training is used to train Soldiers in the proper procedures in case of a rollover accident. The instruction defines what role every Soldier executes to ensure everyone is able to get out of the vehicle safely. HEAT training not only promotes safety, it also promotes esprit de corps which ultimately brings a unit closer together.

The next major task was moving the entire Viking Battalion and all of its equipment into Iraq. The task was very challenging, but the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment were ready to make it happen. The unyielding dedication of every Soldier involved made the move from training in Kuwait to setting up in Iraq seem routine. It took countless hours of planning and coordinating for this operation to be a success. The Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 12th FA Regt. are relentless when it comes to accomplishing the mission. The Viking Battalion is now set up at Camp Liberty and ready to commence operations.

**Viking 6-"Vikings!"**

# 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment

ROCK

## "ROCK OF THE MARNE!"

(Left) 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment company commanders and Lt. Col. John W. Leffers pose for a photo with their Iraqi Army counterparts after a meeting.

(Below) Lt. Col. John W. Leffers, commander, and Iraqi Police LPS Operations Officer, Col. Sabah, greet each other before discussing their new partnership in the Abu Ghraib area. (Courtesy photo by U.S. Army)

(Below) Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment wait for a training session in Kuwait on Sept. 20. (Courtesy photo by U.S. Army)

# Lt. Col. John W. Leffers

## Commander

## 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment

**ROCK,**

The Rock Battalion has been very busy over the past 30 days. The battalion main body flights began arriving in Kuwait on Sept. 12 and finished with a final main body arrival on Sept. 14.

The variety of training sessions offered in Kuwait was a great opportunity for Rock Soldiers to continue their training and preparation for combat operations. While a large portion of Soldiers were training in both classroom and field environments, several Rock Soldiers, with support from other Raider Brigade Soldiers, were busy running the port operations in Kuwait. Working day and night operations, Soldiers downloaded and moved hundreds of vehicles from the ships and onward movement to Camp Buehring, Kuwait for training and also into Iraq for combat operations.

The battalion successfully deployed from Camp Buehring, Kuwait into Camp Liberty, Iraq, which is located in Abu Ghraib, a suburb just west of Baghdad. The movement and establishment of our current footprint were difficult, but the Soldiers did a superb job working through the many challenges. The result is that we successfully set up all of battalion and company command posts, configured our Strykers for combat operations, moved into our living containers, and prepared our individual equipment for the mission.

Additionally, we conducted a relief-in-place with the outgoing battalions and uncased our battalion colors on Oct. 10.

We have established a strong partnership with an Iraqi Army battalion and are working on building a similar relationship with the local Iraqi Police, to include running a Joint Coordination Center with the Iraqi Police, and are in the process of continuing to familiarize ourselves with our new operating environment. Overall, things are going well, and our Soldiers are doing a great job not only getting the job done, but keeping a very positive attitude.

I also want to offer my sincere thanks on behalf of all of the Rock Soldiers to Capt. Fitzwater and Sergeant 1st Class Johnson, our rear detachment commander and noncommissioned officer-in-charge, for the phenomenal job they have been doing taking care of the Rock Families. It is their hard work and dedication in the rear that enables us to focus on the mission here in Iraq.

In closing, I want to thank all of the Rock Soldiers and their families for their selfless service and countless sacrifices for this battalion and great nation of ours. The enduring support of our families will allow our Soldiers to continue to focus on accomplishing our mission and returning home safely.

**Rock 6-**
**"Rock of the Marne!"**

# 2nd Squadron, 1st Calvary Regiment

BLACKHAWKS

Courtesy photo by U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Daly shakes hands with an Iraqi Army Soldier

Courtesy photo by U.S. Army

Soldiers with 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment stand near a Stryker in Kuwait.

Courtesy photo by U.S. Army

(Left) 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment Soldiers fire their weapons at paper targets while in Kuwait.

# Lt. Col. Richard Heyward

## Commander

## 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment

I'd like to officially welcome all Soldiers, families, and friends of the Blackhawk Squadron. Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin and I are extremely excited that the Blackhawks are making our first contribution to the *Raider Tribe*. In today's age of numerous forms communication, I feel it is vital that we continue to produce valuable tools such as newsletters and magazines to inform you of what your Soldiers have already accomplished, what they are currently doing, and what they will be doing in the upcoming months.

Following our departure from Fort Lewis, we arrived at Camp Buehring, Kuwait where we spent several weeks conducting our final training alongside our fellow battalions within the Raider Brigade.

We arrived in Iraq through the Baghdad International Airport, and established operations nearby at the appropriately named Camp Stryker; part of the elaborate network of bases that comprise Victory Base Complex.

Our troops patrol the rural countryside of Iraq, an endless horizon of farm lands, palm groves, canals, dust, cattle, and sheep west of Baghdad. Your Soldiers are working tirelessly to sustain a hard earned peace and maintain a level of security and stability that will allow the people of this region to peacefully live their lives.

Platoons from our Cobra and Headquarters troops presided over the opening ceremony of a primary school for Iraqi school children Oct. 15. This school had gone to waste during years of fighting, but opened to the sound of children's laughter eagerly attending their classes. The school's infrastructure has been restored and we delivered school supplies to the students. The teachers and students work hard despite poverty and conflict. Their efforts and motivation are an inspiration to us. Our thoughts and prayers go with them.

The Blackhawks continue to build cooperation and forge a partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces. Training and transition are our priorities.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 16, we received word that the Iraqi Army was executing an operation to search for suspected weapons caches and individuals known to be linked to suspected terrorist activity in our region. Two hours after notification, we activated the entire squadron and surrounded the target area and providing security for the Iraqi Army as they conducted their mission. We performed this major operation only five days after reaching our full operating capability, illustrating the speed at which we became combat ready. We will continue to build these critical relationships with the Iraqi Army as well as the Iraqi Police.

We have accomplished much in this first month. Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin and I are privileged and proud to have the opportunity to command the Blackhawk Squadron. Most importantly, I want to extend a special thanks to our families and friends for your sacrifice and daily support of the Blackhawk team.

The efforts of our Soldiers are extraordinary. The mission is just beginning and we will exercise the full measure of our resolve to ensure the peaceful future of Iraq.

**Blackhawk 6-**
**"Out Front, Blackhawks!"**

# 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment

TOMAHAWKS

Courtesy photo by U.S. Army

Courtesy photo by U.S. Army

**(Above) Third Platoon, Crazyhorse Company, move in to assist Iraqi Security Forces at a vehicle-born improvised explosive device site in Baghdad.**

**(Left) First Lt. Reese, a Soldier with 3rd Platoon, Crazyhorse Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, meets with Lt. Col. Muhamed, a battalion commander with 22nd Brigade,6th Iraqi Army Division.**

# Lt. Col. Michael Lawrence

## Commander

## 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment

**TOMAHAWKS,**

The Tomahawks continue to lead the way in building partnership and setting in motion the irreversible momentum we're trying to create as a brigade.

The Tomahawks have proudly patrolled an area of operation of more than 270 sq. km and 3.1 million people while partnering with 11 Iraqi Security Force units, including two ISF brigades, five Iraqi Army battalions, three Federal Police battalions, and a Ministry of Interior emergency response unit.

Accordingly, our AO is as diverse as our Soldiers running the missions reaching from central Baghdad with Kharkh, Shulla, and Ghazaliyah, to the palm groves of Taji Shores, to the rural regions of recently rebuilt Saab Al Bor.

We have conducted more than two dozen joint patrols with our IA partners with weekly patrol sync meetings, joint traffic control points, M-16 training, and a joint operation with Operation Detachment Alpha, Iraqi ERU and two of our companies to detain numerous suspects. We have now jointly detained more than 22 warranted suspects.

Our 38th Engineer Company has cleared many hundreds of kilometers of the Raider Brigade's routes and has been instrumental to our brigade's success.

The strong foundation we're building with our IA partners is due to the strength of the Tomahawk Soldiers on all levels. The willingness of our Soldiers to partner and work with the ISF contributed to our battalion being part of the few U.S. Forces allowed in Baghdad following a vehicle-born improvised explosive device attack, something even the previous unit was not allowed after the August attacks.

> **"The strong foundation we're building with our IA partners is due to the strength of the Tomahawk Soldiers on all levels."**
>
> ***-Lt. Col. Michael Lawrence***

We conducted sensitive site exploitation and helped the IA search houses with dog teams.

While we wish these division level missions weren't necessary, the Tomahawks have been and always will remain ready to assist our Iraqi Partners.

**Tomahawk 6-**
**"Tomahawks! We serve - To The Objective!"**

# 702nd Brigade Support Battalion

## 702nd Brigade Support Battalion outfits Strykers

***Story by Capt. Jen Patterson***

Forge; to form or make, especially by concentrated effort; to move ahead with increased speed and effectiveness. The "Forge" Battalion, 702nd Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), has done just that as they work to establish and support the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Multi-National Division -- Baghdad in Iraq.

The 702nd BSB arrived in Iraq ahead of the majority of the brigade to set the conditions to receive and sustain the maneuver task forces. One of the most critical missions of the BSB is the work done by the Combat Repair Team (CRT). These teams of approximately 30 mechanics are embedded within each of the brigade's maneuver battalions' Logistical Support Teams (LSTs) to serve as first responders to the unit's maintenance needs. Upon arrival in Iraq, the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment CRT, led by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Keu Ya, immediately began outfitting the battalion's fleet of Strykers with "pope glass". This aftermarket addition to the Styker vehicle provides added protection from small-arms fire and improvised explosive devices (IED). CW2 Ya's CRT is outfitting a total of 70 Strykers with the pope glass. "The total process takes approximately four hours per vehicle and we complete about four vehicles a day", CW2 Ya said. The CRTs work long hours to ensure the unit's equipment is operationally ready.

**Sgt. Billy McClesky, from the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, welds "pope glass" onto a Stryker. McClesky serves on the Combat Repair Team (CRT) that directly supports 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment on Camp Liberty. (Courtesy photo by U.S. Army)**

In addition to the CRTs, the BSB has Field Feeding Teams (FFT) and distribution teams delivering water, food, fuel, ammunition, and other needed supplies to the Raider Brigade throughout the Baghdad area. These essential services are delivered nightly via Combat Logistics Patrols (CLP). "The primary effort of the BSB is to sustain the Raider Brigade," said Maj. Donnie Nowlin, the 702nd BSB support operations officer.

The Forge Battalion conducts this mission daily and is ready to support if the mission changes.

The medical company has established its footprint and assumed the mission of providing health service support to the Raider Brigade out of the Riva Ridge Troop Medical Clinic (TMC), the premier Level II medical treatment facility in Iraq. The tactical operation center (TOC) is operational and the staff is prepared to provide command and control of sustainment operations as well as serve as the rear brigade command post if called upon.

The 702nd BSB is prepared to provide world-class sustainment to the Raider Brigade. This is possible because of the intense effort of the over 650 Forge Soldiers currently deployed.

# Lt. Col. Micki McCassey

## Commander

## 702nd Brigade Support Battalion

Greetings from Camp Liberty, Iraq. For the first part of the deployment, many of the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion Soldiers played a critical role in receiving our brigade's personnel and equipment in Kuwait, as the battalion was the lead for the brigade for this mission. Their efforts ensured all planes were met by busses and baggage trucks for transportation to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, that all Soldiers had a cot to rest on, and that training needs were met. Our transportation experts ensured the brigade's equipment, received at the Port of Shuaiba, was moved from the port to Camp Buehring for training or onward into Iraq to start our mission. The majority of our Soldiers completed their required training such as weapons' confirmation and communications systems and HMMWV and MRAP Egress trainers. They later moved on to Iraq to begin their mission.

We held a relief-in-place (RIP) ceremony with the 299th BSB, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division on Sept. 27. Now most of our team is getting settled into our initial deployment configuration across northwestern Baghdad. The 702nd BSB Headquarters is located on Camp Liberty, Victory Base Complex (VBC). We have our Logistical Support Teams (LSTs) embedded with our maneuver brothers across VBC and at four different joint security stations (JSS) across our brigade's footprint. In additional to our typical rolls of supporting the brigade, we have reestablished partnerships with the Iraqi Security Forces' logistical leaders across our area of operation.

**"...It truly is 'one team, one fight.'"**

***-Lt. Col. Micki McCassey***

So far this is a very different deployment for our Soldiers who have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before. We are very proud of the support our Soldiers provide to our brigade and our Iraqi counterparts – it truly is "one team, one fight." We are also very thankful for the love and support we all receive from our family and friends. I look forward to the things to come as we continue our service in Iraq.

**Forge 6 –**
**"Raider Support!"**

Sgt. Craig Ilmonen (left) with 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment talks to the driver of a Stryker Sept. 2 near a port in Kuwait. Ilmonen and other Soldiers with 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division took part in a detail on the port to get the vehicles ready for the brigade's deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth)

# Raider Brigade Unloads Assets for Deployment in support of OIF

***Story by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth***

BAGHDAD -- Soldiers with 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division unloaded Strykers and other military vehicles off ships Sept. 1-5 at a port in Kuwait and prepared them for the brigade's deployment to Iraq.

The ships left the United States after the brigade's rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and arrived more than a month later at the Kuwaiti port.

Soldiers moved to Camp Arifjan from here and split into two 12-hour shifts. During both shifts, Soldiers checked the efficiency of the vehicles.

"We've got to get everything on the ground and make sure it works so the Soldiers have something to train on," said Sgt. Maj. Todd Sims, the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment training sergeant major.

The Soldiers drove the vehicles off the ship to a deployment yard near the port.

At the yard, Third-country nationals and contractors with General Dynamics Land Systems, a contracting group from Fort Lewis retrofitted Strykers.

**"We've got to get everything on the ground and make sure it works so the Soldiers have something to train on."**

***Sgt. Maj. Todd Sims***
***sergeant major***
***1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment***

According to the special projects support supervisor with General Dynamics Land Systems, Michael Corrigan, the Strykers are retrofitted by attaching equipment to help protect the vehicles from improvised explosive devices.

The hull-protection kit, which is add-on armor, protects the tire area from improvised explosive devices, Corrigan said.

After the vehicles were checked and retrofitted, Soldiers ground-guided the Strykers onto flatbed trucks. A convoy led the trucks here where they will be used by 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div. Soldiers conducting training before heading to the brigade's final destination in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Ft. Lewis Based Soldiers Take Over West of Baghdad

***Story by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth***

BAGHDAD – Col. John Norris took the reins from Col. Joseph Martin in a transfer of authority ceremony, Sept. 28, at the Camp Liberty Field House.

Soldiers of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, arrived in Iraq earlier this month and, following the transfer of authority ceremony, assumed responsibility for operations in the country to include providing security and strengthening the Iraqi government and its security forces.

In his outgoing speech, Col. Martin, commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, thanked his Soldiers for their dedication and hard work and ended with his confidence in the abilities of the incoming troops based out of Fort Lewis, Wash.

"The "Raiders" of the 4th Brigade will serve with distinction and achieve great progress while deployed in Baghdad," he said.

Norris, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins, uncased the brigade colors, symbolizing their units' assumption of responsibility for the area of operations.

In his remarks following the uncasing of the brigades colors, Norris thanked Martin and said his brigade set the standard.

"This ceremony serves to herald the arrival of the Raider Stryker Brigade Soldiers, here to assist in setting the successful conditions and continuing the trend of irreversible momentum already created by the cooperative efforts between the Dagger Brigade and the Iraqi leaders in and around Baghdad," Norris said.

He also spoke on the brigade's mission during its deployment.

"We have returned with one purpose in mind; to support the Iraqi people, the Iraqi government, and the Iraqi army and police in every way we can," Norris said.

Addressing Gen. Karim, of the 6th Iraqi Army Division, Norris assured him that they shared the same visions for the area.

"I look forward to working together in order to ensure the success of this great country. Together at all levels, we will provide security and improve essential services to the great people of this land."

**Col. John Norris (left), commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins uncase the Raider Brigade colors Sept. 28 here at a transfer of authority ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B)**

# Abu Ghraib shiekh council meeting brings resolve

***Story and photo by Pfc. Kim Hackbarth***

**Sheikhs from local tribes gather for a council meeting to discuss issues in the area in Abu Ghraib here, Oct. 3. Other attendees included the 24th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division deputy commanding officer, Lt. Col. Yaser, Col. John Norris, and members of the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team- West.**

BAGHDAD -- U.S. and Iraqi commanders, along with prominent members of the Abu Ghraib community met, Oct. 3, to discuss security gains as well as rebuilding dialogue in this western community of Baghdad.

Col. John Norris, commander of 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, suggested a representative from 24th Bde., 6th IA Div. attend the council meeting to help bridge the communication gap between Abu Ghraib sheikhs and the Iraqi army since a recent rift.

At the meeting, Iraqi Lt. Col. Yaser assured council members that security in the past could not be compared to how it is now. He pointed out that things are safer and more stable all over Baghdad, largely due to actions such as patrols and warrant-issued arrests made by the IA and Iraqi police.

"Every day is getting better," Yaser said.

Yaser's presence at the meeting opened ways of communication between the IA and the council members by allowing the two groups to share thoughts and opinions on issues in the area with little input from Norris.

"The Iraqi army could receive their concerns about security and could, in fact, respond and resolve the issues and the concerns they had with security instead of me being the interface," said Norris.

Security was not the only issue brought up at the meeting.

Internally displaced persons are a growing concern for the Abu Ghraib council members. Yaser reassured the council members the Iraqi forces look to help the IDPs. One of the final topics discussed in the meeting was the need for people to go to the authorities if they had information about crimes committed. He explained to the council that one of the biggest reasons why violence still existed in their areas was because people would not come forward with tips.

Overall, the meeting broke new ground for all members involved by repairing the partnership between the IA and the council member and allowing them to work together to try to make the area a safer place for the citizens.

"Just [Yaser's] presence and his willingness to receive the information and the concern to discuss security-related issues and the issues within the communities with the sheikhs was a big victory for us in terms of improved security and immediate change in perception that the Iraqi army is, in fact, there for the people and supporting the people."

# SAFETY 101

## Electrical Safety from Raider Safety- To the Objective *Safely*

During deployments, the necessity for electricity increases dramatically. Great demands on the existing electrical infrastructure will be required for such needs as communications, automation, lighting, life support and quality of life items  This is further complicated with an electrical network that has been run hard and in need of repair.  Extension cords will be widely used to carry electricity where it is needed, offering a convenient solution for delivering power right where we need it.

However, extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution and should not be treated as a long-term or permanent extension of your building's electrical system. With continuous and excessive use, these cords can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard.

If used improperly extension cords can cause injury and death. Extension cords are a leading cause of electrical fires.  Short circuits; overloading; and damage and/or misuse of extension cords is the leading causes of extension cord fires.

***There are Five Steps to Selecting an Extension Cord***

***Determine your needs.***

***Check the total wattage of the electrical devices that will be plugged into the cord.***

***Divide that sum by the voltage to calculate the total number of amps you will need.***

***Check the rating, or the gauge, of the extension cord, which will be displayed as a number followed by the letters "AWG." AWG is the abbreviation for American Wire Gauge, a standard measurement of electrical wiring.***

***If the total wattage is equal to or greater than the maximum rating of the cord, then you will need a higher rated extension cord.***

**Safety Tips for Extension Cords**

**Make sure electrical cords are in good condition. Cracking and fraying are signs that the electrical cord needs to be replaced.**

**Do not run cords under furniture, carpeting, or behind baseboards.**

**Do not place extension cords across walkways or other high traffic areas.**

**Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.**

**Do not run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, then heat cannot escape and a fire hazard may result.**

**Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles - they cannot be chained together.**

**Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. This includes using three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug, and cutting off the ground pin to force a fit.**

**Purchase cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Conformite Europeene (CE) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).**

### Counterfeit Electrical Products

Every day, counterfeit electrical products are finding their way into our CHU's and work areas.  These fraudulent products pose a serious financial and legal liability to the Army and they have become a grave safety crisis for our Commander's - a crisis that requires immediate action.

Although counterfeit products may appear as excellent copies of their original counterparts, these products are often made using inferior materials and lax methods to produce substandard products.  Advertised at prices unable to be matched by a genuine brand manufacturer, these products have failed to pass minimum safety tests upon investigation by authorities.

Undetected counterfeit electrical products such as circuit breakers, batteries, extension cords, and power strips can cause fires, shocks, explosions, and electrocutions.

Counterfeit electrical products pose significant safety hazards, and can cause deaths, injuries and substantial property loss if left undetected.

Counterfeiters have targeted well-known industrial and consumer brands, and registered certification marks of testing and certification laboratories.

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## Cherish The Moment!

Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey. It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as the people we have touched along the way…

Being apart from your loved ones can be hard, yet the time apart can help one realize the importance of spending quality time with your loved ones. As a father of three kids (two girls and one boy) and one lovely wife, being away from them makes me think of all the time I wish I could go back and make up with them. Time is very important and we should always cherish it, especially the time with our loved ones.

Chap. Terrell Jones shakes hands with the 2HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., chaplain at the rehearsal TOA ceremony

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with $86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day, but every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.

What would you do?

Draw out ALL OF IT, of course!!!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow."

You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

Remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!!!

Make the most of your time today.

Chaplain Terrell Jones
BDE Chaplain
4 BDE 2ID

# SURGEON CENTRAL

## "RIVA RIDGE" TROOP MEDICAL CLINIC
## BLDG E6A-2, CAMP LIBERTY (EAST)
## HOURS OF OPERATION

***Our mission is to provide world class healthcare to all 4/2 SBCT "Raiders", U.S., and Coalition Forces, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This schedule was developed only as a means to provide specific timelines for sick call, appointment, and on call hours. Riva Ridge TMC will always remain staffed (including during "off peak" hours) and any LLE (life, limb, or eyesight) patients will always be seen immediately.***

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### Sick Call

**Mon-Fri 0800-1000hrs ,1400-1600hrs**

**Sat 0800-1000hrs**

**Sun 1400-1600hrs**

***Emergencies anytime (day or night) should be immediately referred to the TMC.***

### Physical Therapy Clinic

**Mon-Sat 0800-1000hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only – Acute Injuries less than 10 days old)**

**Mon-Fri 1300-1700hrs **By Appointment Only****

**Sun 1400-1600hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only – Acute Injuries less than 10 days old)**

### Mental Health

**Mon-Sat 0800-1700hrs Walk-Ins**

**Sun 0800-1700hrs **On Call****

***Emergencies should be immediately referred to the TMC.***

### Dental Clinic

**Mon-Sat 0800-1000hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only)**

**Mon-Sat 1000-1800hrs **By Appointment Only****

**Sun 1400-1600hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only)**

***Emergencies such as knocked out teeth, tooth fractures (less than two hours old with active bleeding), or tooth abscess with facial swelling or fever should be immediately referred to the TMC.***

### Pharmacy

**Mon-Fri 0800-1100hrs ,1400-1700hrs**

**Sat 0800-1100hrs**

**Sun 1400-1700hrs**

### Immunizations Clinic

**Mon-Sat 0800-1600hrs Walk-Ins**

**Sun 1400-1600 Walk-Ins**

***The following medical specialties are also offered on Camp Liberty at adjacent MTFs:***

**Optometry Clinic (Located on Pad 11 across the street from the 702d BSB Headquarters)**

**Mon-Fri 0900-1700hrs**

**Sat 0900-1200hrs**

**Audiology (Located at Witmer TMC)**

***Soldiers must be referred by their battalion provider(s) prior to scheduling a hearing exam.***

### Riva Ridge TMC Appointment Lines:

**Dental – Call Front Desk (Number Below)**

**Physical Therapy – SVOIP: 242-7108**

**Front Desk (Patient Admin) – SVOIP: 242-4651**

### Victory Base Complex Emergency Services

**Dial DSN "911" or SIPR 243-4407**

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## 4-2 SBCT Battalion Aid Stations -- HOURS OF OPERATION

**HHC , 38th EN, 45th MI and 472nd SI, and 702nd BSB – Riva Ridge (Camp Liberty, BLDG E6A-2 PAD 7)**

**Mon-Fri 0800-1000hrs and 1400-1600hrs**

**Sat 0800-1000hrs**

**Sun 1400-1600hrs**

**1-38IN – Sick Call at 1-38IN BAS (Camp Liberty BLDG E6-6 PAD 6)**

**Mon – Sun 0700 – 0900hrs and 1300 – 1500hrs**

**Emergencies – 1-38IN BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day**

**2-23IN – Sick Call at 2-23IN BAS (Camp Taji)**

**Mon – Sun 0800-1000hrs and 1600 – 1800hrs**

**Emergencies – 2-23IN BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day (Level II – Hale Koa)**

**4-9IN – Sick Call at 4-9IN BAS (JSS NWS)**

**Mon – Sun 0900 – 1000hrs and 2100 – 2200hrs**

**Emergencies – 4-9IN BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day (Level II – Riva Ridge)**

**2-1CAV – Sick Call at 2-1CAV BAS (Camp Stryker, BLDG 38)**

**Mon – Sun 0800 – 1000hrs and 1500 – 1700 hrs**

**Emergencies – 2-1CAV BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day**

**2-12FA – Sick Call at 2-12FA BAS (Camp Liberty, BLDG E1-1 PAD 1)**

**0730-0830 Mon-Sat, 1400-1500 M, T, W, F, Sun.**

**Emergencies – 2-12FA BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day**

# STRYKER BRIGADE...

## ...TO THE OBJECTIVE!!!