

# Crossed Sabers

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv

VOLUME 1 ~ ISSUE 21

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION-BAGHDAD

DECEMBER 7, 2009

## What's Inside



1st Air Cav, IA, IqAF conduct joint air assault, Pg. 5



Blood, sweat and no tears in Level 1 combatives training, Pg. 8



Iraqi orphans receive food for the holidays, Pg. 14



Austin Police visit Ironhorse to gauge future training, Pg. 27



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

Cpl. Timothy Wolff, with Multi National Division – Baghdad's Provost Marshal Office, wrestles with Xanny, a patrol explosive detector dog, during a military working dog demonstration for Iraqi Federal Police at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Nov. 25.

## MND-B K-9s demonstrate impressive capabilities

Story by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan  
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – The explosives were expertly placed under the engine of the truck, just past the front bumper.

It was impossible to be seen from the street, and yet in seconds Sara found all three sticks.

Sara, a special search dog, along with several other military working dogs with their handlers of Multi National Division – Baghdad's Provost Marshal Office, put on a demonstration for Iraqi Federal Police at

Forward Operating Base Falcon, Nov. 25.

The dogs searched for hidden explosives, restrained suspects, and performed other basic tasks they routinely execute in the field.

"A dog like that can solve a lot of problems," said Maj. Hussien Jabbar, of the 1st Mechanized Brigade Iraqi Federal Police.

For the first demonstration, one of several cars parked along FOB Falcon's athletic field had hidden explosives.

Sgt. Rashad Harris and Sara approached from more than 200 feet away. Sara, working several yards ahead, checked the wall boarding, the field, and then approached

the cars.

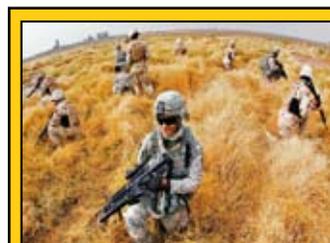
Sara was thorough, and carefully checked the cars, front to rear. She sniffed along the vehicles, and soon stopped and stared intently at the front of a truck where the explosives were hidden.

Iraqi Federal police observing the demonstration recognized how valuable the dogs were.

"We can tell headquarters how these dogs are used; they can search faster than any technology can," said Jabbar.

In the next scenario, Xanny, a patrol

See ~ **MND-B K-9s** Pg. 3



1st ACB, IA conduct cordon, search training pg. 7



Army's Top Chaplain leads worship at Division Chapel pg. 16

# Prayers from Baghdad

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Barb Sherer, MND-B Chaplain

## Prayer of the CHOPs

The Chief of Operations, known as CHOPs, is the quarterback who manages all the players in the division operations center, tracking current operations, responding to crises, and keeping our leaders informed of significant events. It is his voice which begins the BUA each day. This prayer is for him and all who work with him.

First Team God!  
This is Pegasus 3-Charlie  
with the MND-B Prayer for 7 December.

We had 6 events since my last prayer,  
2 requiring your attention:  
First, a convoy just got hit with an RKG3.  
We have launched QRF,  
but I would appreciate your help  
protecting those troops from secondary devices.  
Second, about that IDF last night,  
I know you watch over us,  
That we should be strong and courageous,  
But that rocket was a little too close for comfort!  
Help us, Lord, to catch the bad guys in the act  
So I can keep my people safe.

Over the last 24 hours  
we conducted 8 enduring and 12 special operations.

I thank you for  
The jackpots  
The arrests  
The safe shepherding of DVs about the battlefield.  
Now, if you could spare a few extra moments, please help...  
My NCOs with family problems,  
LNOs who feel disconnected from their units,  
Soldiers who battle boredom when the pace slows down.  
Oh, and if you could warn me  
When the Chief is stalking my way,  
That would help, too!

Well, God, the BUA starts in 2 minutes,  
So I have to  
TURN MY VOICE DOWN and  
TURN MY PHONE DOWN!  
Thanks for listening.  
I will be followed by the next prayer.  
Amen



Questions, comments, story ideas? Contact the Crossed Sabers at [nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil). The Crossed Sabers is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Crossed Sabers are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the Crossed Sabers is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.



### Contributing Writers & Photographers:

*The 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment/1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office/1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division/4th Striker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office/16th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office/30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office/ and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 10th Mountain Division Public Affairs Office.*

**Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger**  
*Commanding General*  
**Lt. Col. Philip Smith**  
*Public Affairs Officer*  
**Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner**  
*Command Information Supervisor*

**Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke**  
*Editor, Layout & Design*  
**Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cupp**  
*Staff Writer*  
**Spc. Phillip Turner**  
*Staff Writer, Layout & Design*

**MND-B K-9s**~ From Pg. 1

explosive detector dog, was to react to a suspect who was approaching in a non-threatening manner. Staff Sgt. William Morton, of Richmond Va., Xanny's handler, ordered the suspect to halt and then return to him.

Xanny waited patiently for the command to control the suspect, who was wearing a special arm guard, preventing him from being hurt when the dog bit.

After refusing to comply with Morton's verbal orders, the suspect ran down the field.

On command, Xanny chased and latched onto the arm of the suspect, preventing him from running. Xanny then released the arm on command, and returned to Morton.

"I wish we had dogs like that," said Jabbar.

"All you have to do is ask; we will support your mission," said Staff Sgt. Christo-

pher Jasper, of Lawton, Ok.

Other demonstrations highlighted the dog's abilities to follow the commands of the handler, such as: following alongside the handler, holding in a set position or stopping from a dead run instantly.

The Iraqi Federal police appreciated the versatility of the dogs, and acknowledged they could do much to help them on missions against criminals and terrorists.

"In the field technology can fail, a dog

never goes wrong, never needs batteries," said Jabbar.

get hit in the face the first time in combat."

Regardless of military occupational specialty, Soldiers are warriors first and must possess the fighting skills to survive and defeat the enemy on the battlefield. The sweat and blood that was shed in the intense week-long unarmed combatives training may one day mean the difference between life and death for a warrior. ✂

# 1st ACB pilot reunites with daughter in Iraq

Story by Sgt. Alun Thomas

1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – It was supposed to be a secret reunion between a father and daughter in the most volatile of places.

Secret or not, the opportunity was seized by the pair eagerly.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Brady, from Harker Heights, Texas, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot for 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and his daughter, Heather, reunited when Heather made a stop, here, Nov. 27, as a participant in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Hooters tour visiting Iraq.

Brady said his daughter was chosen as one of six Hooter's girls out of more than 17,000 for the visit, but was originally not told she would be part of the tour.

"The Pentagon authorized five girls to come to Iraq ... so I called Heather and she said she had no idea there was going to be a Hooter's tour to Iraq," Charles said. "[Hooters, Incorporated] came back and told me the Pentagon wouldn't authorize

another person."

The elder Brady said they knew all along that Heather was going to be part of the tour, but they wanted to keep it a surprise.

"They told me at the last minute and it was a real eye opener," Charles said. "The reason I found out was because they sent an e-mail to all the Soldiers in Iraq and in the attached flyer there was a picture of her."

"I called Heather up at home and asked her what was going on," Brady continued. "I asked her 'Are you coming out here?' and she broke down and said she was."

Upon greeting his daughter in Baghdad, Charles said it was unusual to see her in his environment.

"Seeing her in Iraq in a combat zone was above and beyond," he said. "I'm extremely proud of her."

Heather said having the chance to perform in Iraq and meet different Soldiers has been a life-changing event for her.

"It's great being here seeing the Soldiers and what they actually do ... things we don't get to see back home," Heather said. "It's not like you see on the news at all, so being here in person is amazing."

But seeing her dad was the icing on the cake.

"I never thought I'd see him in Iraq in a million years. I can't get over it," Heather said. "It's been awesome."

While Heather has seen her father flying all her life, seeing where he puts his training into practice gives her visit added meaning.

"I've never really gotten to see what he does here, so seeing him in action is the coolest thing," Heather said. "It's been absolutely the most amazing experience of my life." ✂

**Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Brady (left), from Harker Heights, Texas, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot in 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, stands next to his daughter Heather Brady after being reunited, here, Nov. 27. Heather was visiting Iraq as part of a Hooters tour that included a stop at her father's base.**



Photo by Sgt Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**Heather Brady, one of six Hooters girls visiting Iraq, signs an autograph, here, Nov. 27. Brady was reunited with her father, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Brady of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, when the Hooters tour performed at her father's base, allowing the father and daughter to catch up with each other.**

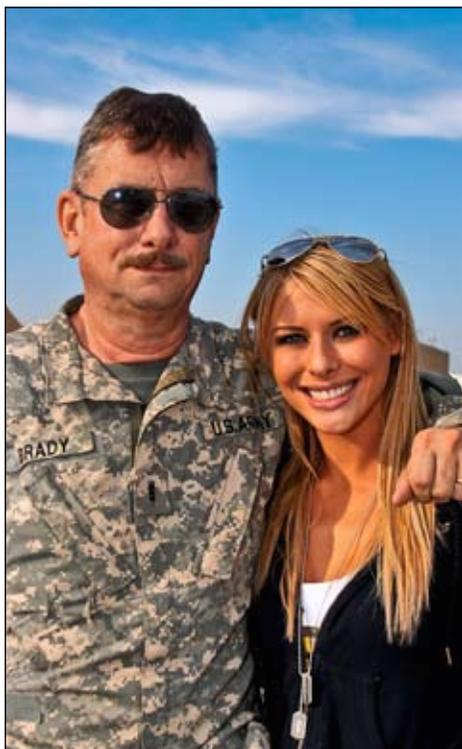


Photo by Sgt Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B



The Daily Charge can be viewed at the MND-B Portal, PAO homepage.



MND-B print and broadcast products can be found on the PAO Portal, including the Cav Roundup and The 1st Team Update. All 1st Cavalry products can be found at [www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv](http://www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv).



**Freedom Radio  
Baghdad 104.1  
and 107.3 FM**

# IA learn the ropes on crane operations

Story by Sgt. Jon Soles

MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD** – As a way to help reduce the role of the U.S. military in Iraq, Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion trained Soldiers of the 6th Iraqi Army, Nov. 11-13, at Joint Security Station Constitution, near the Baghdad International Airport.

The Iraqi Soldiers learned how to operate and maintain one of their own 50-ton cranes, used for construction missions around Iraq. The class covered safety, hand signals, preventive maintenance and operation.

“The 6th [Field Engineering Regiment’s] missions typically include mine detection, service work, and construction work,” said Iraqi Lt. Ammar, of the 6th FER. “This training is very useful for us. We now have two operators who have become excellent [because of the] training.”

Sgt. Steve Cyr, of Uxbridge, Mass., taught the Soldiers how to do perform the correct maintenance steps for the crane. This way, Iraqi Soldiers would know how to fix any problems that might occur.

“They want to learn. They want to make sure they learn how to maintain and repair the equipment,” said Staff Sgt. Frank Lopez, of Webster, Mass., the senior instructor for the course.

After the instruction the Soldiers practiced what they learned by operating the crane.

Sgt. Mumfrey, from Cincinnati, Ohio, has been a crane operator for six years. Together with Sgt. Zach Caudill, from Plymouth, Ohio, the two Soldiers taught the Iraqis different riggings and chains that are used when operating the crane.

“They are willing to learn, they had a positive attitude,” said Sgt. Kenny Mumfrey.

They started off with practical exercises; moving concrete t-wall barriers around in different ways. This helped them get used to operating with a load on the crane.

“It was good training; we were given a lot of information. I now have a better understanding of the equipment and a better technical understanding,” said Iraqi Pfc. Hayder Teama.

On the third day of class the Iraqi Soldiers, using the knowledge they had learned over the previous two days, con-



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

**Iraqi Pfc. Hayder hooks up a chain to a t-wall barrier, while attending a crane operating class at Joint Security Station Constitution, Nov. 13.**

ducted a mission to set up barriers.

Besides learning to set up barriers, the Iraqis also learned how important it is to work together as a team when operating a crane.

With the help of high quality training provided by U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Army engineers continue to increase their knowledge, gaining more confidence in the equipment, themselves and each other. ✂

## Cav troopers, IA visit local school; provide assistance

Story by Pfc. Adam Halleck

1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**TAJI, Iraq** – In an effort to strengthen a sense of normalcy for the children in their area of operations, U.S. and Iraqi troops partnered together to distribute school supplies and to assess local security.

On Nov. 11, U.S. Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, utilized the “Operation Back to School” program, Nov. 11, to visit the al-Abbas School, here, with their Iraqi counterparts.

“At first, when we offered the idea of visiting the school to provide assistance, the headmaster was skeptical,” said Spc. Sesily Aponte, 1479 Civil Affairs Company. “He said he’d received promises from [U.S. Soldiers] in the past, but no aid ever came.”

Al-Abbas School is a self sustaining school and has never received assistance from U.S. or Iraqi forces before the Nov. 11 visit.

“Delta Company proposed they use ‘Operation Back to School’ to help the school because it would benefit from the program more than any other area school,” added Aponte, a native of Camden, N.J. “The school has very humble facilities but still manages to adequately educate hundreds of kids.”

Students, in small classrooms, sit three to a desk offering their atten-



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**An Iraqi army Soldier assigned to the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, hands school supplies to a young Iraqi girl who attends the al-Abbas School in Taji Nov. 11. Iraqi and U.S. troops visited the school to hand out school supplies and assess area security.**

tion to their instructors, unfazed by the commotion of Soldiers hurriedly stacking boxes full of school supplies yards away.

“The children were very happy to receive the supplies,” said Aponte. “They did

seem more focused on their school work though, which is great.”

“The kids here aren’t used to the same luxuries as we are in the states,” explained 1st Lt. Carl Runner, a native of Diboll, Texas. “For us to bring the

stuff that matters means a lot to them.”

“Bringing a pen and paper, making sure they are safe and healthy is more than enough for the kids of al-Abbas,” added Runner. ✂

# Iraqi orphans receive food for the holidays

Story by Spc. Ruth McClary

30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – It was early evening, Nov. 23, as military vehicles carrying a harvest of pre-packaged foods pulled up to the Salim Molaw Abu Hathafa Mosque at the Zaydon marketplace here, just in time for Eid al-Adha.

U.S. troops delivered three hundred packages containing cooking oil, flour, tortillas, beans, canned meat, canned tomatoes, and powdered milk; purchased for distribution to needy families in the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team's area of operations.

Squadron Soldiers unloaded 100 meals as Saad Hawas Salim, whose family runs the mosque, and a few men from the marketplace, helped stack the bags on the steps of the facility.

Salim's grandfather is the head of the mosque where the meals will be handed out after services there. According to Salim there are quite a few orphans in the area.

"There are about 300 to 500 kids with no mother or father here," said Salim. "Some of them live with their cousins and some live at a station set up by the sheiks."

The mosque, with its graffiti covered walls topped with barbed wire, sat unobstructed in the middle of the marketplace; a safe haven for the children the meals were brought there to help.

Salim, of the al-Zobaai tribe, thanked Mills and reassured him that he would keep his promise of giving the meals out after the noon day prayer.

"Tell your grandfather this is a gift from U.S. forces for those who need it and we wish them good will," said Capt. Thomas Mills, of Winfield, W. Va.

More than just food was distributed at the small mosque, southwest of Baghdad. When the troops were about to load up to leave for another mission, groups of



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**Troop C Commander, Capt. Thomas Mills, of Winfield, W. Va., speaks with Saad Hawas Salim after delivering 100 pre-packaged bags of food, Nov. 23. Soldiers of Troop C, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, delivered the bags filled with cooking oil, flour, tortillas, canned meat, and powdered milk for distribution to the needy, just in time for Eid al-Adha.**

children, making their way home from school approached. The Soldiers dug into their pockets, and pulled out candy, gum, pencils and pens.

As the Soldiers handed out the small gifts, the children accepted the treats and moved on as if it were an everyday occurrence.

"They were the most well behaved children I have ever seen over here," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Phillips, of Oak Hill, W. Va. "I almost wish I had more to give them."

**(Right) Spc. Adam Butler, of Summersville, W. Va., and a man from the Zaydon marketplace unload bags of food at a mosque here, Nov. 23.**



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**Spc. Adam Butler, of Summersville, W. Va., passes a pre-packaged bag of food to Saad Hawas Salim, at a mosque in the Zaydon marketplace, here, Nov. 23. American troops delivered 100 bags for distribution to the needy just in time for Eid al-Adha.**



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

# U.S. Soldiers help raise money for Iraqi widows and orphans

Story by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – It was a scene that you might see in any average market place; vendors selling their wares to visiting tourists. The only difference was that these tourists were U.S. Soldiers.

The Daughters of Iraq, a national women's organization, held a bazaar raising money for local widows and orphans at Combat Outpost Meade, south of Baghdad, Nov. 13.

Soldiers of the 113th Field Artillery Battalion's Civil Affairs Team, based at the COP, hosted the bazaar and featured the work of several female Baghdad area artists and tailors.

"It is a sorority for charity, the money spent helps more than 400 local widows," said Selma el-Taai, president of the Mahmudiyah chapter of Bintel Fuurat, "Daughters of Iraq."

Handmade rugs of all types and colors, jewelry, prayer beads, handbags, decorative tea sets, scarves, head coverings, oil paintings of modern and historic Iraq, traditional garb, plaques and other items were for sale.

"It shows our ability as artists, painters and tailors. We can earn a living and show the Iraqi people what we can do," said Fasion, an artist from Baghdad.

Several dozen shoppers, including visiting actors Jeffrey Donovan and Bruce Campbell of the USA show, "Burn Notice", enjoyed the widow's special event. The two actors were visiting the COP as part of a morale welfare and recreation tour.

Soldiers stood around the tables trying on clothes, holding up jewelry, asking about prices and haggled the merchants for a better deal. In the end, both merchant and customer were satisfied, as Soldiers posed for pictures to send back home holding up their bargains.

"I bought a unique handmade shawl for my sister," said 1st Lt. Clifton, Gauldin of Raleigh, N.C. "They had some nice stuff over there; it is good to be able to get a local made item."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**Soldiers, civilian workers and visiting actors Jeffrey Donovan (left) and Bruce Campbell (far right), of the USA show Burn Notice, enjoy a charity bazaar hosted by the Daughters of Iraq at Combat Outpost Meade, Nov. 13.**

Many members of the Daughters of Iraq have attended recent workshops on how to run their own business and improve their skills for events like this.

Interaction between local citizens and the Soldiers was also a goal of the bazaar.

"It improves the bond between the U.S. and Iraqi

people," said Fasion.

The artists said that they were happy the Soldiers bought items to mail home to family and friends as souvenirs of their deployment to Iraq.

"It is a chance to show Iraqi skill, art, culture and heritage," said Samara, a painter from Baghdad. ✂

## U.S., Iraqi partnership renovates primary school in Radwanayah

Story by Spc. Ruth McClary

30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – Sounds of Iraqi children reading aloud filled the halls of Sanadeed Primary School as Iraqi leaders cut the red ribbon during the opening ceremony, here, southwest of Baghdad, Nov. 12.

The 875-student school received a \$165,000 makeover, part of a collaborative project supported by the Iraqi Ministry of Education, 17th Division Iraqi Army and U.S. troops of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

"We are very happy about all the work that has been done in support of our community," said city council executive officer, Ahmed Rashid Hasasan. "When people ask, we will tell them how [U.S. forces] have supported us with these types of projects."

Project members discussed the major overhaul of the school as they toured the grounds, passing out nearly 1,000 book bags full of school supplies to the children.

Extensive renovations included a new roof, new classroom ceilings, a reinforced foundation, repaired windows, electrical re-wiring, classroom air conditioners, indoor plumbing, a generator, water purification system, water and fuel tank, and a fresh coat of white and peach paint throughout the inside and outside of the building.

All the trees were removed from the grounds. Tree stumps, which caused cracks in the schools foundation, were de-rooted leaving room for a large soccer field.

Iraqi contractors began the project in October, giving the children a bright and cheery learning environment in a month's time.

"Contractors did a phenomenal job; completing the project ahead of schedule," said Staff Sgt. Michael Hawf,

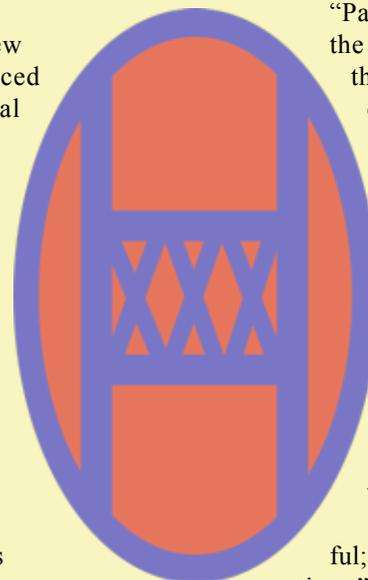
of St. Louis. "The opening had a great turn-out; Nahia Council, the Ministry of Education, local and tribal leaders were in attendance."

"Part of our mission here is to work with the government of Iraq and in fulfilling that, we have worked many joint projects since our arrival," said Hawf.

Classes ended around noon as the children were routed through the lobby to receive new book bags. Councilmembers, Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers took turns handing them out.

"We appreciate everything the United States forces do for us," said neighborhood councilman, Maroof Amhosh Mahawish. "People are watching what we do in this country and they will remember all the good things we have done together."

"Overall the project was very successful; it went through without any complications," said Hawf. "The main aspect is the lasting impact this will have on the children's lives." ✂



# 1st ACB, IA conduct cordon, search training

*Photos by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB PAO,  
1st Cav. Div., MND-B*



**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**—In a single-file formation, Soldiers from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, alongside Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 34th IA Brigade, move tactically through a training area to conduct cordon and search exercises at Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov. 19.



Playing the role of a high-value target during a training exercise, Spc. Dale Larrabee (center), from Warsaw, Miss., a joint fires observer from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, gets "detained" by Soldiers from the 34th Iraqi Army Brigade, here, Nov. 19. The cordon and search training was conducted to help the IA hone their abilities in combat situations.



After conducting a cordon and search training exercise, Soldiers from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, along with 34th Iraqi Army Brigade Soldiers, position themselves to be picked up by a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter, here, Nov. 19.

# Blood, sweat and no tears in Level 1 combatives training

Story by Sgt. Jon Soles

MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD** – A Soldier can't always depend on marksmanship to survive on the battlefield. Sometimes, a Soldier's only weapons are hands, feet and a warrior's determination.

Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's Special Troops Battalion tested their ability to preserve themselves and their battle buddies without weapons, by engaging in Level I combatives certification to cap off a week of training on Camp Liberty, here, Nov. 13.

Two Soldiers faced each other in the middle of the mat, while the other Soldiers erupted into cheers of encouragement.

Spc. Larisa Neskovic, a medic from Jay, Fla., took the role of the enemy. First Lt. Aimee Feliz, a main supply platoon leader from Fairfax, Va., stepped up to fight alone and without a weapon.

Once the two touched fists, Neskovic immediately began to pummel Feliz in the head. Feliz struggled to hold Neskovic in a clinch hold to stop the blows as their deep breaths became audible in the room. Once Feliz finally held Neskovic in one of the three clinch holds required for the course – the modified seatbelt, rear clench and under hooks clench – the match was over.

Such matches went on for an hour, with male and female Soldiers all going against each other, regardless of the size difference. Soldiers who demonstrated proficiency in the three clench holds were awarded the Level I certificate.

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Haynes, teaches unarmed combatives up to Level III for DSTB troops.

"What we try to bring out in these Soldiers is confidence and the warrior ethos," said Haynes. "I feel pretty confident that they can encounter the enemy on the battlefield and totally finish the fight."

Haynes said Level I focuses on 13 core moves and proficiency is determined by the ability to perform the three

clenches. Level I certification requires 40 hours of instruction spread out over a week. Soldiers who earn their Level I certification may advance to Level II.

Capt. Seth Gould, who runs the unarmed combatives program, said hand-to-hand fighting is intended to be a contingency in case a Soldier has to fight an enemy alone, or without a weapon. It is intended to preserve a Soldier on the battlefield until reinforcements arrive.

"The guy that wins the fight is the guy whose buddy shows up first, and in the Army, your buddy is never far away," said Gould, a native of Covington, Ga.

Soldiers who earned their Level I certification said the training reminded them of the Army Warrior Ethos. Not giving up was the key to staying alive, said Sgt. Orianna Martinez, a supply sergeant from Rutherfordton, N.C.

"I'm going to do everything I can to keep the opponent from taking me down," said Martinez. "I feel like quitting is selfish. You can't just give up."

Martinez said a realistic aspect of the training was that opponents of diverse sizes and shapes were matched against each other. In a real combat situation, a Soldier would not get to pick the attacker.

"It's not the size or the fact that I'm a female that matters," said Martinez. "I'm a Soldier; I'm a warrior."

Spc. Orlando Garza, a cook from Beeville, Texas, accepted his certificate with blood on his face from the fighting. He said lessons he learned in combatives will help him as a Soldier.

"I learned that a warrior never quits," said Garza. "I'm more confident in myself and it will make me a better Soldier."

In addition to teaching fighting skills, the class also helps prepare Soldiers for the violence of hand-to-hand combat.

"It teaches them not to be afraid," said Gould. "You don't want to see a Soldier get hit in the face the first time in combat."

Regardless of military occupational specialty, Soldiers are warriors first and must possess the fighting skills to survive and defeat the enemy on the battlefield. The sweat



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

**Spc. Nick Anderson (left), of Hanover, Minn., works to defend against 1st Lt. Aimee Feliz, of Fairfax, Va., as she tries to put a rear clench hold on him during Level I combatives training at the Division Special Troops Battalion Fight House on Camp Liberty, here, Nov. 13.**

and blood that was shed in the intense week-long unarmed combatives training may one day mean the difference between life and death for a warrior. ✂



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

**Spc. Larisa Neskovic (left), of Jay, Fla., punches at the head of 1st Lt. Aimee Feliz of Fairfax, Va., as she closes in during Level I unarmed combatives, here, Nov. 13.**



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

**Sgt. Orianna Martinez (right), of Rutherfordton, N.C., tries to put a clench hold on Pfc. Donovan Warner, of York, Pa., during Level I combatives training, here, Nov. 13.**



# DEC 07

## World War II

### On this day in American Military History

#### Japanese warplanes bomb the U.S. naval base at Oahu Island's Pearl Harbor

On this day, in an early-morning sneak attack, Japanese warplanes bomb the U.S. naval base at Oahu Island's Pearl Harbor-and the United States enters World War II.

President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull knew a Japanese attack was imminent. Having received intelligence reports of intercepted coded messages from Tokyo to the Japanese ambassador in the United States, the president anticipated Japanese reprisals for his government's refusal to reverse economic sanctions and embargoes against Japan. The Roosevelt administration had remained firm in its demand that the Japanese first withdraw from China and French Indochina, which it had invaded in 1937 and July 1941, respectively, and renounce its alliance with fascist Germany and Italy.

But Japan refused, demanding that the United States first end the embargo on oil shipments vital for Tokyo's war machine. Although negotiations between the two nations continued up to the very last minute, Roosevelt was aware of a secret November 25 deadline, established by Tokyo, that confirmed military action on the part of the Japanese should they not received satisfaction from the negotiations. While forewarned, Washington could not pinpoint the time or place of an attack.

Despite initially objecting to war with America, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto believed that if Prime Minister Hideki Tojo was determined to go to war, it was Japan who had to make a preemptive strike. Yamamoto studied the devastating November 1940 British attack against the Italian fleet at Taranto, and planned and led the sneak attack against the United States. Approximately 360 Japanese warplanes were launched from six aircraft carriers, reinforced by battleships, cruisers, and destroyers. The first dive-bomber was spotted over Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time. It was followed by 200 aircraft, which decimated the American ships anchored there, most of which were only lightly manned because it was Sunday morning. Among the 18 U.S. ships destroyed, sunk, or capsized were the Arizona, Virginia,

California, Nevada, and West Virginia. More than 180 planes were destroyed on the ground and another 150 were damaged (leaving but 43 operational). American casualties totaled more than 3,400, with more than 2,400 killed (1,000 on the Arizona alone). The Japanese lost fewer than 100 men.

In the short term, the Japanese goal of crippling U.S. naval strength in the Pacific, and thereby giving Tokyo free reign to gobble up more of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific in its dream of imperial expansion, was successful. But the war had only just begun.

*"December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy...no matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory."*

**- President Franklin D. Roosevelt**



# 1941

# Burn Notice actors spend time with Soldiers

Story by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

30th HBCT PAO, MMD-B

**BAGHDAD** – On television, actor Jeff Donovan plays a defunct spy who has expertise in explosives and weapons.

Recently, however, at Combat Outpost Meade, south of Baghdad, it was Donovan who took pointers from the Soldiers of 113th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Donovan was accompanied by Don Campbell, military advisor for the tour, and Bruce Campbell, Don Campbell's brother, and also a cast mate of Donovan.

Bruce Campbell is a star in his own right, from films such as, "The Evil Dead" and "The Evil Dead II: Army of Darkness," and "Bubba Hotep." Both Donovan and Bruce Campbell appear on the USA network television show, "Burn Notice."

During their visit at COP Meade, Bruce Campbell and Donovan tried their hand at the firing range and met with Soldiers as part of a morale, welfare and recreation tour throughout Iraq.

"Everybody should support the troops," said Bruce Campbell.

Only a few minutes after landing in a UH-60 Black Hawk, the two actors were greeted by cheers and shouts, "Hey Bruce!"

"Hi guys, how is it going," said Bruce Campbell as he and Donovan walked into a maintenance bay.

The Soldiers were appreciative as the actors posed for photos and signed autographs.

"It was inspiring because somebody cares enough to come here and entertain us," said Sgt. Micah Joseph, a human resources specialist from Charlotte, N.C.

Bruce Campbell and Donovan were as interested in the Soldiers as the Soldiers were of them, taking nearly as many photos and asking as many questions of the Soldiers.

"I am impressed by individuals I have met; how mentally strong they are," said Donovan. "It takes a certain mentality to do the job out here from the boredom to sudden violence."

Donovan tried on one of the Soldier's body armor.

"You don't have to work out, just carry the weapon and armor," Donovan said while wearing the armor.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rob Jordan, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**Actor Jeffery Donovan shoots at the unit's firing range at Combat Outpost Meade, Iraq, Nov. 13. A morale, welfare and recreation tour brought Donovan and fellow actor Bruce Campbell of USA network's show "Burn Notice" to entertain the Soldiers.**

Later, the actors went to the firing range for an opportunity to fire an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, the M-4 rifle and an M-9 pistol. After a short safety briefing, the actors put in earplugs and fired the weapons safely down range.

After another quick orientation and brief, Donovan then climbed atop an armored humvee, dropped into the gunner's turret, and fired the M-240-Bravo machine gun once the range was cleared for firing again. The actor had to make some slight adjustments at first.

"It was a learning experience," said Donovan.

"It is more fun out here than firing on a film set," Bruce Campbell said. "We have editors who make sure we

always hit the target."

The three all have ties to the military. Donovan's father served in Vietnam and Korea, and Don Campbell currently serves in the reserves.

Don Campbell, who has 28-years in the military, tours with his brother and helps the actors with a few pointers.

"When Bruce volunteered I told him what to expect; military dos and don'ts, Arab culture," Don Campbell said.

He also showed brotherly concern as well.

"I told him what could happen; there is no guarantee of a safe journey," Don Campbell said.

Don Campbell and the actors visited an Iraqi bazaar that supported local widows and orphans in the area. Bruce Campbell, and Donovan greeted some of the Iraqi Soldiers who train alongside U.S. Soldiers on the COP.

After the two hour visit, the three men went to the helipad to catch a ride to the next post on the tour.

Bruce Campbell left with a message for his fellow actors back in the U.S.

"Everybody should go, there is nothing more real than a war," he said. ✂



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rob Jordan, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**Actor Bruce Campbell shoots a squad automatic weapon as brass, sparks and links fly at the firing range on Combat Outpost Meade, Iraq, Nov. 13. A morale, welfare and recreation tour brought Campbell and fellow actor Jeffery Donovan of USA network's show "Burn Notice" to entertain the Soldiers.**

*All MND-B products (print stories, radio updates, and video products) can be viewed and downloaded at*



# IA learn basic carpentry from 1434th Engineers at Old Mod

Story by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

101st Eng. Bn. PAO, 16th Eng Bde., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – After two days of a basic carpentry skills course, Soldiers of the 11th Field Engineer Regiment, 11th Iraqi Army Division, finished a practical exercise building dormitory-style rooms, Nov. 14, at Iraq's Old Ministry of Defense, in northeastern Baghdad.

Soldiers of the 1434th Engineer Company taught a "train the trainer" course so that the IA engineers will be able to continue training each other.

The first day of class covered basic safety instruction on the proper use of power tools, personal protective equipment and safety on the job site. The classes included hands-on training for measuring and cutting boards correctly the first time.

With guidance from the 1434th Soldiers, IA Soldiers put their new skills to use on the second day of class. Split into two groups, the Soldiers practiced measuring and cutting boards and framing the dormitory-style rooms in the existing structure.

"It was great, there was sawdust everywhere, the IA Soldiers were so excited to be working they didn't want to take a break," said Pfc. Raymond Shehata, of Milford, Mass.

Shehata, originally from Egypt, was assigned to the project because of his fluency in Arabic and helped out with the hands-on portion of the class.

Shehata's ability to speak Arabic helped to strengthen the partnership and camaraderie between the IA Soldiers and the 1434th.



Courtesy photo

**Sgt. James Glomski, of Alpena, Mich., with the 1434th Engineer Company, observes Iraqi Pfc. Omar Khodair Abbas making his first cut using a circular saw. Glomski trained the new carpenter in proper handling of the power tools during a "train the trainer" carpentry course that helped to further the partnership between the Iraqi Army and U.S. Soldiers, Nov. 14.**

Shehata gained valuable insight into the effectiveness of the training because of his comprehension of Arabic. He was crucial to

earning the IA Soldiers' respect, which contributed greatly to the success of the mission. "Being a part of the partnership training

gives me a great feeling of accomplishment; knowing I was teaching them new skills," said Shehata. ✂

## A different kind of stake out

Photos by Spc. Ezekeil Earle, 101st Eng. Bn. PAO, 16th Eng. Bde., MND-B



**BAGHDAD-** Spc. Tim Killough (left), of New Salem, N.C., with the 621st Engineer Detachment, 101st Eng. Battalion, 16th Eng. Brigade, stakes out a foundation, Nov. 21, with help from an Iraqi Soldier from the 6th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment. The survey and design team are working at Joint Security Station Constitution, preparing the designs for a new Joint Operations Center.



Spc. Tim Killough (far left), from New Salem, N.C., with the 621st Engineer Detachment, 101st Eng. Battalion, 16th Eng. Brigade, and an Iraqi Soldier from the 6th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment, survey the area of land on Joint Security Station Constitution, where the footings will be poured for the new Joint Operations Center. Sgt. Todd Brawley (right) of Wingate, N.C., supervises and checks the accuracy of the survey conducted on Nov. 21.

# Radar crew keeps their eyes on the skies

Story by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell  
MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD** – In Iraq, there are hundreds of aircraft in the sky every day; landing, taking off, and patrolling.

It's the job of the sentinel radar teams assigned to Multi-National Division – Baghdad, operating in relative obscurity, to monitor and make sure the skies are safe.

At Forward Operating Base Hammer, on the far eastern outskirts of Baghdad, that team consists of three Soldiers from 26th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, who, on a rotating basis, keep track of the spinning radar.

“We keep track of helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles...to make sure they don't hit each other,” said Staff Sgt. Valentine Smith, a radar mechanic. “We're kinda like aircraft controllers...there are a lot of birds flying around up there, a lot of them.”

The sophisticated radar system interlocks with other radars positioned throughout Baghdad to provide full coverage of aircraft, or birds, in the sky down to the smallest detail.

“The radar pings a bird and asks, ‘Are you friendly or not?’” said Smith, adding that it also describes the type of aircraft.

These Soldiers knew they were coming to Iraq to operate a radar system that none of them had previously worked on, but they have transitioned successfully.

“The hardest challenge for me was the software, but between the three of us, we figure it out pretty well,” explained Smith, from Yonkers, N.Y.

Spc. Antoine Maines, a radar operator, worked on similar machines, but this was a first time for him with the radar.

“For me, the transition was a little easier because it's the same thing, it just spins 360 degrees,” said Maines, from Rapids City, S.D., describing the rotating portable radar. “We just adapt and

overcome.”

Before coming here, Soldiers went through a cursory two-week course on the system, giving them the confidence to operate the machinery and keep it running 24 hours a day.

“It's weird, it keeps track of everything,” added Maines. “We know what we're doing and the impact that we're having, but the average Soldier doesn't know... We are like the guys behind the curtain.”

In this case, the curtain is large camouflage netting concealing multiple generators and a complex radar control center that wouldn't solicit a second glance from Soldiers.

The transition to this job has been the most extreme for field artillery meteorological crewmember Sgt. Leon Praxton.

“The biggest thing was just getting here to Iraq and us doing the job,” admitted Praxton. “I just shadowed my noncommissioned officer in charge when I first started working on it and that made for a smooth transition.”

For optimistic and flexible Soldiers like this sentinel radar crew, the shift was pretty painless, added Praxton.

“It's different from our military occupational specialty, but it's not hard to do,” explained Praxton, a native of Houston. “If something goes wrong, that's when it's hard, but we have a lot of support from division...and we rely on our wits and instincts.”

Being able to track helicopters throughout Baghdad can have a serious effect on saving lives if an aircraft ever goes down and Praxton is proud to be able to help his fellow service members.

“Nowadays, with the danger of traveling in a convoy, everybody uses CH-47 Chinooks or UH-60 Black Hawks to hop from FOB to FOB, and we're a little piece of the puzzle to keep people safe,” said Smith with a smile. “As long as we're doing our job nobody realizes it, so that's a good thing.” ✂



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO

“It gets so dusty here, we have to work hard on keeping it clean,” said Sgt. Leon Praxton, a field artillery meteorological crewmember from Houston, while cleaning out the panels of the sentinel radar during his daily inspection of the machine at Forward Operating Base Hammer, Nov. 15, here, on the far eastern edge of Baghdad.

## REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE

**AKO Army Online**

AKO Help Desk

Log in to AKO

New User?

Forgot Password?

Common FAQs

AKO Service Portal

AKO Terms of Use / Terms of Service

The security accreditation level of this site is **Unclassified FOUO and below.**

**AKO-S Army Online**

AKO-S Help Desk

Log in to AKO-S

New User?

Forgot Password?

AKO-S Terms of Use / Terms of Service

The security accreditation level of this site is **SECRET and below.**

## THIS IS A TOY,

THIS ISN'T.

Never point a gun at yourself or someone else.

Over the last couple years, more than a half dozen Soldiers lost their lives when someone intentionally pointed what they believed to be an unloaded weapon at themselves or someone else and pulled the trigger. Always treat weapons as if they're loaded.

CHECK IT OUT TODAY!

RANGE & WEAPONS SAFETY TOOLBOX

<https://safety.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety>

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG

# THE SOLDIER'S CREED

**I am an American Soldier.**

**I am a Warrior and a member of a team.**

**I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.**

**I will always place the mission first.**

**I will never accept defeat.**

**I will never quit.**

**I will never leave a fallen comrade.**

**I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my Warrior tasks and drills.**

**I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.**

**I am an expert and I am a professional.**

**I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.**

**I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.**

**I am an American Soldier.**



**ARMY STRONG.<sup>SM</sup>**

**goarmy.com**

©2006. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

# 1st Air Cav, IA, IqAF

Story & photos by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**—U.S. and Iraqi forces worked together in an air assault and patrol mission to check on the standard of living in a small village north of here, Nov. 12.

The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade has again seen its labors—training the Iraqi Air Force to fly their ground brethren in real missions—come to fruition.

U.S. Soldiers assaulted in on UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters along with Iraqi Army Soldiers on IqAF UH-1 helicopters and continued on to the ground mission.

Alongside Soldiers from the 34th IA Brigade, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, conducted a sewage, water, electrical and trash assessment, or SWEAT, in the village.

The IA was given the guidelines of the mission; to ask the locals if their houses could be searched, look for faulty plumbing or electrical issues and to check if villagers had any information on possible terrorist activities, said Staff Sgt. Marcus Espinosa.

“I would say they (IA) performed pretty well, they did their job by interacting with the local population,” the Newark, Calif. native said. “We (U.S. Soldiers) really didn’t have to do anything, we stepped back and let them take charge.”

While one element was talking with the villagers, another was searching the surrounding area for weapons caches, said Espinosa, adding that the village had previous ties with al-Qaeda.

All the while, an attack weapons team comprised of two U.S. AH-64D Apache attack helicopters from the provided overhead support and an extra set of eyes for the joint patrol.

Taking part in the SWEAT assessment, Spc. Christopher Shiller, of Arlington, Texas, said he was pleased to see that the IA had confidence in their abilities to conduct the mission.

“The IA didn’t hesitate walking up to the people in the village, letting them know what we were there to do; that we weren’t there to harm them in any way and to see if we could help out in any way,” said Shiller. “It was kind of a way to go out and show that the training has paid off.”

With every mission the IA improves on the ability to work seamlessly with the IqAF.

“I think the mission was a success, with what I saw the Iraqis conducted themselves very well,” said Espinosa. “I think with a little more training they should be able to take the reins.”

**An Iraqi Army Soldier from the 34 IA Brigade, with support from Soldiers of 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, talks with local villagers about living conditions and any possible terrorist activities in an area north Taji, Iraq, Nov. 12.**



(Above) First Lt. Austin H... from San Angelo, Texas, h... small bag of candy to a yo... girl during a patrol in a sn... north of Taji, Iraq, Nov. 1... can Soldiers and the 34th... Brigade performed a joint... mission and patrol to che... conditions of the small vil...

# join

# Conduct



uckabee, hands a young Iraqi small village 2. Ameri-Iraqi Army air assault check on living lage.



(Right) After air assaulting into a landing zone, Spc. Khalid Hermez, from Detroit, pulls security as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter departs the landing zone. U.S. Soldiers from the 1st ACB and the 34th Iraqi Army Brigade performed a joint air assault mission and patrol to check on living conditions of a small vil-lage north of here, Nov. 12.



After completing a search of a small village north of here, U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade move out towards a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to return to base, Nov. 12.

# at air assault

# Muslim faithful embark on pilgrimage to Mecca

Story by Sgt. Joshua Risner

MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD** – An important time for Muslims is fast approaching. The Hajj, the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, begins on the eighth day of the Arabic month of Dhul-Hijjah, which corresponds to Nov. 25.

The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and is required of every able-bodied Muslim at least once in their lifetime, according to Kadhim al-Waeli, cultural advisor for Multi-National Division—Baghdad. In fact, the word hajji in Arabic means a person who has undergone the Hajj.

“Mecca is the holy city of Islam, built by the prophet Abraham and Ishmael,” said Kadhim. “If you’re a Muslim you have to make the pilgrimage if you are physically able.”

The religious observance at Mecca is a ritualized observance of the trials of Abraham, who is the common denominator of three of the world’s major religions.

“The Hajj lasts seven days and each day has different rituals,” said Kadhim.

Pilgrims perform a variety of rituals, including seven revolutions around the holy Kaba, the black stone believed to be constructed by Abraham and Ishmael. They will also make seven trips between the hills of Safa and Marwah, commemorating the search for food and water by Hagar, the mother of Ishmael.

Another ritual during the Hajj is the symbolic defiance of Satan (al Shaitan), demonstrated by throwing seven stones at a pillar that represents the devil’s temptation of Abraham as described in the Quran, said Kadhim.

According to Kadhim, Muslims undertaking the Hajj will also go to Mount Arafat, where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son, Ishmael, as ordered by God, to prove his faith. As a reward for his steadfast loyalty, Ishmael was spared and a lamb was offered in his place.

“They will sacrifice a lamb in commemoration of this act,” he said.

Finally, the Feast of the Sacrifice, or Eid al-Adha, which is a four-day celebration, occurs at the end of Hajj,

Kadhim explained.

“This is the second Eid in the Islamic calendar, the first one being at the end of Ramadan,” he said. “They are very peaceful days. There will be celebrations, maybe some celebratory fire, but I don’t expect anything out of the ordinary.”

For Shia Muslims, the end of Hajj is a time to travel to Najaf, to celebrate the nomination by God of Ali ibn Abu-Talib to be the Prophet Muhammad’s successor, which is the source of the schism between Sunni and Shia, Kadhim explained.

“When the Iraqi Shia return to Iraq [from Mecca], they go to Najaf to visit the tomb of Imam Ali ibn Abu-Talib for two or three days and then they go home,” he said.

One thing Soldiers of Multi-National Division Baghdad can expect, Kadhim mentioned, is increased amounts of traffic as the pilgrims return from Mecca and during the subsequent days of celebration.

The period of Hajj is a joyous time for Iraqi Muslims. Soldiers of Multi-National Division Baghdad can keep this in mind to better relate to their Iraqi counterparts. ✂

## Army’s Top Chaplain leads worship at Division Chapel



Photos by Spc. Phillip Turner, MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD** – Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, The Army’s chief chaplain, leads a congregation at Camp Liberty’s Division Chapel through one of his favorite praise and worship songs, Nov. 22. Douglas shared a message of resilience focusing on the Army’s rise in suicides over the past few years. The chaplain said “hopelessness” has no place in today’s Army, and that all Soldiers should strive to help those Soldiers who show signs of trouble in and out of theater, saying “one suicide is one too many.”

(Below) Chief Chaplain of the Army, Major Gen. Douglas Carver, individually thanks each Soldier in attendance following a worship service at Camp Liberty’s Division Chapel, Nov. 22. Douglas said it was his personal mission to come and thank Soldiers here for their sacrifice during this holiday season. The Chaplain closed the service with a prayer for the continued safety of the men and women serving here in Baghdad.



Soldiers from the Multi National Division – Baghdad listen to a spiritual message given by the Army’s highest ranking chaplain, Major Gen. Douglas Carver, Nov. 22. The Army’s chief chaplain made his Thanksgiving trip to Baghdad for the third straight year reminding Soldiers that they must “remain vigilant in such desperate times.” Douglas reminded all in attendance that even though they are away from home for the holidays that they have “many blessings to be thankful for.”



# Cav troopers prep for aid missions

Story by Pfc. Adam Halleck  
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – In an effort to provide local residents extra comforts during the winter months, Soldiers, here, are stocking warehouses full of humanitarian aid items.

For troopers from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, providing aid to the local population is an opportunity to cross-

train their Iraqi counterparts on civil military operations.

“We’re going to coach, teach and mentor the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army

Division on proper civil military operations,” explained Capt. Matthew Hopper.

“We’re going to count on our [ground units] to identify the families in need to provide [humanitarian aid],” said Hopper, a native of Little Rock, Ark. “The guys on the ground are working and interacting with the local people on a daily basis, so they know what areas need the most help.”

The battalion has a warehouse filled with over three thousand water filtration systems and five thousand blankets. The battalion’s maneuver elements that partner with the Iraqi Army have free access to the warehouse so they can distribute the aid on

routine patrols.

“There will be multiple humanitarian operations and drops in the coming weeks,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the civil military operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the battalion.

“We want to provide the locals with adequate, clean and potable drinking water, as well as a means to keep warm during the cold winter months,” said Lien, from Whitewater, Wis.

By partnering with their Iraqi counterparts during the humanitarian aid

missions, the U.S. Soldiers help strengthen relationships between Iraqis and the Iraqi army, added Lien.

“By providing the people things they need,

the Iraqi army will continue to build the trust they have with local residents,” said St. Louis native, Spc. Daniel Brindell.

“It’s a good opportunity for the Iraqi army to help foster relationships with the people they protect.”

**Killeen, Texas native, Sgt. Chester Temple unloads water filters during a stocking of a humanitarian aid warehouse on Camp Taji, here, Nov. 21. The unit, along with their counterparts from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, will distribute water filters and blankets in the coming months. Turner is assigned to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division**

*“We want to provide the locals with adequate, clean and potable drinking water, as well as a means to keep warm during the cold winter months,”*

**-- Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien**



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**I.A.M. STRONG**  
INTERVENE \* ACT \* MOTIVATE

**Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention**

**INTERVENE**  
When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

**ACT**  
You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

**MOTIVATE**  
We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

[www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil)  
Military OneSource • 1-800-342-9647

## Zaidon Market road increases commerce, safety

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

**BAGHDAD**—Local area leaders of Zaidon gathered Nov. 12 to celebrate the completion of the three-month-long project which transformed what was once just a pot-holed dirt road into paved thoroughfare.

Soldiers with 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division provided security at the official opening of the road, designed to facilitate easier travel and better business opportunities for locals going to the Zaidon Market in Abu Ghraib.

“People weren’t able to get in the Zaidon market to make purchases in the city and transport goods and items that were sold, particularly agricultural items,” said Navy Lt. Ross Simpson, a civil affairs team leader with 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. “Trucks couldn’t fit through.”

The \$440,000 funding for the project was funded through Commander’s Emergency Response Program. The project started during a previous brigade’s deployment and was transferred to Simpson when his unit took over responsibility for the area.

The close proximity of the market to the citizens of Zaidon was also taken into consideration when planning what improvements would be made. These considerations lead to going beyond just simply widening and paving the streets for vehicles, the sidewalks were also paved for the safety and ease of pedestrian traffic.

“The overall goal of the project was to provide the local populace of the Zaidon village with a more efficient, safer, more convenient way to travel throughout this major village,” said Simpson, a native of Dalton, Ga.

Convenience, however, came to a screeching halt in the beginning of the project.

“One of the biggest obstacles was being able to juggle the amount of traffic on any given day with construction work that needed to be completed,” explained Simpson. “[The workers] had to do it in a way to allow the local populace to use [the road.]”

It took a lot of planning, but the project was finally completed earlier this week, he said.

Once the ceremony came to an end, the attendees said their goodbyes and left down the road that now provides the area with a safer and more efficient way to travel. ✂



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

**Surrounded by local leaders, Sheikh Diab cuts a ribbon to celebrate the opening of a newly-paved road in Zaidon Market, Nov. 10. The road allows easier access to the market, which has strengthened its businesses.**

# 10th Mtn. Soldiers resupply remote bases in Baghdad

Story by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell  
MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD**—A blanket of stars provides ambient light and the streets of eastern Baghdad are deserted for the most part.

Only a few vehicles move through Iraqi Police checkpoints, Nov. 14, as traffic for the day has died down. However, in spite of the relative calm of the evening, the streets are still dangerous.

But Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment have a mission to accomplish. They have to get essential supplies to the rest of their 15th FAR family living in different joint security stations and forward operating bases scattered throughout eastern Baghdad.

“It’s very important we do this, without us bringing them water, they wouldn’t last; it’s essential,” explained Spc. Justin Douylliaz, from Lake City, Fla..

Douylliaz, a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle driver, and his fellow Soldiers have the undertaking of providing food, water, equipment and other essential goods to the rest of their company at JSS Zafraniyah.

It’s a serious job, with dangers such as roadside bombs lurking around every corner, but they don’t mind the risk because they consider themselves a family.

“It feels good knowing I’m still helping my friends out,” said Douylliaz. “Back at Fort Drum, [N.Y.], I was right there to help them out if they needed anything. Now, I can still do it, but it just takes a while.”

The process to put together a large convoy with trailers and fuel trucks interspersed with MRAPs isn’t easy, explained Sgt. Michael ‘Fig’ Figueroa, from Los Angeles.

It’s a three-day progression that starts with receiving the mission, explained Fig. Next, the Soldiers have to compile and sort the requested inventory and the third day is focused on making sure the convoy is safely ready to roll.

“We try to take care of our equipment because without it...it leaves us open for attacks,” said Douylliaz. “If something happens to us on the convoy, they wouldn’t be

able to sustain themselves at Zafraniyah and our friends are out there. So I make sure my vehicle is ready for when we roll out.”

The Soldiers run rehearsal after rehearsal in the gravel behind their trucks to make sure they are confident and prepared for anything along the way.

“It feels great to have a purpose and a mission; it’s easy to be proud of this,” said Spc. Adam Dresser, from Eugene, Ore.. “I appreciate that we have a mission here where we can see the benefits.”

The benefits are the smiles and the high-fives the Soldiers receive when they enter the gate at JSS Zafraniyah under the cover of darkness, but the reunion doesn’t last long. Soon, Soldiers get to work yelling and directing vehicles.

“If I had to think of one word, I’d say it’s busy,” said Dresser as he directed traffic with a flashlight. “There’s a lot to do and everybody’s got a job and rushing around to do it to accomplish the mission.”

Most of the Soldiers are not older than twenty-five, yet they dutifully position cargo, off-load meals, effortlessly whirl around forklifts and squeeze two-ton wreckers through narrow gaps, all to provide life support to their comrades.

“They are my friends so I don’t have a problem covering down for my buddies,” said Fig. “We’re a family. That’s 2nd Bn., 15th FAR; we take care of each other.”

After dropping off all the supplies they needed and some extra stuff to make life more bearable, like cigarettes and leftover Halloween candy, the Soldiers thanked each other and prepared to move out into the darkness once again.

Lightning accompanied the convoy home and dawn was on the horizon as the convoy rolled home into FOB Hammer, but their job wasn’t over yet.

“Every time we get done with a mission, we talk about what happened and what could have happened to be prepared for next time,” explained Douylliaz.

And as long as these Soldiers are in Iraq, they will continue to take care of the rest of their family and there will always be a “next time.” ✂

**WHERE IS YOUR CLASSIFIED EMAIL GOING?**

YAHOO! AOL msn Hotmail

AKO ARMY ONLINE

CLEARED SECRET  
CLEARED TOP SECRET  
CLEARED SECRET  
CLEARED SECRET  
CLEARED SECRET

**EMAIL SECURITY**

## U.S. troops aid in Iraqis' mobility

Story by Spc. Ruth McClary

30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – Some struggled and crawled as others were carried into the lobby of the Qays, Clinic, south of Baghdad, as it filled with a group of 20 disabled men, women and children.

Dr. Qays Ibrahim Rashid, owner of the U.S. forces built clinic, personally contacted the mobility impaired patients for a wheelchair drop at the clinic in the Radwaniyah area, by Soldiers of 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Nov. 22.

“The most important thing for me is helping the people,” said Rashid. “There are 17 people here and three more on the way to receive the chairs, and one is a victim of war.”

The chairs were distributed through Free Wheelchair Mission, an international nonprofit organization that provides wheelchairs for impoverished disabled people around the world. Their mission is to provide not only the gift of mobility, but of dignity, independence, and hope; all of which were gained by recipients at the Qays clinic.

The father of a disabled girl, Najie Hamad Alewi, spoke of how Rashid came by her house to inform him of the drop.

“Dr. Qays works very hard. He came to my house at 10 o'clock last night to make sure I would be here today. I thank U.S. forces and any organization that's helping us out.”

Alewi cannot speak, and due to a soft bone deformity, she does not have use of her legs. Her father explained that they had to carry her around. When he is working, her mother carries the 16-year-old girl.

People opened up to civil affairs non-commissioned officer, Staff Sgt. Stephen Matthews, of St. Louis, with stories similar to Alewi's. The people spoke to them about the struggles of lifting grown men, women or children to get them around the village.

Bida Hashim Mohammed, an 8-year-old girl, was shot in both legs during an al-Qaeda attack three years ago. Her right leg was amputated just below the knee and her mother showed Matthews scar tissue from a bullet still

lodged in the back of her left leg.

“It's nice to be able to help an eight-year-old little girl shot up by al-Qaeda and provide her with a little relief,” said Troop C Commander, Capt. Thomas Mills, of Winfield, W. Va.

Tisam Khzair Abda, a 20-year-old female who has been paralyzed since age eight, and her 7-year-old sister, Hamita Khzair Abda, who has soft bones, were among the group at the clinic. Their mother received wheelchairs for them and one other disabled child at home.

“God will pay you back for what you do, making her life easier,” said the struggling mother of three. “God protect and save you for giving me the wheelchairs.”

Izhar Alewi Sabah is a 10-year-old boy who cannot speak or walk. His mother said he was born disabled and that most of his time is spent in a room because they cannot carry him.

“He cries when he sees his brother and sister playing because he wants to play with them,” said Sabah. “I am happy. Thank you so, so much. Now he can have a social life.”

Sitting on a mattress conformed into a chair-bed, 50-year-old Najari bin Jade Abbas has no use of her legs since she had one kidney removed three years ago. Her only transportation is the chair-bed and it takes two people to maneuver it.

Born disabled or victims of war, they all left the facility with a little more freedom than when they arrived.

Overwhelmed and in tears, Hamida Kahalaf, a 65-year-old stroke victim, paralyzed on the right side said, “I'm crying because I'm happy,” as they lifted her into her new wheelchair.

“When you see a 65-year-old woman crawling around on her hands and knees to get around, it's unbelievable because you know that was her only option,” said Mills. “Giving her a wheelchair is an amazing gift.”

“Thank them for me; this is the best gift we have ever gotten,” said the mother of Hind Jasim Mohammed, a 7-year-old quadriplegic.

“In America, you see a quadriplegic and you say, ‘no brainer’, get them a wheelchair,” said Mills. “Here in this poverty stricken society, the scarcity is stunning, to think a wheelchair would make that much of a difference in someone's life.” ✂



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**Najari bin Jade Abbas, who lost the use of her legs after a kidney removal operation three years, gains mobility during a wheelchair drop at Qays Clinic, here, Nov. 22. Abbas had been carried around on a mattress chair-bed since the operation. Troops of 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, distributed 20 wheelchairs at the clinic courtesy of Free Wheelchair Mission, of Irvine Calif.**

## Dragons display artillery abilities

Photos by Pfc. Adam Halleck  
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – In the current combat environment, artillery cannons are often used as fixed pieces, conducting fire support missions from inside a stationary fire base.

For units armed with the versatile M109A6 “Paladin” howitzer, the ability to shoot, move, and communicate on the battlefield is a valuable asset.

Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, traded the confines of their firebase for the streets of Taji, Nov. 17.

The tracks of the Paladins roared down the road as local residents stopped and stared, seeing these mammoth-sized vehicles has become rare due to improvements to security in the area.

“It's good that we only have to exercise an emergency fire mission,” said Colquitt, Ga. native, 1st Sgt. Jamie Crankfield. “It's a testament to the hard work of both U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces and the strides we've made in recent years.”

“Generally in Iraq, batteries of artillery are limited to the [Forward Operating Base] or re-designated as maneuver elements,” added Crankfield. “Conducting [an on-the-move] fire mission in a combat environment maintains the core competencies expected of us as artillerymen.”

Amidst the stares and curiosity of the residents of Taji, the cannoners still had a mission to execute.

“Fire mission!” echoed from the troopers in the Paladins as the onboard computers and radios relayed coordinates to the Soldiers in the gun.

Within a matter of seconds the giant cannons stopped on the road and located their target to provide the deadly and precise fires needed to support combat operations in Multi-National Division—Baghdad.

Smoke and dust filled the air with every flash from the tubes of the cannons. The deafening sound of artillery rang in the distance. Within minutes the Soldiers fired a total of thirty three rounds displaying the quick and awesome force of not only the M109A6, but of the proficient artillerymen on Camp Taji.

“On the battlefield every second matters,” said Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, the commander of the 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt. “You can bet when Soldiers in MND-B need [artillery support], the Dragons will deliver.” ✂



Photo Capt. Alex Aquino, 1BCT, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**Smoke flashes from the tube as an M109A6 “Paladin” howitzer assigned to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fires a high-explosive projectile during an emergency fire mission exercise in Taji, Nov. 17.**

# W.V. Soldiers run for fallen comrade

Story by Spc. Ruth McClary

30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – A red and white cavalry flag gently waved in the wind, leading Soldiers of Troop B, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, on a commemorative run at Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, Nov. 11, in honor of one of their own lost in combat.

Sgt. Deforest Talbert, 24, a Troop B Soldier during the squadron's first deployment, here, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a combat mission near Baladruc, Iraq, in July, 2004.

Although the conference room at the JSS is named after Talbert, Troop B commanders wanted to do something more; something that involved those who knew him, and still miss him today.

"We decided to do something as a memorial for Talbert and the run on Veterans Day; seemed like a good way to honor him," said 1st Lt. Will Hargis, of Huntington, W. Va. "Talbert was a funny guy; keeping the atmosphere lively. He was always good for a good laugh at the right moment."

The Soldiers ran laps around the inner circumference of the small compound they share with Iraqi Soldiers in the early morning hours on Veteran's Day. They ran a total of about a mile in a close, group formation; signifying the cohesive bonding in memory of their fallen friend.

Before the run, two of Talbert's friend's recall the events of the incident as if it happened yesterday. After five years, still torn with grief and guilt from not being able to save him, Staff Sgt. Greg Blankenship, of Cross Lanes, W. Va., discussed what happened.

"It's still hard for me to talk about it," said Blankenship. "I haven't discussed this with anyone except Bridges since it happened. I was in the vehicle behind Talbert. Everything happened so fast, I was knocked down from the blast and my head was all fuzzy."

"Two guys got out of his vehicle and one kept hollering, 'Talbert is still in there,' and the truck was on fire," he added. Blankenship, Talbert and a third friend, Sgt. Jacques Bridges, were very close during the last deployment.

"The medic and I tried to open the door to get him out, but the ammunition started popping from the heat. They made us move back because of the ammo. I burned the crap out of my hand trying to get him out, but I didn't notice it until sometime later," Blankenship said.

Bridges, of Charlotte, N.C., and Talbert had a history that dated back before the deployment. They attended West Virginia State University together, located in Institute, W.V., and both entered the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. The two Soldiers also went through Army basic training together, and came to war together as well.

Bridges arrived at the scene of the incident 15 minutes later with the quick reaction force.

"When we left to go to the scene we knew there was one killed in action, but



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

**First Lt. Will Hargis (right front), of Troop B, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, leads Soldiers on a run to commemorate a fallen comrade at Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, south of Baghdad, Nov. 11. The Soldiers ran in a tight formation to honor the memory of Sgt. Deforest Talbert, who was killed July 27, 2004, during the squadron's last deployment here.**

they wouldn't tell me who," said Bridges. "I was looking at the vehicle and somebody said, 'Bridges, it's Talbert, man'; I don't remember who said it," said Bridges.

"I didn't want to cry because the insurgents could still be out there; watching us," Bridges added. "Sergeant 1st class Jeffrey Neal pulled [Talbert] out and we stayed in the area for about six hours after it happened. He didn't have time to get out; the autopsy said it was an instant death from the blast. It was bad; I just hope he didn't suffer."

Bridges and Blankenship remember many missions through the streets of Baladruc. Memories of how two little Iraqi boys used to sell them ice cream and candy and how Talbert had teddy bears sent from home just to pass out to the little girls in the community, protecting them and making sure the boys didn't take the bears from them.

Troop Soldiers remember Talbert's humor, friendship, and how he loved being a father. The native of Alexandria, Va., found his way from a troubled youth to becoming a role model for others to follow in his footsteps. Talbert, an athletic college student, never lost his passion for the game of football. It was a sport he mastered in high school but never pursued in college because of his troubled past.

His son, Deontae, carries on the family legacy in pee wee football where Blankenship often stops by to watch him play, when



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Deforest Talbert's family

**Sgt. Deforest Talbert, 24, died July 27, 2004 when an improvised explosive device targeted his vehicle. Troop B Soldiers, here on their second deployment, honored Talbert with a commemorative run on Veteran's Day at Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, Nov. 11. His sense of humor, mentoring and good parenting skills are the things Soldiers remember most about him.**

he is home. Bridges also checks in on him and his mother to make sure they are okay.

"Some of the guys from the unit stop by to check on them," said Bridges. "They have a good support channel; 150th has been good about that."

Blankenship, Bridges and Talbert had a running game of Madden football that they played during the last deployment. A game that "Touchdown Talbert" never got to finish.

"Bridges, Talbert and I played ball on Play Station," said Blankenship. We left the

game on pause when we went out on that mission. When we came back the game was still set on pause. It sat on pause forever because no one wanted to turn it off."

Although the run started out as a tribute to his life, it helped two Soldiers deal with the harsh realities of his death.

"I didn't think it would, but it actually helped to talk about this," said Blankenship.

"It's been crazy, it's been hard, but at least we are not forgetting the ultimate sacrifice he made," said Bridges. ✂

# DSTB Soldiers receive H1N1 vaccinations

Story by Sgt. Jon Soles

MND-B PAO

**BAGHDAD** – Soldiers assigned to the Division Special Troops Battalion, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, have begun receiving the H1N1 flu vaccine.

The immunizations began on Nov. 21 and will continue through Dec. 12.

“It is mandatory for all military personnel to get the shot,” said Spc. Jennifer Lakna-hour, a medic from Milwaukee. “Everyone has to get it to go home. We will not sign your PDHA [Post-Deployment Health Assessment] unless you get the H1N1 shot.”

Soldiers receive immunizations by the companies to which they are assigned, according to DSTB aid station non-commissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Wilson Jr., of Philadelphia.

Symptoms of H1N1 flu include fever, fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches, chills, coughing and sneezing. Diarrhea and vomiting may also occur. The H1N1 flu virus is a new, more serious strain of flu than typical seasonal flu viruses, according to the Center for Disease Control. ✂

**Capt. Robert Magill (right), of Buffalo, N.Y., receives the H1N1 flu vaccine from Spc. Justin Roberts, here, Nov. 23. Magill is a military police officer assigned to Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. Roberts, of Galveston, Texas, is a medic assigned to the DSTB Aid Station.**



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

## Raiders earn combat patch

Story by Sgt. Bryce Dubee

4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – All across western Baghdad, Soldiers from the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division took time, Nov. 11, to make an adjustment to their uniform; adding the distinctive Indianhead patch of the 2nd Inf. Div. to their right sleeves.

The Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service, commonly known as the “combat patch” is authorized for wear right sleeve of the uniform by Soldiers to denote their participation in combat operations.

Roughly 4,000 troops from Fort Lewis-based brigade combat team arrived in Iraq in the beginning of September, conducting operations across western Baghdad and north, to include the city of Taji. Of those Soldiers, approximately 1,200 received their first combat patch on Wednesday.

“This patch is never coming off of this uniform,” said Pfc. Jason Jerome, an Aniston, Ala. native assigned to 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment. “I’m really proud of it.”

Units within the brigade all held their own patching ceremonies with Soldiers amassing in front of rows of Stryker armored vehicles, around a large metal anvil and even at a nighttime bonfire.

At a small ceremony held in front of the brigade headquarters, Soldiers representing every battalion received their patch from Col. John Norris, the brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins, the brigade command sergeant major.

“It is, indeed, my honor to stand amongst you heroes, put your combat patches on, and welcome you to a very, very elite club,” said Norris, after the ceremony.

Spc. Niomi Wright, a Portland, Ore. native from 4th Brigade’s personnel office

said that it felt “surreal” to actually be in Iraq and receive her patch.

“It’s exciting. I never thought I’d actually deploy,” she said.

Pfc. Joel Pasqualucci, from Placentia, Calif., said he feels that earning the patch will help in his career, as a sign of experience.

“I think it represents everything that you’re doing here,” he said. “It’s [not just] a patch.” ✂



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

**Col. John Norris (right), commander of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, places a combat patch on the sleeve of Spc. Niomi Wright, a Portland, Ore. native from the brigade’s personnel office during a ceremony, Nov. 11.**

# 2-10 Mtn. Div. takes on partnership role

Story by Sgt. Jennie Burrett

2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – The Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division took over partnership responsibilities with Iraqi Security Forces in eastern Baghdad during a transfer of partnership ceremony, Nov. 15.

The ceremony at Joint Security Station Loyalty marked the end to the yearlong deployment for Paratroopers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

“I would like to take a moment to thank...the entire Panther team for the hard work they put in to making our transition a success. Congratulations on all you’ve accomplished and for everything you have done in setting the foundation for what we will do with our ISF partners,” said Col. David M. Miller, of Evanston, Ill., the commander of 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.

The Panther brigade served a 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and will now return for the holidays to Fort Bragg, N.C.

“The transition of partnership between the Panthers and Commandos with our ISF Partners is a renewal of the friendship and commitment of the American people to the people of east

Baghdad and the Mada’in,” said Col. Timothy McGuire, of Alamo, Calif., and commander of the 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. “As my Soldiers and I return to our families, we look forward to telling the story of our Iraqi partners to our fellow Americans.”

The mission of Fort Drum, N.Y. based Soldiers is to support the ISF and Government of Iraq to secure the population, defeat the enemy, and further develop their government and economic structures.

“The Commandos of 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. are eager to partner with you [ISF] and support your efforts to provide a bright future for Iraq,” said Miller. “We are committed to your vision and the success of your mission.”

The 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. has six subordinate battalions: the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment; 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt; 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regt; 2nd Bn., 15th Field Artillery Regt.; 2nd Bde. Special Troops Bn. and 210th Bde. Support Bn. 

**A joint color guard, comprised of U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers, presents the United States and Iraq flags along with the brigade colors for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division during the transfer of partnership ceremony, Nov. 15.**



Photo by Sgt. Jennie Burrett, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., MND-B

## College football rivals meet in Iraq

Story by Spc. Brian Johnson

16th Eng. Bde. PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – For over 100 years, there has been a hotly contested rivalry that boils over to an all out war for three hours one fall Saturday afternoon in November.

This war is not between religious factions or different countries, but between two college football teams: The University of Michigan Wolverines and The Ohio State University Buckeyes.

This rivalry is deeply rooted in both teams’ history. Since 1935, the Ohio State and Michigan match-up has decided the Big Ten Conference championship between the two teams 23 different times. This game has also had implications on determining the conference 24 times.

This year, that rivalry spills over, here, in Baghdad for Soldiers of the 16th Engineer Brigade. For troops from the Ohio National Guard’s 1192nd Engineer Company and the Michigan National Guard’s 1434th Engineer Company, the game has a special meaning.

Both companies work very closely together, both units of the 101st Engineer Battalion and both located in the same building. They have even worked on many projects together. However, this one week, on Nov. 21, all the teamwork and camaraderie that the two units have built up will be set aside.

As the old rivals square off on the football field, a lot of “trash talk” starts to happen.

Soldiers of the Michigan-based 1434th Engineer Company differ slightly on how they think their home-state team will fare.

Sgt. Randy Lloyd, of Traverse City, Mich., said that Michigan will be ready to go. “[The Wolverines] have had a rough last two years, but they will be ready to beat Ohio State,” Lloyd exclaimed. “Michigan will win on a final field goal with a score of Michigan 31, Ohio State 28. GO BLUE!”

Spc. Humberto Fraire, of Fennville, Mich. also predicts that the game will be close but refused to predict a final score.

“All of the Ohio State fans will cry when the game is done,” Fraire said, with a smirk. “It will be great to watch.”

Sgt. Chris Notestine, of Boyne City, Mich., had a slightly harsher prediction for the game turnout.

“Only the Ohio State cheerleaders will show up out of fear,” Notestine said.

First Sgt. Tim Lamphere, has a slightly different prediction.

“Ohio State should win the game, but I will hold out hope that Michigan will pull it off,” said Lamphere. “The final score will be Ohio State 20, Michigan 10.”

How do the Soldiers of the Ohio National Guard’s 1192nd think that their home-state team will do?

Staff Sergeant Josh Lenhart, of Akron, Ohio, knows that the game will be a blow out.

“Michigan doesn’t stand a chance,” said Lenhart. “Ohio State will easily win with a final score of Ohio State 35, Michigan 14.”

Sgt. Zach Caudill, of Plymouth, Ohio, echoes the same sentiment.

“Ohio State will put a whoppin’ on Michigan. I expect nothing less from them every year,” said Caudill. “The final score will be Ohio State 38, Michigan 17.”

Spc. Heather Todd, from Lisbon, Ohio, thinks that the game will be close.

“Michigan is very good,” said Todd. “They will give Ohio State a good run. The final score will be Ohio State 25, Michigan 17. That’s because Michigan is not good enough to beat Ohio State, EVER!”

First Sgt. Keith Moore, from the 1192nd, is not a fan of his home state team, but rather a fan of Michigan.

“This year we (Michigan) are not good. I don’t think we will win at all. The final score will be Ohio State 27, Michigan 17,” Moore said.

Capt. Joseph Ayers, commander of the 1192nd, is also a fan of Michigan.

“I would truly love to say that Michigan would win, but I don’t think it will happen,” said Ayers. “I think OSU will beat us, with a final score of Ohio State 42, Michigan 17.”

Who is ultimately going to win and have bragging rights for the rest of the deployment? On Saturday, Nov. 21st it will all be decided. 



Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Testa, 16th Eng. Bde. PAO, MND-B

**Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade practice their “trash talk” at Camp Liberty, Nov. 16, in preparation for one of the biggest night of the year in college football: the University of Michigan v. The Ohio State University.**

# Engineer represents Native American heritage

Story by Spc. Brian Johnson

16th Eng. Bde. PAO, MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – Since 1994, Native American Heritage has been celebrated throughout the month of November.

Soldiers of the 16th Engineer Brigade are proud that one of their own has first-hand knowledge of Native American culture.

Sgt. Remi Bald Eagle, raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and currently from Westlake, Ohio, has a keen awareness not only of Native American heritage, but of the challenges of growing up between cultures.

Sgt. Bald Eagle was raised by his parents, Chief David Bald Eagle, a Lakota Indian and former Soldier, and his mother, Josee, a native of Belgium. Bald Eagle's whole life has been deeply rooted in diversity, beginning with his parents' chance meeting in Belgium in 1958.

While performing at the World's Fair in Brussels, Bald Eagle's father, David Bald Eagle, suffered a severe injury. During his stay at a local hospital, David was introduced to Casey Tibbs, who was responsible for bringing performers to the American Wild West Show and Rodeo. Casey Tibbs wanted to "meet an Indian."

Tibbs invited David Bald Eagle to stay with his family for a time. It was there that David met Josee, his future wife. When he was well enough, Bald Eagle's father returned to the United States and performed with the American Wild West Show and Rodeo.

Before he left Belgium though, David told Josee that he had a cave in South Dakota waiting for her if she ever wanted to come live with him.

All Josee could think about was that cave in South Dakota, so she decided to leave Brussels behind in 1972 and start a new life with David. The couple married in 1973 and one year later they welcomed into the world their first child, Remi Bald Eagle.

A strong sense of self-determination, characteristic of Native American culture, caused friction during the civil rights era, both on and off the reservation. As a result, the Bald Eagles moved to a remote part of the reservation to shelter the family from the strife.

"We moved to a house that was built from the ground up," recalls Remi.

"It was built using old telephone poles and wood from trees. The house was so remote that we never had running water until after I had moved out years later."

His father's attempt to shelter him from the racial tensions did not work as well as planned.

"On the reservation, I was discriminated against for being part Belgian. Off the reservation, I was discriminated against for being Lakota," said Remi.

However, the son of Chief David Bald Eagle was able to overcome those racial issues with the support of his parents and the education that they provided him.

Remi, his brother, and father even went on to represent their Native American heritage in various movies and television productions. David was a language consultant for the film "Dances with Wolves," while Lloyd Bald Eagle, Remi's brother, had an acting role.

Remi was an extra in "Dances with Wolves" and helped with the stunts in "Geronimo" and "Lakota Woman: The Siege at Wounded Knee."

"It was a tremendous experience...and was fun to see how movies are made," he said.

Remi soon realized that there was another role he wanted to play. He decided to join the Army.

"I wanted to go into the military, but I didn't want to jump 'feet first' into the active duty experience," he said.

To "try it out," Bald Eagle first joined the South Dakota National Guard, enlisting as a bridge crew member.

"I joined in 1992, before graduating from Takini High School, as a split-op Soldier in a 'buddy platoon,' recruited from the reservations. It was an interesting experience doing my initial training with fellow natives. It really helped the transition," said Remi.

Because he enjoyed his time as a National Guard Soldier, Bald Eagle made the move into active duty military. He changed his military occupational specialty to engineer tracked vehicle crewman and spent time serving with many storied military units including the 24th Infantry Division and the 2nd Infantry Division.

Remi also served in the 577th Engineer Battalion at Ft. Leonardwood, Mo. His time there helped shape the next few years of his life, including his decision to attend the Army's Sapper School.

"I was a tanker. I knew nothing about being a light Soldier [but] I really enjoyed my experience at the school, between the people that were there with me and the learning environment," said Bald Eagle.

The next significant influence in Bald Eagle's life came from some of his fellow Sapper students, from Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division.

"They talked to me and told me about the unit and their experiences. They convinced me that becoming a member of the 82nd Airborne would be a great next step," remembered Remi.

"It was not only the encouragement I received from them, but their professionalism and motivation that made me want to be one of those guys," he said.

In 1998, Bald Eagle transferred to Fort Bragg and volunteered to become a member of the 82nd, the same unit that his father had served with during World War II.

By the end of his military service in 2001, Bald Eagle was married and a father of three children. It was time for him to choose between advancing his career in the military and being a full-time dad. Remi chose the latter.

A year later, Remi's brother, who was also in the military and being deployed to Afghanistan, asked him to watch his ranch in Texas while he was away serving his country.

"The Lakota people are nomads," said Remi. "The winds of society blow us all over the place. That's how I got from South Dakota to Texas."

While in Texas, he enrolled in classes at Trinity Valley Community College, in Athens, and then continued his studies at the University of Texas, at Dallas, earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Throughout his life, Remi's father taught him many things, most importantly, morals and ethics.

"My father is the greatest man that I have ever known," Remi said proudly.

"He is a very selfless individual. He does not say, 'I am here for my people.' He says: 'I am here for everyone.' He has always been there any time that I have needed help."

Remi's father also instilled in his son the two most important values of the Native American heritage: respect of the environment and respect of the land.

"I try to make those values not only part of my job, but also my lifestyle," said Bald Eagle.

It is those values and ethics that eventually led Bald Eagle to his civilian job. After he had graduated from college, Remi's wife was offered a job in Ohio. She accepted and the family moved to a suburb of Cleveland. While looking for employment, he found his calling, working for an environmental company.

"My company helps to clean oil spills, both big and small," he explained. "I go wherever someone with my knowledge is needed."

Remi said his job has been extremely fulfilling. He has helped clean oil spills all over the country, including one in San Francisco, CA., when a ship hit the Bay Bridge, spilling more than 60,000 gallons of oil into the bay.



Photo by Spc. Malcolm Sales, HHC 16th Eng. Bde., MND-B

**Sgt. Remi Bald Eagle, the son of a Lakota Indian Chief and Belgian mother, trains for deployment to Camp Liberty at Ft. McCoy, Wis., in Sept., 2009. Sgt. Bald Eagle is a truck commander for the command security team of the Ohio National Guard's 16th Engineer Brigade.**

Although he loves his civilian life, six years after leaving the Army, Bald Eagle rejoined, this time with the Ohio National Guard, training as a combat engineer.

"I came back in because I wanted a chance to give back and volunteer my time. I realized that no organization has ever done more to help people out than the military," he said.

In looking back on his life, Remi has come far from his childhood at Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation. As he's grown into a man with his own family, he's also seen the earlier racial tensions against Native Americans improve over the years.

"There is no longer a stigma associated with being a Native American that

I can sense. I no longer see any of the misconceptions or stereotypes that were prevalent when I was younger," he said.

Today, Remi loves it when people ask him about his heritage.

"It is a good ice-breaker. I am always willing to discuss it with people who ask me about it."

Remi is extremely proud to discuss his father's accomplishments and what he has done for race relations.

"My father was elected as the first Chief of the United Native Nations."

David Bald Eagle is an Ambassador for the United Native Nations and is involved in many other organizations. He focuses on helping Native American tribes and other tribes around the world, build relationships with their governments.

"My father helps not just the Lakota people, but any tribe that may need his help," said Bald Eagle.

Although he has represented his heritage well, both as a Soldier and a civilian, Remi Bald Eagle believes that there are some United States citizens who don't realize that Native Americans still exist.

"I hope that the Native American people do not slip into the pages of history and no one reads the final chapter." ✂

# Army cooks keep Soldiers fed

Story by Spc. Luisito Brooks  
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – While most military dining facilities are run by contracted employees, at a few remote locations, it's the U.S. Soldiers that still provide the meals.

At Joint Security Station Justice, on Baghdad's west side, Soldiers from the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division are in charge of running the DFAC that serves approximately 2,000 meals every day.

"In Iraq, we don't often get a chance to cook for our Soldiers because most DFACs are much larger and so contractors are hired to run those facilities," said Staff Sgt. Herbert Perry, the JSS Justice DFAC's non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Smaller bases don't have the luxury of being able to contract out food services, so Army cooks step in to do the job they were trained to do.

Because they are serving their own, the Soldiers that manage the JSS Justice dining facility said they take pride in the opportunity to cook for Soldiers.

"It is our responsibility to care for the health and well-being of every person that eats here," said Spc. Jeremy Bollinger, one of the cooks; adding that it's not just U.S. Soldiers but also contractors, translators, local and international visitors who eat at their DFAC.

With such a variety of guests eating the DFAC, it's important to take into consideration that many come from different religious and cultural backgrounds.

"We prepare each day for the different diets and appetites that come through here,

said Perry, a native of Alexandria, La. "We try to accommodate every type of diet by adding a vegetarian area, no pork items and things like that."

Soldiers that have eaten there say it is a good thing to see that Soldiers are still providing the food.

"The DFAC has gotten a lot better than it used to be because now there are more choices," said Spc. Joshua Wilson, a Raleigh, N.C. native.

For the cooks, each meal represents a chance to hone their skills and fill hungry stomachs.

"We prepare hours and hours every day to ensure that every Soldier gets to eat," said Perry, "Our motto is that we will never leave a Soldier hungry." ✂



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

**Spc. Joseph Longoria (left), a cook from San Antonio, serves a hot plate of food to a Soldier from the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment at Joint Security Station Justice.**



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

**Spc. Jeremy Bollinger, a cook with 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, grills T-bone steaks for dinner at Joint Security Station Justice, on Baghdad's west side, Nov. 24.**

## NFL Week 14 matchups: Dec. 13-14



# MNF-I leadership visit JSS Sheik Amir

Photos by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B



TAJI, Iraq – Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, hands a challenge coin to Crestview, Fla. native, Pfc. William Robson, an artilleryman assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during Odierno's visit to Joint Security Station Sheik Amir, Nov. 26. Odierno traveled to JSS Sheik Amir to visit Soldiers on Thanksgiving Day.



Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson (left), the senior non commissioned officer of Multi-National Force-Iraq, speaks with Corpus Christi, Texas native, 1st Sgt. Johnny Escamilla, of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to, during a visit to Joint Security Station Sheik Amir, Nov. 26. Wilson visited the small JSS to visit the Soldiers on Thanksgiving Day.

## Attention to detail leads to safe clearing, cleaning

Story by Spc. Luisito Brooks

4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – Soldiers of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division take weapon clearing procedures very seriously, as if their battle buddy's life depended on it: Because it does.

"The very moment you take the weapon clearing procedures lightly is the moment where a Soldier could get seriously injured or maybe killed," said Staff Sgt. John Moore, from Dresden, Germany.

Clearing a weapon isn't a one-time thing or done just when you feel like it.

"When we go out on missions, we lock and load all of our weapons to protect ourselves from the enemy," said 1st Lt. Brandon Pasko, a Cincinnati native. "So when we return it's our responsibility, as leaders, to protect ourselves, from ourselves, by conducting and checking for the proper weapon clearing procedures."

They explained that there are several reasons why weapon clearing procedures are so important, and why it is necessary to be aware of what to do when you are standing in front of the clearing barrel.

"By ensuring that my Soldiers know the steps (to clearing a weapon) and can perform it every time, I can ensure my Soldiers aren't carrying a loaded weapon back to their room," said Moore. "I am also implementing discipline into each Soldier."

Soldiers in the unit said they understand the purpose for the constant performing of the weapon clearing procedures.

"When I become that leader of a couple Soldiers, it will be my responsibility to teach them the procedures and the reason why we do it," said Spc. Joshua Winslow, a Raleigh, N.C. native. "After I teach my Soldiers and [when] they get Soldiers, they will teach them."

It may seem like a simple thing to remember, but the Soldiers said that they are aware of the importance of the procedure and know that complacency kills.

"It's the small details and routine things that can be the most important," said Pasko. "We are constantly in a fight against fratricide, and this is just one of our tools".



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B



After a long day out on a patrol, Spc. Edgar Moyer, a Spokane, Wash. native, pulls back his M4 carbine's charging handle to observe to the weapon's chamber, ensuring it is clear of any rounds, Nov. 25. This is one of several steps performed during weapon clearing procedures.

Spc. Edgar Moyer, clears his M-9 pistol at the weapons clearing barrel at Joint Security Station Justice, Nov 25.

Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div., MND-B

Laser systems are potentially hazardous to something you value highly: *your vision*. While the dangers of firearms and explosives are obvious, the possibility that a beam of light, can cause *instant, severe and irreversible damage* to vision, may not be obvious.



# DAZZLERS

## Bullets of Light

### Training:

- Appoint a Laser Safety Officer/ NCO in all units using hail and warning lasers and include laser safety in SOP (DA Pam 385-24).
- Laser operators must be trained and know restrictions on use.
- Ensure laser operators know the Nominal Ocular Hazard Distance (NOHD) of the laser they have been issued.
- Handle laser with same care and respect as a loaded weapon.
- Know Rules of Engagement (ROE).
  - Never intentionally point the laser at someone's face if they are closer than the NOHD.
  - Do Not Aim Laser at Reflective Surfaces within the NOHD
  - Know restrictions/ROE/Escalation of Force (EOF) procedures.
- Keep laser clean, dry, remove batteries after mission.
- Properly secure lasers when not in use.
- Do not remove warning labels from laser.
- Never leave an operable laser unattended.
- Check the security of mounting hardware.

### Incident Response

- Suspected Laser eye injuries - Immediately evacuate personnel to nearest medical facility (OTSG Policy, 11 April 1994). Laser eye injuries require immediate specialized care.
- Medical personnel should obtain medical guidance for Laser injuries from the Tri-Service Laser Incident Hotline, (800) 473-3549, DSN 240-4784, 210-536-4784 (during non-duty hours call 210-536-3278).
- Submit incident and accident reports through DoD Component channels to the Laser Accident and Incident Registry (LAIR)

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research). These reports do not replace established safety investigation procedures or other Service-specific notification procedures.

### Laser Eye Protection (LEP)

- LEP that protects against the green optical spectrum will not provide sufficient visibility at night.
- LEP will not protect from lasers if the lens is scratched.
- The most effective protection is proper training, discipline, and the use of the least hazardous laser.

L a s e r	NOHD (meters) Potential for Eye Injury
GBD III (not for use as a warning device)	2.2 km
GBD III with diffuser	20 m
GBD IIIC (Navy/USMC)	65 m
GHOST	25 m
Mini-Green Model 532-M (Glare MOUT)	30 m
Photonic Disruptor/Green (PD/G)-105	215 m
BTG-25 (Z-Bolt)	65 m
BTG-10 (Z-Bolt)	65 m

If you do not have information on the laser system you are currently using, contact USACHPPM Laser/Optical Radiation Protection (LORP) branch for information on the system: DSN 584-3932/2331, Commercial (410) 436-3932/2331

Accident or Incident Immediately call the Tri-Service Hotline 1-800-473-3549/DSN 240-4784



ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



# Austin Police visit Ironhorse to gauge future training

Story by Pfc. Bailey Jester

1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Police officers from the Austin Police Department visited the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division from Nov. 13 to 21.

For the past five years, the officers from the Austin Police Department have played a key role preparing Fort Hood leaders for their complex mission in Iraq.

The Austin Police provide specialized instruction on community policing and patrolling in conflicted neighborhoods during the Austin City Manager's course which assists military leaders during the pre-deployment training in Texas. Assisting Fort Hood's units with these courses created a lasting relationship between them and the Army post.

As a result of this relationship, Sioux Falls, S.D. native, Col. Tobin Green, commander of the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., invited the Austin Police Department to come to Baghdad to observe the interactions between the Iraqi Security Forces, local nationals, and the U.S. Army.

"Our mission is to see how the Iraqi authorities interact with each other and the U.S. Army," said Fort Worth, Texas native, Chief David Carter, Chief of Staff for the Austin Police Department. "Once we are able to watch and analyze the relationship we will work from there."

Green asked for the Austin police officers to observe the units most heavily involved with the Iraqi authorities and the community said North Potomac River, Md. native, Maj. Daniel Fuhr, the brigade's civil military operations coordinator. After analyzing their relationships, they will report any observations they see to the commander.

During their visit, the police officers were given the opportunity to visit many different areas where the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army are closely involved with the surrounding communities.

"The IA and IP that are visited by the police officers feel honored to have



Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester, 1 BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B

**Capt. Alex Aquino (left), of Little Rock, Ark., the commander of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, discusses the relationship between the local Iraqi Police and residents with Fort Worth, Texas native, Chief David Carter, Chief of Staff at the Austin Police Department, during a patrol of the Taji Market, Nov. 20.**

their units selected for these visits," Fuhr explains. "To them it's a big deal to have a chief and his lieutenant [from the U.S.] over here visiting them."

The police officers patrolled through the community of Sha'ab with the IP's, who handed out water purifiers and food. They also had the opportunity to speak with a few adults about the increased security and stability.

During one part of their visit, they visited Joint Security Station Rasheed where Nashville, Tenn. native, Jesse Burchwell, a civilian law enforcement professional gave the two officers a tour of an Iraqi Army

detainee holding cell.

"It was interesting to see how they handle their detainees," explained Carter. "It's different from the way we do it in the U.S., but it's effective for them."

After participating in these events with the IA and IP, the Austin Police officers sat and talked with the Iraqi leaders to gain a better understanding of the local judicial system, to get the ISF's opinion on the current policing system and their relationship with the U.S. forces.

"I am really impressed with the way the ISF work with the people," said Austin native, Lt. Stephen Deaton during a con-

versation with the Sheik Amir Iraqi Police Commander, Maj. Thamir after patrolling the streets of Taji market.

Although many shops were closed, and few people were on the streets, it was still easy to see how the people react to the ISF in the area, Carter explained.

"While we have been here, we have learned as much about leadership as you can get," said Deaton, assigned to the Austin Police Department. "It won't be hard to talk positively about the ISF over here in our classes."

The experience the police officers gained from this 10-day trip to Baghdad will be used in their city's management course, where policing is a key component. The Austin Police Department uses this course to prepare U.S. Army units for deployments, Fuhr explained.

"The units we saw have a great relationship with the local ISF," said Deaton. "I'm impressed and will definitely speak well of them in our class when we return."

The goal of the visit was to determine the most successful ways to teach effective policing skills to the ISF, but they learned as much as they planned to teach, Deaton explained.

"We will definitely return home and will have learned something," said Carter. "We came looking to teach, but instead we were taught."

"This trip really helped us be able to see the way things are done through an Austin lens and an Iraqi lens," said Deaton. "It helps us better our understandings of the way things are done over here and to prepare us to teach the units preparing to come over here." ✂



# 277th Engineers repair Arizola range

*Photos by Spc. Ezekiel Earle, 16th Eng. Bde. PAO, MND-B*



**BAGHDAD-** Soldiers from the 277th Engineer Company unload their equipment under heavy fog to prepare for a range the improvement mission at Arizola Range on Camp Slayer, Nov. 22. "The back berm of the range was completely eroded; making it unreliable to stop rounds fired downrange," said Maj. Jackson Macomber of Stoughton, Mass., assistant operations officer for the 101st Eng. Battalion.



Soldiers of the 277th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, 16th Eng. Brigade repair a firing range on Camp Slayer, Nov. 22. "The purpose of the mission was to rebuild the berm to create a safer environment for the Soldiers utilizing the range," said Maj. Jackson Macomber, of Stoughton, Mass., assistant operations officer for the 101st Eng. Bn.



Using a Bobcat to relocate a load of dirt, Sgt. Robert Shilling, of Post Falls, Idaho, with the 277th Engineer Company, reinforces the back berm of Arizola Range on Camp Slayer, Nov. 22. The range is available for use to any Soldier who resides on Victory Base Complex. "The range is important for Soldiers to practice their skill improvement. Skill improvement is key during any force protection mission," said Maj. Jackson Macomber, of Stoughton, Mass., with the 101st Engineer Battalion.