



# IRONHORSEMAN

November 2009 Volume 2, Issue 8



Maintaining



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San Antonio native, Pfc. Adolfo Hernandez, a Bradley mechanic assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, checks the engine oil of a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle at Joint Security Station War Eagle, Oct. 16.



### The History of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment

The story of the 8th Cavalry begins with the activation of Troop Bravo on 23 October 1866, at Angel Island, California. The 8th Cavalry spent their first years in Arizona fighting the Apache and Comanche Indians. They were then moved to Fort Davis, Texas in 1875, where they served along the Mexican border protecting settlers and ranchers from hostile Indians.

They first served in Cuba from 1898 to 1902. Their next overseas duty took them to the Philippines twice.

In 1915, the 8th Cavalry moved to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they patrolled the Mexican American border, protecting ranchers from bandit raids. It was during this assignment that two of the more famous personnel were assigned to the 8th Cavalry: Lieutenant George S. Patton and General John J. Pershing.

The 8th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in September of 1921. In 1945, WWII found them in the Philippines receiving orders directly from General Douglas MacArthur.

The 8th Cavalry pressed forward 100 miles from Luzon to Manila, driving a wedge in the enemy lines. They were the "first in manila" and received a Presidential Unit Citation for this action.

At the end of WWII, they accompanied General MacArthur to Japan, where they spent the next five years.

The 8th Cavalry made an amphibious landing behind enemy lines just 18 days after North Korea moved across the 38th parallel. Upon leaving Korea in December of 1951, the 8th Cavalry returned to Japan where they served another five years.

The 8th Cavalry was reorganized in September of 1963 into the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, an airborne unit. In September of 1965 the 8th Cavalry was sent to Vietnam where they fought some of their fiercest battles. In 1966, Bravo Company distinguished themselves by becoming the first unit in the 1st Cavalry Division to receive the Valorous Unit Citation. The battalion left Vietnam in 1971 and later deactivated in June of 1972.

Reactivated in April 1974, the Stallions found their current home: Fort Hood, Texas. In August 1990 the battalion deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Stallions were instrumental in helping the coalition forces overwhelm the Iraqi forces and securing the freedom of Kuwait.

In August of 1998, the Stallions were called upon to deploy to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge as a part of the national peacekeeping stabilization force. The 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry occupied Camp Bedrock in September in 1998 and patrolled the Tuzla Corridor. The Stallions redeployed back to Fort Hood in March of 1999.

In March of 2004 Task Force Stallion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, conducting full spectrum operations as part of the 1st Cavalry Division and Task Force Baghdad. After 12 months of conducting operations in central Iraq, Task Force Stallion returned to Fort Hood in March of 2005.

2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry deployed with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 and participated in the historic 'surge' to quell the violence of sectarian uprising in Baghdad, Iraq. For fifteen months, they conducted combat operations in the Taji and Tarmiyah areas north of Baghdad.

2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry is currently deployed again with the 1st Cavalry Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10. They spent the first portion of this tour operating on the west side of Baghdad attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. The Stallions have now returned to the Taji and Tarmiyah areas where they will complete this tour as part of the IRONHORSE Brigade.

#### Unit Crest Meaning

Shield: The eight mullets show the regimental number and Cavalry tradition ascribing the origin of the pierced mullet to the rowel of a spur. This is further indicated by the horse.



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

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Do you have a story to share?

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

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## From the desk of Col. Tobin Green



I would like to share a new “twist” on an old practice in the IRONHORSE Brigade. The proven practice is the use of “microgrants” for small businesses as part of an overall civil capacity building campaign. And the twist is the inclusion of intensive business training for prospective microgrant applicants in order to improve their chances for economic success.

Microgrants represent small, direct investments in local businesses throughout the neighborhoods, communities, and villages where our Troopers operate every day. Unit leaders identify good candidates for microgrants as they engage the population during routine patrols and interactions with local officials or businessmen. Attractive candidates for microgrants include businesses that: provide services to the people (such as bakeries, butchers, restaurants, or sewing shops); contribute to the productivity of other businesses (such as automotive maintenance, small equipment and generator repair, or general hardware and supply stores); and show the capacity to increase the number of employees (such as furniture manufacturers, small factories, or labor intensive farming enterprises). Typically, a microgrant might amount to a payment of somewhere between \$1000 and \$2500. But in return for that modest amount, a microgrant can do a lot of good for the citizens and the business environment in a local area.

Units in this Brigade Combat Team expend considerable energy finding smart ways to use money to help enhance the security situation in our operational environment, generate employment opportunities for military age males, and improve the quality of life for Iraqi people. As I have described in a previous IRONHORSEMAN Magazine column entitled “Fighting with Bricks and Bread,” there are a whole host of ways our leaders use money as a weapon. For example, IH units have put together projects to build schools, sports centers, and hospitals. IH units have joined with experts from our two embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams to fund business associations, irrigation projects, model farms, and food packaging plants. IH units have invested in projects to repair or replace roads and add solar lighting to surroundings that takes darkness away from the enemy. IH units have provided the economic stimulus to rejuvenate historic markets in neighborhoods, cities, and suburbs. IH units have contracted for trash removal, route sanitization, and major sewage projects to eliminate running waste water from the streets and open areas where children must play or walk to school. IH units have embraced Iraqi communities to create new parks and soccer fields or stadiums. IH units have even partnered with the government’s Ministry of Tourism in a long term endeavor to help restore a magnificent public resort (known as Baghdad Island) to its former grandeur. I am encouraged and impressed by all of the initiative, and creativity I see across the entire IRONHORSE BCT when I reflect on all the ways our team has leveraged dollars to compliment combat patrols and close partnership with Iraqi Security Forces. We are employing these monetary resources at our disposal smartly - contributing to the daily and weekly progress that over time becomes irreversible momentum along the path to sustainable security. And “microgrants” are my favorite means to use money to fight the enemy.

In fact, I am a very big fan of microgrants for several reasons. First of all, microgrants are without question the least expensive option for the commitment of money among the various avenues open to leaders using funds under the Commander’s Emergency Response Program (CERP). For illustration, I can tell you that since this brigade arrived in Baghdad, the total amount of money units have spent on all microgrants to date (and there have been many) does not come close to surpassing the cost of even one of the dozens of major CERP projects developed by the IRONHORSE Brigade over the past months. Another attractive feature of microgrants is that they represent a direct infusion of capital into the local community. The money does not go to some contractor who may not even be from Baghdad, making

Continued on page 5

it much easier to ensure the investment will stay right there in the targeted neighborhood. Similarly, because the microgrant goes to an established business from the community, the odds are extremely high that the advantaged shop owner will hire someone from the neighborhood as he expands his business. With a small amount of microgrant money, we know that another young man will have a job – and with it the means to support his family. That same young man will not have to resort to planting an IED or attacking US forces just to purchase food and clothing for loved ones. Finally, I like the fact that microgrants are highly visible to the Iraqi people. In the area targeted by the microgrant, all the locals see IRONHORSE Troopers giving funds directly to an average Iraqi vendor or shop owner. The value of this contribution is greatly magnified in the eyes of Iraqis, who personally witness our generosity, and then return the good will. Quite often following the introduction of microgrants in a locality, citizens will subsequently provide IRONHORSE units with information that becomes actionable intelligence, because those people view our financial obligation as a demonstration of sincere interest by US forces in the peace and prosperity of their community. I guess you could say that microgrants are transparent and build trust with the Iraqi people.

For all of these reasons, the microgrant represents an essential component of the IRONHORSE civil capacity building effort in Iraq. Even more important, IRONHORSE units have demonstrated the value of microgrants by their actions. I am proud to say that every maneuver unit who is assigned an area of responsibility in the IRONHORSE operational environment has used microgrants as part of their individual counterinsurgency campaign. In a few select tank or infantry companies / cavalry troops / artillery batteries throughout the brigade, where conditions are right and junior leadership has shown tremendous initiative and ability, the units have completed applications and secured funding for well over thirty microgrants thus far in our rotation – a simply incredible accomplishment.



But as I hinted to you at the outset of this column, although microgrants have proven themselves an asset in the IRONHORSE civil capacity arena, I am also excited by the recent “twist” we have added to the microgrant program. With the help of the ePRT and the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, IRONHORSE has found a way to make our microgrant efforts even more effective. In the words of celebrity Chef Emeril Lagasse, we have “taken it up a notch.” Let me explain in more detail.

Now that the BCT has completed a series of recent unit moves to new locations - and those units are established in their new areas, with new Iraqi partners, and establishing new relationships with new Iraqi friends - we want to revive and accelerate our use of microgrants. Those fresh microgrant initiatives are already underway in places like Taji, Tarmiyah, and Rashadiyah - and going quite well. The BCT is gaining microgrant momentum in those locations. But we also want to continue our civil capacity targeting efforts in places where we are already established with microgrants - especially inside the heavily populated areas of Baghdad city. Of course, it gets considerably more difficult to make good microgrant investments when a neighborhood already has witnessed several previously awarded microgrants – because the best candidates are gone. But I am happy to tell you that the IRONHORSE brigade has managed to retain a healthy dose of microgrants in our urban civil capacity portfolio, in part because of the ingenuity in our ePRT and in the BSTB’s Infrastructure Coordination Element (or ICE Team). In a nutshell – the ePRT and ICE team found a new means to identify exceptional microgrant applicants in select locations throughout the city, by sponsoring a series of business development seminars to both train and screen prospective candidates. The answer can be found in the 4Points Company.

The 4Points Company is actually a consulting and training firm owned by an Iraqi

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## Language Barrier Can't Stop "Centurions" From Teaching Iraqi Soldiers to Communicate

By 1st Sgt. William Morvant, Bravo Company, 1BSTB

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Whether conducting combat patrols, rebuilding Baghdad Island, installing communication systems, or repairing vehicles, the overarching goal of the Ironhorse Brigade's mission this deployment has been to partner with the Iraqi Security Forces and train them to take the lead on supporting civil stability and defeating terrorism.

In support of this mission, Company B, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion has pursued several partnership opportunities with their communications counterparts in the Iraqi Army.



Sgt. Richard Jobe watches over a class as Iraqis take the lead in training to defend their country.

On October 10, Dallas, Texas native 1st Sgt. William Morvant and Lubbock, Texas native Sgt. Richard Jobe from Company B, alongside Maj. Moulton and Staff Sgt. Alan Ivey of the 11th Iraqi Army Division's Military Transition Team, conducted training on radio operations and reporting procedures with the signal and engineer companies of the 11th IA.

The Iraqi Signal Company had just returned from initial training and equipment issue at the Regional Training Center in Taji. They now have radios which are similar to the radio equipment commonly used by Soldiers in the U.S. Army.

Coordination between the IBCT Signal Company and the MiTT advisors gave the Soldiers of Company B a chance to conduct effective radio

and telephone operator training with the motivated Soldiers of the 11th IA.

The training focused on the core competencies of proper tactical communications procedures to include basic rules (not, "Hey it's me, what's goin' on over there?"), the use of prowords, phonetic alphabet and numbers, call signs and CASEVAC requests. The training was broken down in to two phases. The first phase was classroom instruction given by Jobe. The Iraqi Soldiers asked many questions as they compared their current radio protocols with the U.S. Army communication standards.

The Iraqi Soldiers were quite receptive to Jobe's advice on more efficient methods to articulate messages clearly on the battlefield.

The second phase of the training consisted of the Soldiers conducting practical exercises outside with their ITT brand radios.



1st Sgt. William Morvant and Lubbock, Texas native Sgt. Richard Jobe of Company B, 1BSTB pose with Staff Sgt. Alan Ivey of the 11th Iraqi Army Military Training Team (MiTT) and their most recent class of Iraqi Army graduates.

The training event culminated with a series of scenarios which tested their ability to effectively communicate reports over a secured network.



At the end of the day, much was learned, ideas were shared, friendships were established, and the stage was set for more training in the near future.

## “Black Knight” Medics Rush To Aid Local Iraqis

By 1st Lt. Aaron Guenther, HQs, 1-5 CAV

BAGHDAD – In between the long, daily tasks associated with patrolling the dangerous areas north of Baghdad, U.S. troops have added another way to accomplish their mission of protecting the people of Iraq by saving lives along the Baghdad-Mosul highway.

“Our joint security station sits right on top of one of the busiest roads in all of Iraq,” said Capt. Johnathan Westbrook, commander for Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “The locals call it the Baghdad-Mosul Highway.”

As with all major highways, wrecks and other accidents sometimes occur. The medics at JSS Mushada, here, led by the battalion physician’s assistant, Capt. Leon Richardson, from San Antonio, Texas, have provided assistance to several Iraqis these past months.”

During a promotion ceremony, Oct. 17, the Americans received a call about an Iraqi man who had severely injured his hand while repairing his generator. Within two minutes of receiving the call, Richardson and his medics were treating him in their JSS aid station.

By working quickly, the medics were able to assess and stabilize him, call in a medical helicopter, load him into a waiting vehicle and to move him to the helicopter landing zone in only twenty minutes.

Despite the busy rush hour traffic along the Baghdad-Mosul Highway, the Soldiers cordoned off a 500 meter stretch of road and prepared a hasty landing zone for the helicopters.

Once loaded on the helicopter, the victim was evacuated to the U.S. hospital in Balad, Iraq, some 40 miles north. The Soldiers also arranged for his uninjured son accompanying him for support.

“I cannot think of a better way to welcome ourselves to the neighborhood than this” said 1st Lt. Joseph Laber, the company fire support officer from Killeen, Texas.

Since the battalion began operations in the Tarmiyah area, just north of Baghdad, on Sept. 1,

2009, the U.S. troops have treated nine Iraqis injured due to vehicle accidents. Five of them required medical evacuation by helicopter. One involved a two-year-old boy who was brought in for second degree burns sustained when his father accidentally knocked over a propane tank which then exploded and burned both of them.



During the month of September, five other injured Iraqis were brought to JSS Mushada aid station by the Iraqi Police also stationed there. They were injured when their vehicle blew a tire on the Baghdad-to-Mosul highway and rolled five times before coming to a stop. The medics treated all the victims, three of which had serious injuries. Those with the most serious injuries were stabilized and evacuated to a nearby hospital; the other two were treated and released.

“This kind of an event in the U.S. would be a major trauma case for any hospital E.R., with multiple doctors and a dozen nurses. Capt. Richardson and his crew of four handled all this trauma with only basic equipment, in a small trailer,” said Lt. Col. Scott Jackson, the battalion commander. “As ‘Doc’ Richardson told me later, he looked up at one point to see his enlisted medics totally in control and treating the other trauma patient. ‘Amazing’ is the only thing I can say about our guys in cases like this.”



Soldiers of B Co., 1-5 CAV evacuate an injured Iraqi man October 17th. He was stabilized and evacuated to a military hospital.

## “Stallions” Give Medical Training to Iraqi Army



The medics of Cobra Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment gave classes on essential medical training to their Iraqi Soldier counterparts.

With the added difficulty of talking through interpreters, Sgt. Quintanilla and his team of medics give the same training given to U.S. Soldiers required to become Combat Life Saver certified.

All instructions are explained and demonstrated, followed by a hands-on portion done by the Iraqi Soldiers.

After the training is complete, the Iraqi Soldiers are given medical supplies so they can use their new skills when needed.



**The Free Shot!**

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

**Q: What are some common ways that you deal with stress?**

A: In dealing with stress, I have a couple of options which help me cope. Obviously first and foremost, I love to talk with my best friend (my lovely wife) about what is bothering me. Followed by playing golf (of which we cannot really do while deployed). I think the best way for me personally to let off a little steam is to do the following... I grab my iPod, put on my PT gear and jump up on a treadmill and crank it up to about a 6 minute mile pace for about an hour and blast through the iPod and loop on a song called "Breathe" by a group called The Prodigy. (I do listen to something besides jazz.)

**Q: What is your favorite MOS & why?**

A: This must be a trick question. Like I would pick an MOS that I have not spent the last 28 years of my life doing. Every time I have PCS'd, I have had a different situation to fall in on. I have been on motorcycles, wheeled vehicles, tracks, and of course, on foot. Not the same thing no matter where I went.

**Q: Is there any chance for us to be home by Christmas?**

A: There is always a chance for anything. I wouldn't give you odds on that one though.

**Q: Who do we talk to if we wanted to suggest a theme night? Say a "salsa" (dancing) night?**

A: Didn't we just have one of those on WarEagle? If you have a thought about something, you can always let me know. I just signed off on the

use of a DJ and sound system for a basketball tournament. If it is possible, we will try and accomplish it.



**Q: How much trouble as a lower enlisted Soldier did you get into?**

A: Like most people when they initially join the service, there is an adjustment to be made. I think I had my fair share of adjustment problems. But, thanks to some really great officers and NCOs that mentored me, I think I came through ok. Just remember, the Army is a very forgiving institution when it comes to problems that junior enlisted Troopers find themselves in. It is more important what you do after that counts.

**Q: How many units have you been in since you joined the Army? Which was your favorite?**

A: Since I entered service in 1981, I have been in 13 different units. My favorite was K (Killer) Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Bad Hersfeld Germany (KILLER AWESOME!). The unit no longer exists except in the hearts of everyone ever associated with it. It was a great unit, with outstanding officers, NCOs, and a great bunch of Troopers to be associated with. Our mission was the hardest of anyone's, and we spent on average around 300 days a year gone. What a grand time. We lived up to our motto.

What are YOUR questions for CSM Norman?  
Send them to SGT Pulivarti 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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Easy

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

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Medium

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

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Hard

## “Lancer’s” Partnership Planning and Patrols Result in Confidence

By 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, Delta Company, 2-5 CAV

JSS RASHEED, Iraq – The Soldiers of Company D “Diablos”, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment alongside their 42nd Iraqi Army Brigade counterparts, are conducting joint patrols to highlight and demonstrate the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces in Adhamiyah as well as assist the 42nd IA in intelligence gathering and operations at the small unit level.

Since the implementation of the Super Military Transition Team, or “Super MiTT” concept, the “Diablo” Soldiers have been conducting patrols with all three battalions of the 42nd Iraqi Army Brigade, fostering a good working relationship with these partnered battalions, as well as offering assistance and guidance at the platoon and squad level.



“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 in 2010,” according to Sioux Falls, S.D. native Col. Tobin Green, commander of the 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team. “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.”

Members of the 42nd Super MITT get together with the 42nd Iraqi Army brigade staff and share intelligence for targeting. The “Diablo” Soldiers and the 42nd MiTT offer and give assistance to the 42nd IA in the form of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance coverage over specific areas and assistance in intelligence gathering and information.

The process starts by coordinating with the 42nd Iraqi Army brigade operations staff. This includes briefing the operations officer or his deputy on the proposed mission then requesting forces from each of the battalions. Prior to any mission the Iraqi patrol leaders, usually a lieutenant or warrant officer, come to the operations center and meet with the U.S. patrol leader.

They stand before a map and discuss possible routes to take to the objective and actions once site.

“The 42nd IA brigade operations staff is very proactive towards these

joint effort operations,” says Sgt. Michael Kimbo, a native of Covington, Va. “It’s really great to watch the operations staff take the lead in planning some of these joint patrols.”

The result of the planning process is joint patrols with Iraqi Army soldiers that allow the “Diablo” Soldiers and members of the 42nd MiTT to support the 42nd IA brigade staff in intelligence gathering. During the patrols they interact with the local population in crowded market streets or talk to the local Sons of Iraq checkpoints. Sometimes there are opportunities for the “Diablo” Soldiers to assist their Iraqi counterparts in more specific missions, like cordon and knocks or raids.

While out on the patrols, the partnered IA soldiers pull security, search houses and vehicles in the same way any “Diablo” Soldier would.

The real focus of this is to enable junior leaders an active role in making decisions and planning the operation. “A lot of times when we are out there, besides the uniforms, you really can’t tell the difference between us and our Iraqi counterparts. They move and operate just like any of us would,” said 1st Lt. Brian Krusemark, a native of Ohio.

The Iraqis always take the lead, on all of the patrols. Whether it be dismounted or mounted, it’s always the Iraqi face that people see first. It’s also reassuring to the local population in Adhamiyah that the joint Iraqi and American patrols out on the streets are working together. Seeing these patrols give the local population more faith in the ability and expertise of the Iraqi Security Forces.



The author, 1st Lt. Kelly, poses with some friendly local children while on a courtesy patrol near JSS Rasheed.

## November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Time Ends "Fall Back"	2 Cookie Monster Day	3 Cliché Day Sandwich Day	4 Use Your Common Sense Day	5	6	7 Sadie Hawkins Day
8	9 World Orphans Day	10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 Veterans Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 World Diabetes Day
15 America Recycles Day	16	17	18 Mickey Mouse Day	19 World Toilet Day	20 Children's Day	21 National Adoption Day
22	23 Fibonacci Day	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 Black Friday	28
29	30 Computer Security Day					

### “Lancers” Mechanics Keep Missions Rolling

by Pfc. Bailey A. Jester



JSS WarEagle – Missions run by Soldiers of the IRONHORSE BCT wouldn't happen without the support of mechanics behind the scenes.

“Our mission is to sustain and support vehicles for the whole [joint security station] and make sure they are all running and mission ready,” said Sgt. 1st Class Aussie Barker, team chief assigned to Bravo, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment..

2-5 CAV's Mechanics are located at both Camp Taji and Joint Security Station War Eagle and they work hard to successfully complete their mission at both locations, said Barker.

“These guys do a lot of hard work,” said Warrant Officer Daniel Rude, the battalion's maintenance technician. “They work on all of brigade's vehicles, not just [2-5 CAV's].”

These mechanics are responsible for all of the brigade's vehicles, combat logistical patrols and the generators located within the unit's living area.

The mechanics also assist the Iraqi Army Soldiers by giving them on-site training.

“We assist the IA anyway we can,” said Rude. “As long as they put forth the effort and show us they are trying to learn, we are willing to help.”

“The IA ask for parts, but they don't know how to properly install them,” said Barker. “They install the parts into their vehicle and a couple days later it breaks.”

To stop the cycle of replacing broken parts, U.S. mechanics work side by side with the IA mechanics, said Barker.

“These Soldiers may not be on the front lines,” explains Rude, “but these behind the scenes jobs that they do are important for those Soldiers to continue with their mission.”

female named Tania Khaled Abdulkarim, and it has been operating in Iraq for the past nine years. With a staff of 35 and an energetic CEO named Eric Nigh, the company offers a highly professional cadre trained in business development, marketing, finance, and administrative activities. When IRONHORSE BCT leadership found out about this company, we quickly hired its services to assist our unit (the Lancers of 2-5 CAV) inside the Amanat (city limits) with fostering and promoting business practices that positively impact on community economic development through small business owners and entrepreneurs. At our request, this company has helped us identify prospective microgrant applicants (from among the neighborhoods in specific urban districts including Sha'ab / Ur, Adamiyah, the Ula Market and the Jamilla Market association) whose probability of success would significantly increase after a modicum of intensive business training. Each of the districts I just mentioned represents one training cycle (for a total of four separate seminars). And each seminar features approximately 20 small business owners who were selected from among a much larger candidate pool because of their attributes and desire to improve themselves and their businesses. Among the seminar course offerings, participants are exposed to topics including finance and accounting, conflict resolution, marketing, administration and correspondence, strategic relationships, and leader development. At the conclusion of this training, the participating owners can submit microgrant applications to US forces, where their recent professional development experience makes them preferred candidates for US financial assistance. Currently, the BCT is about to conclude its final entrepreneur business training program seminar, and IRONHORSE could not be more pleased with the results. My optimism is informed by the progress this program is making at realizing both my intent for the training, which is to:

- ◆ Help business owners identify shortfalls and deficiencies in their current business practices
- ◆ Guide participants in the right direction to generate capital and expand their customer base
- ◆ Provide quality business training to entrepreneurs and small business
- ◆ Increase civil capacity through economic development within the IRONHORSE Operating Environment
- ◆ Upon completion of the training, review applications from microgrant candidates



With the addition of the 4Points Company as a new partner to help the BCT improve its Civil Capacity Line of Effort, I am extremely confident that our microgrant program will not only grow rapidly in the newly acquired rural areas of the IRONHORSE Operating Environment, but will remain a highly sought after and effective economic tool inside Baghdad's heavily populated neighborhoods as well.

**Ironhorse!**  
**Team First!**  
**Toby Green**  
**Ironhorse 6**

**Familiar Faces** الوجوه المألوفة



# “Garryowen’s” Lion Academy Trains First Responders

Story By 1st Lt. Joshua Risher

BAGHDAD, Iraq – American Army medics assisted Iraqi policemen from five stations of the al-Zahour Iraqi Police District to employ newly-learned first responder techniques during a post-bomb explosion exercise, Oct. 15.

The exercise highlighted the final day of week-long training at the Lion Academy, conducted at Joint Security Station Istiqlal in northeast Baghdad, by Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment and several International Police Advisors.

Lion Academy training focused on investigating a possible improvised explosive device and then responding to a detonation. Iraqi police learned how to properly secure an area where an IED has exploded, and how to provide aid to casualties.

In the days leading up to the practical exercise, the instructors taught Iraqi police how to conduct blast site preservation, investigation techniques, and first responder care for the victims.



Spc. Lawrence Rotich (left), a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-7 CAV observes as an Iraqi policeman treats a fellow officer for simulated wounds during a training exercise, Oct. 15. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Risher)

During the practical exercise, the group of seventeen Iraqi policemen convoyed with their U.S. teachers to a nearby range, where Soldiers from the 797th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company conducted two controlled detonations to simulate exploding IEDs.

Garryowen’s medics were pleased with how well their instruction was received.

“They were really motivated. They took a lot of notes, and worked really hard when it was time for hands-on training,” said Spc. Lawrence Rotich, a combat medic, from Kericho, Kenya.

Some of the Iraqi police acted as role players at the explosion site while their fellow officers tended to simulated injuries and established a secure perimeter around the immediate vicinity. Policemen applied dressings and tourniquets to each other, and then employed litters to evacuate the casualties.

“They really displayed some confidence,” said Spc. Patrick Johnson, a medic from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. “It was really great to see them perform so well in the things we taught them.”



Pfc. Ian Nadeau (left) and Spc Patrick Johnson (back right), both combat medics observe and advise as Iraqi policemen provide first responder care to a fellow police officer who sustained simulated wounds during a training exercise, Oct. 15. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Risher)



# A Brighter Day Ahead as “Dragons” Open Twin Schools

Story By Pfc. Adam Halleck

TAJI, Iraq – On Oct. 12, a ceremony celebrated the grand opening of two schools nestled in a small village north of Baghdad, culminating two years of hard work.

Known as the Twin Schools to American Soldiers here, they will now educate over 1200 students, and provide the children of the area the schooling they deserve.

In the past two years this project experienced many hurdles and it wasn't until the Soldiers of the 1st “Dragon” Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment assumed the project that the schools had any hope of being open for the new school year.

When the “Dragons” arrived in the Taji area in mid-August, the battalion made civil capacity and essential services missions a main priority. By focusing on things that better the lives of a large majority of the local population, the American Soldiers here feel they can leave a lasting impact in their area of operations.

“The projects we fund are geared at benefitting a large group of people,” said Whitewater, Wis. native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the civil capacity and essential services officer assigned to 1-82 FA. “The Twin Schools will benefit the over 1200 children, their families, and most importantly the future of Iraq.”



As the sun shone bright early this morning in the small village, hundreds of children, local leaders, and U.S. Soldiers stood in attendance to celebrate this historic day. In the background stood the schools with classrooms full of desks and chalkboards, staffed with faculty, ready to offer the children of this village and surrounding areas a proper education.



Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, commander of 1-82 FA speaks to the students of the Twin Schools during the grand opening ceremony here, Oct. 12. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

When he walked to the podium to give his speech Ozark, Ala. native, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler beamed with pride. As the commander of the “Dragon” Battalion, Schwegler has played a large role in cultivating the progress of the Twin Schools project. Understanding that the children of Iraq possess the hope for a stable future in Iraq, Schwegler and Lien relentlessly ensured that the schools would open for the upcoming school year.

“Lt. Col. Schwegler let it be known that the Twin Schools were a top priority,” explained Lien, who oversaw the project for the battalion since they assumed it. “We stayed in contact with the contractors daily and made bi-weekly visits to the site to ensure that the school opened in time.”

Thousands of man hours, nearly one million dollars, and two years later, the schools are finished. After all of the hard work by so many people, the grand opening ceremony held such great meaning to all of the children, local leaders, and U.S. troops.

“The children standing here are the future doctors, engineers, and leaders of Iraq,” said Schwegler during his ceremony speech. “This project is a testament to the Government of Iraq, local leaders, and Coalition Forces, in our shared vision for the future of Iraq.”

The Twin Schools are a prime example of the growth Iraq has gone through in the six years since U.S. troops arrived to the country. A community came together with a common goal to educate the youth of the country and the Government of Iraq and United States Forces answered the call. These schools not only bring a sense of normalcy for the young children, but also provide hope of brighter days for the future of Iraq.



Sgt. Nathaniel Greer, a civil affairs team member attached to 1-82 FA shakes hands with young students of the Twin Schools, Oct. 12. (Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

# “Garryowen” Is Ready To Rumble

Story By 1st Lt. Joshua Risher



1st Lt. Mike Olvera, the XO for Bravo, 1-7 CAV instructs Iraqi policemen to deliver combination punches during hand-to-hand combat training at JSS Istiqlal on Oct. 14. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Risher)

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers in “Blackhawk” Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment got down and dirty with their Iraqi partners from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Federal Police Division when they introduced hand-to-hand combatives training to the Iraqi battalion’s “specialty” platoon.

On the afternoon of Oct. 14, U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi federal policemen assembled around a combatives pit, a small area covered with shredded rubber, at Joint Security Station Istiqlal. San Benito, Tex. native 1st Lt. Juan “Mike” Olvera, Blackhawk Troop’s Executive Officer, drew on his past experience in a variety of martial arts, a two year professional boxing career, and the Army’s combatives program to lead the instruction. The intent of the training was not to turn the Iraqis into professional hand fighters; instead it focused on training the policemen to deal with situations where a

weapon is not available or not necessary.

“You want to keep space between yourself and a potential opponent,” Olvera tells the class as he demonstrates how to approach a person displaying hostile intent. After several weeks of proficiency training, this Iraqi platoon knows how to effectively use their weapons. Now they are learning techniques without weapons.

Olvera shows them how to maintain this advantage. The policemen work in pairs, practicing techniques for pushing an opponent away when an assailant attempts to grab or strike them. As they push their opponents away, the policemen take additional steps backward which gives them time to raise a firearm.

“Most of these guys had never done anything like this before, but they were really motivated. They learned fast,” Olvera said after the class.

Several soldiers from Blackhawk Troop assisted in the instruction, demonstrated and held sparring pads to develop the Iraqis punching techniques. Additional instruction focused on fending off knife attacks, taking an opponent down to the ground, and regaining control in the event that an opponent managed to take them down.

“This was by far the most fun we’ve had training with them,” said Plant City, Fla. native Spc. David Croft.



Sgt. Thomas Robbins, a combat medic of Bravo, 1-7 CAV, guides Iraqi policemen from the Iraqi Federal Police specialty platoon during hand-to-hand combat training at Joint Security Station Istiqlal on Oct. 14, 2009. (Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Risher)

## “Muleskinners” Mechanics Enjoy a Little Slice of Home

By 2nd Lt. Hilary Genevish

Bravo Company, 115<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion

CAMP TAJI, Iraq- It was a normal workday in the Bravo Company, 115<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion’s maintenance bay. The Soldiers were in motion, completing the setup of the bay and learning the intricacies of troubleshooting the MRAPs.

For one of these Soldiers, Pfc. Corey North, the day held a special meaning. It was his birthday and he was not the only one who was aware of this fact.

His platoon pitched in and got him a cake for his birthday. The birthday celebration was one of many to come for this platoon.

These celebrations began at the beginning of the deployment with the platoon sergeant’s birthday and are still a way for the maintenance platoon to maintain high morale while deployed.

Deployments can be stressful but little things like celebrating a birthday or having a monthly cookout brighten the Soldier’s spirits and make life a little easier. These modest events allow for bonding experiences within the platoon and give the Soldiers something to look forward to a little slice of home.



Pfc. Kenny Martinez (left) and Pvt. Daniel Vulgamore, Bronco mechanics of 115<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion trouble shoot electrical issues on a M969 (Fuel Tanker). This is one of many tasks performed by the maintenance platoon in order to provide mechanical support for combat logistic patrols.

(Photo by 2nd Lt. Hilary Genevish).



Bronco Soldiers from 115<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, surprise Pfc. Corey North (center) with a birthday cake in the company’s maintenance bays. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Hilary Genevish)

# “Black Knights” Building Progress North of Baghdad

By Pfc. Bailey A. Jester

TAJI, Iraq – The shift of many U.S. forces out of Iraqi cities has created a new set of tasks for troops in the Iraqi countryside.

Combining the talents of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment’s leadership with members from the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team North and the 1479th Civil Affairs Company to form a Project Working Group, the goal is to highlight projects that benefit the local populace.

During a meeting held at the Tarmiyah Center, Oct. 13, district engineers from Tarmiyah, Abayachi, and Mushada met with members of the group to discuss possible area projects.

Rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq will create validity of the government in the eyes of its people, said Capt. Maryalice Keller, the 1479th team leader, from Washington D.C.

“The Project Working Group just began in this area,” said Athens, Ala., native, 2nd Lt. Nicholas Bryan, the battalion’s civil military operations officer in charge. “It has been successful in other areas, and I believe that it’ll be successful here too.”

The local Iraqi leaders created a list of 200 projects, but



1st Lt. Nicholas Bryan, the Civil Military Operations officer in charge assigned to the “Black Knights” Battalion 1-5 CAV, reviews a project proposed by one of the engineers at the Project Working Group in the Tarmiyah Center Oct. 13. (Photo by Pfc. Bailey A. Jester)

after much discussion and compromise, the list is now down to 70.

“These projects will help keep the people happy,” said Sheik Ahmed, a Sons of Iraq leader from the Abayachi district. “They have done so much for us, we are very appreciative.”

Chosen projects focus mainly on essential services such as water and waste management, electricity, health services and schools. The idea of the project working group is to help as many people as possible with one project, explained Bryan.

“I am very satisfied with the list of projects that you have asked for, it is a fairly spread list throughout the Qada,” said Lt. Col. Scott Jackson, the battalion commander, to area leaders. “They represent serious concerns in the Qada and the needs of the people.”

The Project Working Group is designed to help fund projects which benefit the people, but that is not the only purpose for the existence of this group.

“We are hoping to get across that we aren’t just here for the projects,” explained Bryan. “We are trying to bolster them to do it on their own.”

The Commanders Emergency Response Program helps fund the projects, but the Iraqi Government is required to pay for a portion of the projects. Because the Iraqi Government helps fund the projects, they will have ownership as well. This sense of ownership is expected to keep Iraqi leaders involved in these projects after completion and after U.S. forces withdraw.

According to Keller, if governmental officials are a part of the project, they will better respect it; they will want it to be taken care of. With the government’s assistance to support and help their people, it will increase the locals’ trust that their government can protect and take care of them and their families.

“We are very appreciative of everything that the U.S. forces are doing for us.”

Hameed, a city council engineer from the Abayachi district. “They have done so much for us since they have been here.”

The civil affairs team, with the help of Jackson, will decide which projects will best benefit the people and announce their decision at the next meeting.

“This group is more than just projects,” said Bryan. “It will help strengthen the Qada leaders so when U.S. forces pull out of Iraq they have something set up to swing toward.”



Capt. Maryalice Keller, team leader for the 1479th Civil Affairs Company, speaks with Iraqi engineers about possible projects at the Tarmiyah Center, Oct. 13. (Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester)



Sgt. John Juhnke, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, watches as Iraqi Soldiers practice the proper application of a tourniquet Oct. 10.



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck

The medical training is one of many classes the “Dragons” are teaching as a part of their Tiger Academy with soldiers from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division.

Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles



Forty-one Redlegs of I-82 FA raise their right hands during a re-enlistment ceremony held at Firebase Mayhem, Oct 4. Lt. Col. Eric Scwegler, battalion commander, administered the oath of reenlistment to the Soldiers.



# IRONHORSEMAN