



# IRONHORSEMAN

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Sustaining



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Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Huntington, N.Y., native, Staff Sgt. Patrick Olsen, a squad leader assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, patrols a factory complex in Nassir Wa Salam Sept. 2. Olsen and his fellow Soldiers patrolled the area with Iraqi Army soldiers in an attempt to prevent insurgents from operating in the area.



### The History of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment

The 5th Cavalry Regiment began over a century ago, organizing on 28 May 1855, as the 2nd United States Cavalry Regiment at Louisville, KY. A few months later on 27 Sep 1855, under the command of Col. Albert S. Johnston, the Regiment marched west to Texas to fight in its first Indian Campaign, which took place in Texas. Later on, Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee succeeded Col. Johnston as the Commander. The Regiment fought in a total of thirteen Indian Campaigns, symbolized by the Arrow Head shaped Regimental Crest.

Early in 1861, the Regiment went to Carlisle Barracks, Penn., where the officers and men loyal to the South left the Regiment to serve in the confederacy. Lt. Col. Lee was replaced by Lt. Col. George C. Thomas. In the summer of 1861, the Regiment was re-designated the 5th United States Cavalry, the numerical designation it holds to this day. During the Civil War, the troopers of the 5th Cavalry made a charge at Gaine's Mill on 27 June 1862, saving the union artillery from annihilation. This battle is commemorated on the Regimental Crest by the black cross, the Cross-Moline, in the yellow field on the lower half of the crest.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the 5th Cavalry was ordered to Tampa, Fla. and then embarked for Cuba. The Regiment's service in this war and later for the Puerto Rican Expedition is symbolized by the White Maltese cross in the black chief of the upper half of the Regimental Coat of Arms.

The 5th Cavalry returned to the United States in 1900. The Regiment served in the Phillipine Islands and in Hawaii in 1903 and 1909 respectively. 1913, the Regiment returned to the United States, where it stayed during World War I, patrolling the Mexican border. On 18 December 1922 the 5th Cavalry Regiment became part of the 1st Cavalry Division, and has served with this division ever since.

Having exchanged horses for vehicles in 1943, the men of the 5th Cavalry Regiment spent World War II in the jungles of the South Pacific. After the war, the Regiment was garrisoned in Japan. In July 1950, the Regiment was sent to Korea to serve with other United Nations forces. After one and a half years of combat, the Regiment returned to Japan in 1951.

The Regiment was once again reorganized in August 1963, as the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. The Regiment returned to Fort Benning, Ga. in 1965 and then proceeded to the Republic of Vietnam as Air Cavalry. In Vietnam, it participated in twelve campaigns. During the mid 1970's, the Battalion for a brief time was a Tank Battalion, taking over troops and equipment of the 1st Battalion, 81st Armor. The Battalion was a test unit for the Army's new tank, the M-1. It was not until the mid 80's that 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry became the Mechanized Infantry Unit it is today.

When the ground war started against Iraq, in the Persian Gulf War the Lancers took part in the longest armored drive in the history of modern warfare. They traveled more than 290 kilometers in less than 24 hours, maintained all equipment, and sustained no injury or loss of life. The Lancers' contribution aided in the coalition's effort to overwhelm the Iraqi forces and secure freedom for Kuwait.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Bosnia-Herzegovina in September of 1998. Designated as Task Force 2-5 Cavalry with over 1200 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. While in Bosnia, Task Force 2-5 CAV siezed over 1500 illegal weapons in the city of Zvornik, moderated a logging dispute in the Opstina of Vares, implemented the campaign plan for the city of Srebrenica. After six and a half months of hard work and success, the Lancers left behind a lasting difference on the people of Bosnia.

As of early 2001, the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment was scheduled to eventually be equipped with the M2A3, the latest version of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Since arriving to take control of Sadr City 31 March 2004, 2-5 Cavalry has constantly conducted such patrols through two Shia insurgencies, the first one lasting from April 4 until the middle of June, leaving Sadr City with a month of relative peace, before fighting broke out again in Eastern Baghdad Aug. 5.

During OIF II, 2-5 CAV operated in Sadr City, a large slum in the northeastern part of Baghdad, from March 2004 to March 2005, and was involved in some of the fiercest combat of all OIF II.

March 2005, 2-5 CAV redeployed back to Fort Hood and reorganized in a modular Brigade Combat Team. Throughout 2006, 2-5 CAV participated in the brigades reorganization to a Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

October of 2006, 2-5 CAV deployed again for OIF 06-08 taking over the largest and one of the most populated areas in MND-B. 2-5 CAV was an integral part of the surge operation. The initial focus on combat operations provided a safe, stable, and secure environment which allowed reconciliation efforts of both Sunni and Shia tribal leaders and led to a significant expansion of Iraqi Security Forces, local government, and infrastructure improvement.

March 2009 the Lancers took control of the area assigned to them; Operating Environment Sadr City. Today the Lancers partner with the ISF in all of Adahmiah, Rusafa, and Sadr City.



## 1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division Multi National Division— Baghdad

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## From the desk of Col. Tobin Green



Hello fellow troopers, I want to share with you my opening comments from the Pentagon Conference of Oct. 8.

As you know, we call ourselves the “Ironhorse Brigade” and we consist of just under 4000 Soldiers.

We arrived in this theater in the February time frame, and assumed transfer of authority for the Northeast portion of Baghdad Province on 21 March 2009. Our initial operational environment included the districts of Adhamiyah, Sadr City, Sha’ab, Ur, and the rural Qada of Istiqla’al – all located on the east side of the Tigris River. Later during our rotation we expanded south to include an area in the Rusafa District, and we also assumed responsibility for the Taji and Tarmiyah Qadas north of the city and on the west side of the river.

Our current mission is to provide support to our Iraqi Security Forces partners inside the city of Baghdad, and conduct combined counter -insurgency operations with the ISF to disrupt and defeat the enemy outside the city.

The Iraqi forces we are partnered with include 7 x Iraqi Army Brigades and 2 x Divisional HQs, 1 Iraqi Federal Police Brigade, thousands of Iraqi police, as well as about 7000 Sons of Iraq (essentially reconciled, often former insurgents, who now assist with providing security and protecting the population, and who are now employed by the Government of Iraq and taking instructions from the Iraqi Security Forces in their areas.

Next I would like share some information with you regarding some of the Lines of Effort that serve as the construct for our Campaign Plan in Iraq.

### **SECURITY and PARTNERSHIP**

Security is still the first order of business for the units in this brigade as well as our Iraqi partners in uniform. And overall, we have been making steady progress together.

It has been just over three months since the Iraqi Security Forces assumed control of (and responsibility for) the security situation in the city, as US units remissioned or transitioned Combat forces to the rural support zones surrounding the cities IAW this next phase of the Security Agreement. How are we doing? To this point, overall attack numbers (to include both IEDs and the dangerous explosively formed projectiles) remain pretty low and are actually at lower levels than those experienced in the spring time leading up to the transition point on 30 June. In terms of attack lethality, casualties among US forces have taken a significant downturn. We did see an increase in ISF casualties during the July time frame, and most are aware of the civilian casualties associated with the 19 August VBIED attacks against the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Finance. But casualty figures have been in steady decline since that time. I am encouraged by initial returns, but am mindful of still lethal and capable enemy cells and networks who seek to inflict harm on security forces and innocent Iraqis every day.

We have found that the Iraqi Security Forces with whom we partner, especially the Federal

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Police and the Iraqi Army, continue to stand up to extremist and insurgent groups like Al Qaeda, and the Iraqi citizens continue to reject attempts by these groups to incite sectarian violence. That does not mean I am not concerned about Al Qaeda and other threat group efforts to conduct attacks and sew violence within Baghdad and its surrounding areas. Enemy capability had been significantly degraded over time, but not eliminated. Which is why units from this brigade will continue to support Iraqi Forces as they target the sources of instability and secure their people.

Inside the city areas of Baghdad, our forces primarily support the ISF with advanced training, specific enabling capabilities (such as aviation, intelligence support, or military working dogs), and we conduct combined operations with our partners upon request – consistent with the spirit and letter of the Security Agreement. Outside the city, we work in combination with ISF partners to eliminate enemy safe havens, interdict insurgent lines of communication, target terrorists in their bed down locations, and disrupt the flow of accelerants in these rural areas, in order to assist the Iraqis in securing Baghdad’s populated areas.

With the changes in our mission that took place on 30 June, the Ironhorse Brigade has been able to move units out of Baghdad and increase the forces available to partner with the ISF outside the city. These unit relocations have enabled operational success against enemy in their support zones, while strengthening relationships with Iraqi units in these more rural areas as well.

### **SUPER MITT**

We’ve taken it a step further to improve our partnership inside the city through something we call a “Super Military Transition Team” or “Super MiTT.”

The Super MiTT is a restructuring to both prepare for the transition to full Iraqi control and set conditions for the arrival of the Advisory and Assistance Brigade (AAB) in 2010. It puts resources, both enablers from the U.S. Brigade level and patrol capability at the U.S. platoon level, with their Iraqi partners, where they can be best and most often utilized.

It has led to great successes such as intelligence gathering and target development; and we have responded to the desires of the ISF by developing training academies with all our partners.

These training academies have produced increased capability in the Iraqi Army Brigades and developed a system for the Iraqi Army Brigades to maintain training proficiency which is a step towards removing the US Force presence.

### **CIVIL CAPACITY**

In the post June 30 environment, we have been able to expand on an already robust civil capacity effort across the brigade, by placing even more of our emphasis and resources on stability operations. The improved security situation from months and years past means that the brigade combat team and its embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams can give increased weight to expanding the capability of Iraqi local government, and improving the quality of life for Iraqi people with greater access to essential services and employment.

Continued on page 12



# Continuing a family legacy: “Black Knight”

By Pfc. Bailey Jester

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – A family history with decades of military service has led one Soldier to continue his family legacy and proudly serve his country as a Soldier.

Pfc. Zachary Sherman, a tanker, assigned to the 1st “Black Knight” Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, can always find inspiration “relatively” close by.

“The military runs in my family’s blood,” said Sherman, currently deployed to northern Baghdad. “I figured I would join too.”

Sherman’s grandfather, who served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, played a key role in his decision. Knowing his grandfather’s military accomplishments and seeing him on the cover of the Nov. 4, 1966 edition of *Life* magazine with President Lyndon B. Johnson created a strong feeling of admiration and respect for his grandfather.

Grandfather Sherman wasn’t the only family member the Austin, Texas, native respected and fol-

lowed into the military. His older brother, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps, also influenced the decision.

“My brother has always been a role-model and father figure to me,” said Sherman. “He made a point to do what was right and helped keep me motivated in whatever I wanted to do.”

Sherman’s older brother inspired him to go to the Military Entrance Processing Station to enlist in the Army.

Sherman initially planned to enlist as a cavalry scout, but unfortunately there weren’t any vacancies so he enlisted for his second choice – a tanker.

In December 2007, Sherman began his journey as a Soldier when he shipped to Fort Sill, Okla., for Basic Combat Training. There he met his closest friend, Biloxi, Miss., native Pvt. Corey Griffen, also a tanker assigned to Company D of the 1st “Black Knight” Battalion.

“Sherman is a good dude, moti-

# ight” Soldier proudly serves his country

vated and a hard worker,” said Griffen. “He is my boy and best battle buddy.”

The two tankers and friends went through their entire sequence of initial training together. After the completion of their training they were both assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. Shortly after arriving at Fort Hood the friends received word that they would be deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During this deployment to Iraq, Sherman re-enlisted for another four years. Shortly after redeploying, Sherman will transfer to Germany, an assignment given as an incentive for re-enlisting.

“I am excited about my Germany assignment,” Sherman said with a wide-eyed smile. “I love traveling, it’s another reason I had for joining in the first place.”

Griffen said he is excited for his friend’s future because Sherman earned the opportunity to be stationed in Germany.

Sherman has set numerous goals for his future. Before his enlistment is up he wants to move up through the ranks in hopes of becoming a staff sergeant.

Additionally, Sherman looks forward to achieving his childhood dream of becoming a police officer for the Boston Police Department following his enlistment.

“I knew that the experience I would acquire from the military could easily be carried over to what I want to do after my enlistment,” said Sherman.

The Army has increased his patience and has taught him to deal with anything life or a job may throw at him. Sherman said he is proud of his accomplishments and looks forward to what the future has in store. He also knows his grandfather would be proud.



# “Stallions” reintegrate released Iraqis in Nassir Wa Salam

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

JSS NASSIR WA SALAM, Iraq – As the sun crested the horizon on a new day in Nassir Wa Salaam, five detainees were released from U.S. Forces. They delivered five former detainees into the hands of a local area sheikh, here, Sept. 4.

“It’s very necessary to give them a second chance in life, but we will be checking on them,” said Sheikh Khalid al-Janabi. “When they went to jail, their thinking changed and they became men.”

After the former detainees were transported to Baghdad, Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, currently attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, picked them up and transported them back to their neighborhood.

“It seemed like they were eager to get home and they cooperated really well,” said



“If they deserve a second shot, they deserve a second shot,” said Pvt. Christopher Land, an infantryman from Maxwell, Ind., about five Iraqi men released from U.S. Forces’ custody in Nassir Wa Salam Sept. 4. Land and other Soldiers assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, transported Iraqis back to their homes.

Pfc. Travon Crockham, an infantryman from Chicago assigned to Co. B. “I think it’s a good thing giving these guys a second chance.”

Sgt. Eloy Garza, an infantry squad leader agreed.

“Whatever they did, they were detained for a reason, but I hope they’ve seen the light,” said Garza, a Robstown, Texas native.

“Regardless of what they did, we’re still here to help them.”

For the five Iraqis, returning home was just the first step.

“The next step is to set

*“...but I hope they’ve seen the light...we’re still here to help them.”*

up jobs for them and help them with their future,” said Sheikh Khalid, dressed in flowing white robes. “They will go straight this life and help build this country.”

The men hugged each other and the sheikh to express their gratitude before going inside his house.

“Maybe they’re rehabilitated and we had a good influ-



Capt. Ray Conzonier takes notes about the five detainees Co. B, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. turned over in Nassir Wa Salam.

ence on them,” said Garza. “Hopefully they can be guided down the right path.”

The sheikh used opportunity to speak with Point Pleasant, N.J. native, Capt. Ray Conzonier, commander of Co. B, about the situation and other issues in the area.

“I hope always that they will become better citizens and if they don’t we will be there to watch them,” added Khalid. “If they fall into the same patterns, we will notify our U.S. forces partners.”

After bringing five Iraqis freedom and a new start, the Soldiers headed out with the sun at their backs, hopefully to never see those men again.

**The Free Shot!**

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

**Q: If there is only one standard, why are some units wearing the patrol cap while others are still wearing the boonie cap?**

A: After 1 Sept., I left it up to each unit to decide on what was the appropriate headgear for daily wear. Some opted to continue to wear the boonie cap, while others opted to switch to the patrol cap. As of right now, we are following our higher headquarters standard of each individual chooses either the patrol cap or the boonie cap for daily wear.

**Q: What was your favorite childhood memory?**

A: Ha-Ha. Since I went to Catholic school in Compton, those were few and far between. And on some of those, I do not believe we have hit the statute of limitations on in case my mother or one of the nuns happens to read this. So, I plead the 5th.

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Easy

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

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

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**Q: If I have PCS orders and am allowed to report early how soon after we redeploy am I allowed to PCS?**

A: Each person is different, and each case is different in regards to PCS'ing. So, there can be no real definitive date for all to follow. You need to converse with your immediate chain of command and figure out what is best for you. If it requires a waiver of stabilization (the first 60 days, which starts 14 Feb.), then by all means put forth that action.

**Q: Are you happy with the way things have turned out this deployment?**



A: Yes. In terms of the overall mission that we have been given, absolutely. We have done what is required to further the overall goal of the nation that sent us here. Has it been hard, absolutely. But, that is what was asked of us.

**Q: What is your favorite kind of pie?**

A: How can you go with anything besides apple pie?

What are YOUR questions for CSM Norman?  
Send them to [shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil](mailto:shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil) and next month CSM Norman will answer some more of your questions.  
CSM Norman's answers are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division.

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Hard

# “Dragons” move to Taji, prepare for tough mission

By Pfc. Adam Halleck

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**-Versatility is vital to the ultimate success of any organization. On today's modern battlefield a unit's versatility is more valuable than any weapon.

Troops of 1st “Dragon” Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, once again proved their versatility that makes them one of the most trusted and respected artillery units in today's Army.

The post June 30 phase of the Security Agreement has forced the “Dragons” to switch gears and assume a more complicated role within the region. The battalion recently moved its headquarters from Combat Outpost Cashe South, located south of Baghdad, to Camp Taji, located north of Baghdad. In doing so, they accepted an increase in their operating area; from the roughly 50 square kilometers they patrolled in the Mada'in Region, to nearly 350 square kilometers in the Taji area.

Dragon Soldiers will also provide artillery fire support for three separate installations to support the Iraqi Security Forces in the region. This will assist in disrupting enemy communication abilities in the area, which will in turn enable the protection of the citizens and the growth of Iraqi civil capacity.

In addition, Soldiers from the battalion will provide maneuver support from Camp Taji and Joint Security Station Sheik Amir by working hand-in-hand with local Iraqi Army troops. The unit's mission is to improve security within the region, while at the same time nurturing further economic and political growth for the populace.

The battalion plans to not only continue progress within Taji, but to provide training, mentorship, and support for the Iraqi Army and the local government.

“Letting the Iraqi Army make the decisions for their operations and only providing over watch to make sure they are doing it correctly is key,” explained Thomson, Ga., native, Capt. Sydney Wilson, the assistant operations officer assigned the 1st “Dragon” Bn. “Also, through grants we plan to help improve and create jobs for the local populace in efforts to revitalize the economy.”

The process of gaining the trust of the people is through maintaining face to face contact and letting them know that the “Dragons” are in the area to support the Government of Iraq and Iraqi Security Forces, added Wilson.

“We will be spread thin, but if anyone can be suc-

cessful in this mission it's the ‘Dragons’,” expressed battalion commander, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, a native of Ozark, Ala., to his Soldiers as they prepared to assume the mission. “The next one hundred days will be some of the most fast-paced, important, and critical days for us. We will continue to foster progress and change for the people of Iraq and maintain the standard that we live by as ‘Dragons.’”

While in the Mada'in region the unit's battle space included a dominant Shi'ite residency, whereas in the surrounding area of Taji the troops will now interact with a Sunni majority. Balancing the responsibility of not only providing artillery support but also executing daily patrols, while at the same time adjusting to a new region with a new culture would seem to pose a compounding set of obstacles for the “Dragons”.

Fortunately, during the unit's previous 15-month rotation, they conducted countless missions and patrols within the Taji area, building trust and familiarity with the local population.

With the mixture of maneuvering and artillery capabilities, the Dragon troops will be a versatile force capable of supporting U.S. and Iraqi forces alike.

The knowledge of the area and experience that the “Dragons” have of the Taji area provides the battalion extra tools for success.

“It's good to be coming back to Camp Taji,” explained Pago Pago, American Samoa native, Sgt. Liuneta Ioane, a human resources sergeant assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, who is now on his third tour with the battalion. “We built many strong relationships with people in the area during our last rotation so it's good to see the progress the region has made. We can only help continue to cultivate change for the people of Taji.”

The Soldiers will maintain the “Can and Will” legacy that the battalion is famous for through their complex mission.

“We are being called for the tough mission,” added Schwegler. “There will be good days and there will be bad days. I am sure that we will be successful in our mission and will help the Iraqi people during this historical period of transition.”

**September 2009** **October 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Blueberry popsicle day	3 Uncle Sam's B'day	4	5 Cheese pizza day
6 Read a book day	7 Inde- pendence Day (Brazil)	8 Int'l literacy day	9 Teddy bear day	10 TV Dinner day	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Grandpar- ents Day	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month begins	16 Working parents day	17 Citizenship day	18 Rosh Hashanah	19
20	21 Int'l day of peace	22	23	24	25 Native American day	26
27 Good neighbor day	28	29	30			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Homemade cookies day	2	3
4 Golf day	5 Child health day	6	7	8	9 Leif Ericson Day	10
11	12 Columbus day	13	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month ends	16 Boss's day	17 Black poetry day
18 day	19	20	21	22 Nut day	23	24 United Nations day
25 Mother-in- law's day	26	27	28 Plush animal lover's day	29	30	31 Halloween

## Pegasus 7 visits Firebase Mayhem



Killeen, Texas, native, Spc. Kenneth Melton (left), an artillery cannon crewmember, assigned to 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, explains the different types of artillery rounds and charges to Kenton, Ohio native, Brig. Gen. John Murray (right), deputy commanding general for maneuver of the 1st Cavalry Division during Murray's Sept. 1 visit to Firebase Mayhem. During his visit, Murray and the Soldiers from the "Dragon" Battalion discussed the range and versatility of a M109A6 to provide precise and accurate fire.

(Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

Continued from page 5 Thus far, the brigade has completed (in some cases that means completing the work begun by predecessor units) 101 projects valued at almost \$25M. We currently have 63 projects underway at an estimated cost of \$8.6M. And there are another 58 projects in the developmental phase.

There are a couple points behind the numbers I want to highlight. The first is that when you consider the differences between completed and ongoing projects, you can tell that the BCT is deliberately moving toward less expensive projects that require a shorter time frame to complete. We think this adjustment makes great sense as we shift the preponderance of our forces to the areas outside the city, but without disengaging from our civil capacity activities inside Baghdad.

The second point is that I believe we have been able to generate and sustain our momentum in helping the Iraqis build civil capacity because of how we have organized ourselves for this challenge. The take away here is that we established a structure that closely tied our embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams to the brigade – fusing the organizations into one and thereby ensuring better synchronization and unity of effort. Similarly, we changed how the brigade interacted with Iraqis on projects by creating a “Projects and Programs Working Group” within each district and Qada that essentially made progress on any projects contingent upon more effective governance on behalf of the people, and we are enthused by the results to date.



### **Closing Comments**

I want to say something quickly to our rear-detachment cadre back at Fort Hood, to our family-readiness groups back there, loved ones back home, as well as our friends from the communities that surround Fort Hood, we really do appreciate their unconditional support.

Fort Hood is known in the Army as the great place, and those back home have really earned that moniker with their actions every day. We certainly appreciate it.

Another special message to those members of the Ironhorse family from this brigade who have been injured and returned home to heal, as well as the families of troopers who have lost their lives during this deployment, those individuals will never leave our thoughts and prayers, and we really do eagerly await our reunion with them in the future, the not-too-distant future.

And then, finally, the troopers in the organization, I think, are doing an incredible job working in Iraq with Iraqis every single day. You know, they come from all over our nation, and they live their oath to Soldiers and to serve. I'm really humbled by their professionalism, their courage, their sacrifices, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with them.

Ironhorse!

Team First!

**Toby Green**

**Ironhorse 6**

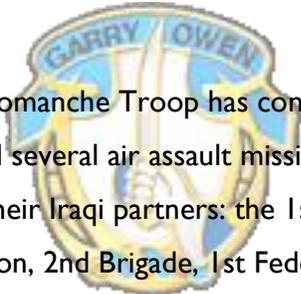
Familiar Faces الله اعلم



# “Garryowen’s” Unexpected Company

Story By 1st Lt. Joshua Risher

BAGHDAD, IRAQ— Soldiers in Troop C “Comanche”, 1st Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, built upon training with their Iraqi Security Forces partners and executed a combined, multiple-landing zone air insertion mission on Oct 4.



Comanche Troop has conducted several air assault missions with their Iraqi partners: the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Federal Police Division throughout 2009. These combined, air-assault missions normally land on mostly uninhabited islands on the Tigris River, where they search for caches of weapons and improvised explosive

devices. Comanche Troop conducts these missions to prevent insurgents from using the terrain to conduct criminal activities, and also as training opportunities for the Iraqis. They recently added a new element to the missions: conducting multiple

insertions near urban areas.

Approximately 600,000 people live in the area around JSS Istiqlal, and thousands more pass through the area daily on the Baghdad-Diyala highway. On the morning of Octo-



Cavalry Scouts from 1-7th and policemen from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st (Iraqi) Federal Police Division, run forward to board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter after sweeping a stretch of the Baghdad-Diyala highway for improvised explosive devices Oct. 4. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Risher)

ber 4, 2009, many people in the area could not avoid seeing helicopters flying conspicuously over the cities before landing near the highway

to drop off U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi Federal Police. At each of the three insertions the combined force made, they swept the area along each side of the highway for improvised explosive devices.

Nashua, N.H. native Capt. Derek Drouin, Comanche Troop’s commander, wanted a high degree of visibility for this mission. “There were three purposes to this mission: clear the area, train the Federal Police, and let the insurgents see how fast we can be in their backyard.” Drouin stated. “Now they’ll have to consider that we could be coming for them anytime they see a helicopter flying over.”

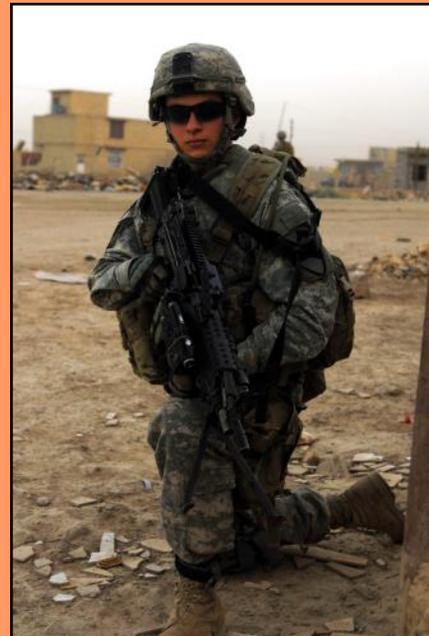


Spc. Nathan Huhn (right) observes Spc. Mario Macias (left), cavalry scouts from 1-7, use a metal detector to search for IED’s along the Baghdad-Diyala highway Oct. 4. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Risher)

# “Lancers”, IA patrol Sadr City



Brandenton, Fla., native Sgt. Heriberto Fuentes, keeps a close watch on his surrounding while on patrol in Sadr City Sept. 16. Fuentes is an infantryman assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. The Soldiers of Co. A patrolled the area with their Iraqi counterparts from the 44th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division and inquired area residents about an improvised explosive device that exploded earlier that day. (Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles)



Cherokee, N.C., native Pvt. Kevin Bryson, an infantryman with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security during a combined patrol with soldiers of the 44th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division on a street in Sadr City. “Right now I’m looking for anything abnormal. I want to pull the best security I can from the rear so we can keep the guys safe,” said Bryson. (Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles)



Pfc. Dan Cesiastis, an infantryman from Worcester, Mass., takes up a spot between cinder block walls to pull security while on a combined patrol with soldiers from the 44th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division in Sadr City. Cesiastis is assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. (Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles)



Staff Sgt. Benito Santos (right), an infantry platoon sergeant from Kagman-3, Saipan, walks behind an Iraqi soldier on a combined patrol in Sadr City Sept.16. “They scanned their sectors and they were looking at everything. They looked very professional out there,” said Santos who is assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. (Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles)

# “Stallions” Battalion Sports Day



Staff Sgt. Selesese Sokimi (right), a security section chief from Tacoma, Wash., assigned to Forward Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, tries to use his moves to get around Sgt. 1st Class Taylor Demrick (left), a platoon sergeant from Longview, Texas, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company during the “Stallion” Battalion Sports Day at Joint Security Station Nassir Wa Salam Sept. 5. (Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)



During the tug-of-war competition, 2nd Lt. Joel Mougey (right), an intelligence officer, Spc. Joseph Engle (middle), a dismount and Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Jones (left), a platoon sergeant, all assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, pull in unison at the final event of the day for the “Stallion” Battalion Sports Day at Joint Security Station Nassir Wa Salam Sept. 5. (Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)



Slatington, Penn., native Sgt. Maj. Luke Lichtenwalner, the operations sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, tries to hit a ringer during the horseshoe competition at Joint Security Station Nassir Wa Salam during the “Stallion” Battalion Sports Day Sept. 5. (Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)



Soldiers from the 2nd “Stallion” Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, jump for the ball during the “Stallion” Battalion Sports Day at Joint Security Station Nassir Wa Salam Sept. 5. The competition pitted different companies against each other in a series of athletic events throughout the day. (Photo by Sgt. Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)

# “Dragons” Thunderous Welcome



Rusafa area command chief of staff, Gen. Ayad offers his gratitude to Little Rock, Ark., native Capt. Alex Aquino, commander of Battery B “Pacesetters”, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, for the invitation to observe the “Pacesetters” conduct a fire mission at Firebase Mayhem, here, Oct. 8.

(Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)



Smoke and dust rise as an M109A6 155mm howitzer assigned to 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fires during a visit from Brig. Gen. John Murray, the deputy commanding general for maneuver, 1st Cavalry Division, and Gen. Ayad, the Rusafa area command chief of staff, to Firebase Mayhem, here, Oct. 8. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)



Kenton, Ohio native, Brig. Gen. John Murray (left), deputy commanding general of maneuver for the 1st Cavalry Division, poses for a picture alongside Gen. Ayad, the chief of staff for the Rusafa area command during a visit to Firebase Mayhem, here, to observe an artillery fire mission, Oct. 8.

(Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

# “Garryowen” secures Baghdad’s belt

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

JSS ISTIQLAAL, Iraq – It was a standard mission for the cavalry scouts of 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment – secure a thickly vegetated island, set up observation posts, find possible enemy routes, clear the area of dangers and fortify their position. Except this time, Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger, commanding general for Multi-National Division – Baghdad, was part of the platoon patrolling the island in northeast Baghdad, Aug. 3.

The patrol took the Soldiers through dense underbrush and precarious terrain to find “fast avenues of approach for the enemy, so we can defend the area,” said Spc. Richard Olin, a cavalry scout from Metlakatla, Ala., assigned to 1st Sqdrn., 7th Cav. Regt., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The cavalry scouts provided security for engineers building a stronger bridge to the island to support the movement of larger U.S. vehicles.

“We’re here to keep the engineers safe...they need the security because they can’t work all day and guard their equipment at night, too,” added Olin, who’s on his second tour in Iraq.

After emerging from a possible enemy route deep in the thickets of the river bank, Olin and the other Soldiers were caked in mud while

sweat stains started to spread on their camouflaged uniforms.

“Sometimes you get in there and can’t move your feet,” Olin said before he coughed. “There’s dust choking you when you’re crashing through – it’s a little ruthless.”

“It’s so thick, if the enemy got to us they’d be pretty tired when it’s time to fight,” he said about the 10-foot high reeds that blotted out the sun on the banks of the island.

“But its a little surprising when we’re tromping through it all and I turn around and he’s [Bolger] right there,” added Olin with a smirk on his dirt-smudged face.

“To have the [commanding gen-

*“On the outer belt is where enemies hide weapons...”*

eral] come out here and do something that staff sergeants and specialists are doing really shows these guys he cares,” explained 1st Lt. Jed Sargent, a platoon leader from Stark, N.H., assigned to 1st Sqdrn., 7th Cav. Regt., “It’s good for us because we get a chance to see higher headquarters care about what we’re providing.”

As the Soldiers stopped to draw up sectors of fire diagrams on the island, they took up a defensive perimeter.

“One of the most important aspects for leadership is to set the example,” said Bolger, a native of Aurora, Ill., as he pulled security. “I wouldn’t ask the guys to do something I wouldn’t do.”

The platoon leader for the mission agreed.

“It brings back the human factor that shows they care and that goes up to the top echelon of leaders,” added Sargent, who was a senior non-commissioned officer before earning his commission.

The platoon quickly formed back up to discuss the map and establish good places to lay down obstacles to prevent any enemy movement into their area during nighttime. The Soldiers, though drenched with sweat and covered with dirt, joked with one another and flashed grime covered smiles.

“It boosts morale when he comes out here and does what we’re required to do,” said Olin after taking a drink of water. “Since this island is on the outskirts of Baghdad, it’s a good area to secure because it keeps the bad guys out of the city...If we find a cache, then that’s one less bomb going off in Sadr City.”

The outskirts of Baghdad have been high-traffic areas for insurgents funneling in weapons and materials for improvised explosive devices into the heart of the city.

“On the outer belt is where enemies hide weapons,” explained Bolger. “This is where we’re taking the fight to them, to their bases...It also helps our Iraqi Security Forces counterparts indirectly by taking the pressure off.”

By applying a little pressure, the cavalry scouts and Bolger have provided security for the engineers, cleared an island, prevented the flow of insurgent activity into the heart of Baghdad and have secured yet another piece of Iraq for the Iraqis.



Metlakatla, Ala., native Spc. Richard Olin (left), uses his machete to chop through dense underbrush as Staff Sgt. Jacob Marsters (right) from Albuquerque, N.M., both cavalry scouts, follows during a mission to clear and secure an island in Northeast Baghdad.



Stark, N.H., native 1st Lt. Jed Sargent (right), a platoon leader, discusses possible areas for observation points with Staff Sgt. Michael Cedre (left), a section sergeant from Tuscon, Ariz., both assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment.

## “Muleskinners” train at MRAP Egress trainer

*Story by 2nd Lt. Hilary Genevish*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Most Soldiers would agree that the methods of transportation have changed significantly since Operation Iraqi Freedom started in 2003. One of the most significant changes has been the upgrades to existing equipment as well as the creation of new machines such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle (MRAP). New equipment requires proper training, much of which is conducted in theater.

Soldiers of Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, visited the MRAP Egress Trainer on Camp Taji in an effort to train drivers and passengers how to react in the event of a vehicle rollover.

The training started with a brief slide presentation aimed at outlining common causes for rollovers. The presentation outlined the responsibilities of each crew member as well as methods and techniques used for opening the doors and hatches in order to escape from the vehicle.

Instructors started the practical exercise by dividing each platoon into nine-person teams, each team consisted of a driver, a truck commander, a gunner, and six passengers. Once positions were assigned the crew discussed their responsibilities and strapped into the mock MRAP to prepare for the rollover scenarios.

The instructors guide the groups through the egress procedures for three different rollover scenarios. Soldiers faced a 90 degree rollover first. When the truck toppled to its side the Soldiers took action to quickly and safely remove themselves and any essential equipment from the trucks. The 90 degree rollover was followed by a 180 degree rollover and a 80 degree rollover in water. The 180 degree rollover in water proved to be the most challenging for the Soldiers.

## Jack of all trades

*Story by 2nd Lt. Hilary Genevish*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Most Soldiers remember the television show McGyver. He was able to construct amazing contraptions out of standard household items. Although Soldiers from the Ground Support Equipment Section of Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are better equipped than their television counterpart, they do share some similarities. The GSE Section takes great pride in being able to repair almost any piece of

equipment the battalion may need.

Soldiers recently replaced elements of the Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade at Camp Taji. During the transition process the Soldiers had an opportunity to take over some newly acquired engineer equipment and work with Soldiers from the 56th SBCT.

The Soldiers are currently working to construct a football field in support of the “Muleskinner” Battalion games. For many members

of Co. B, this is the first time behind the wheel of the equipment. They worked under the watchful eye of WO1 Marc Ladson.

Ladson stated that they are doing great things and that the family atmosphere keeps the Soldiers together and motivated to take on any task.

The Soldiers of Co. B also play a major role in supporting the surrounding Joint Security Stations with their expertise in servicing air conditioners, generators, refrigeration vans, and fuel pods.



# IRONHORSEMAN