

FAMILY

Family Newsletter for the 49th Military Police Brigade, California Army National Guard

We got the handoff

49th officially takes over 8th MP Brigade's operation



LEFT: The 49th Military Police Brigade presents a gift to the 8th Military Police Brigade prior to the Oct. 12 Transfer of Authority Ceremony. Shown are Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles, Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, Spc. Jose Defuentes, Spc. David Baynes, Col. Byron Freeman, 8th commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Norwood Patterson III, 8th command sergeant major.

RIGHT: Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles and Brig. Gen. Donald Currier unveil the 49th's guidon, signifying the unit's in command of four brigades.

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad -- The 49th Military Police Brigade has the handoff. Its offense is officially on the Iraqi field.

The time has arrived for the 49th to put its team into action after the 8th Military Police Brigade relinquished its realm Oct. 12 during a Transfer of Authority here. The 8th encased its guidon while the 49th revealed its green and gold colors, signifying the change of the guard for this Operation Iraqi Freedom mission.

"Welcome to the team," said Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, deputy commanding general for Iraqi Security Forces. "You and

"The PTT mission began with us. It is likely we will bring that mission to a close."
-- Brig Gen. Donald J. Currier

your leaders are taking charge with incredible momentum behind you. You are the right organization to take the handoff and hit the line at full speed."

The 49th, the pride of the California Army National Guard, succeeds the 8th,

an active duty unit from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. It assumes operation of four battalions comprised of close to 4,800 Soldiers.

"While many other units have helped train the Iraqi Police, the 49th MP Brigade is the birthplace of the Police Transition Team," Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th commander, said. "The PTT mission began with us. It is likely we will bring that mission to a close in Iraq. It is our duty, then, to close this chapter with honor and integrity. It is a duty of which I know we

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The Adams Family

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Spc. Wesley Adams and wife Danyle welcome a baby girl, Payeton Revay, into the 49th MP family.

Hispanic Heritage Month

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Several of the 49th's Soldiers reflected on the sacrifices made by their Hispanic predecessors. The military recognizes mid-September to Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month .

From the 49th MP Brigade Commander

Despite shifting sands, we remain focused

Families of the 49th MP Brigade:

On Oct. 12, after a short time of orientation and transition, we officially replaced our predecessors, the "Watch-dogs," of the 8th MP Brigade.

While our hearts already long for the West Coast, our Soldiers are doing their best to make a home of our compound in central Iraq. After a few weeks in Iraq, we are settling into the routines and settings that will soon become familiar as we fully engage the mission that awaits us.

For many of us, this post is already familiar, as we called it our temporary home only a few years ago during our last Operation Iraqi Freedom mission. While much has remained the same – the scenery, food, dust and heat, and the seemingly endless sea of



BG DONALD J. CURRIER

international faces – much has also changed.

There is a greater sense of security on post, as Iraq is markedly less dangerous than the nation we left in 2006. This is not to say our missions are not without danger or threat, but that the atmosphere has evolved into a more stable, cooperative relationship with the Iraqi people.

This is a success in which

This is a success in which we celebrate, and on which we hope to build in the coming year.

we celebrate, and on which we hope to build in the coming year.

Changes will mark this mission. As the coalition migrates to a US-only mission and US Armed Forces prepare for their departure from Iraq, we will face perpetual turbulence as to how we operate.

Despite the shifting sands beneath us, I can assure you our Soldiers will remain anchored and focused on completing their mission with professionalism, and doing their best to keep each other safe.

There are also changes occurring back home at the Fairfield Armory. Capt. Curtis

Reese, the 49th MP HHC rear detachment commander, will soon deploy for Afghanistan to assume a company command there after the previous company commander was relieved for misconduct. Capt. Amanda Myers will replace Capt. Reese as the rear detachment commander. Both are capable company grade officers, and I am confident they will perform well in their new positions.

In closing, please know that I speak for the entire brigade headquarters when I say that we miss you all, and look forward to returning to you with the pride that comes from a mission completed.

God bless, and be safe.



The Adams Family plus one

Congratulations to Spc. Wesley Adams and his wife, Danyle, on the birth of their first child, Payeton Revay, on Oct. 9.

Both mother and daughter are doing well, says the Personal Security Detail gunner. Payeton Revay was born seven pounds, 14 ounces and nearly 20 inches long.

The good news is she looks like him, Adams says. The bad news is she looks like him, joked Adams' PSD comrades.

"That's the first thing my wife said when we talked: She looks just like me," Adams explained. "She's got a full set of hair and blue eyes. I'm really happy. It sucks I wasn't there, but I'm really happy."

Dad already foresees his daughter's future.

"She'll grow up to be whatever she wants to be. I'll support her," he said.

The 49th Military Police Brigades congratulates the Adams family and wishes them great days ahead.

FRG, other services available to Soldiers on mobilization

The 49th Military Police Brigade has an award-winning family readiness association that is available for all who need support any time of the day, and any time of the deployment. Toni Colip, the full-time Family Readiness Coordinator, aids the family group along with volunteer spouses.

Colip can be reached at (707) 330-7433 for support throughout this mission.

The following services are also provided to families while Soldiers are federally activated:

Operation Ready Families Program

www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.com

National Guard Family Program

www.guardfamily.org

Army Family Program

www.myarmylifetoo.com

Military and Family Life Consulting Program

www.mhngs.com

The Military Family Forum

www.MilitaryFamily.com

Tricare Medical Services

www.tricare.osd.mil

California Transition Center for Combat Veterans

www.thepathwayhome.org

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

Till You Come Home Foundation

www.tillyoucomehomefoundation.com

What is on your mind?

Is there something you would like to share about your Soldier/ Spouse?

Have a message you'd like to give your son/daughter?



Got a suggestion to make our separation a lot easier?

Sandra Bombita, the 49th Family Readiness Group leader, is available when lines

of communication get limited or fail.

Talk to her. Speak to her about what faces you.

Even better, the holiday season is fast approaching. So if you want to share what's on your mind, Sandra's a shoulder to lean on.

Contact a friend. Call Sandra at (559) 381-6647 or email her at sandrabombita@hotmail.com. Say what's on your mind.



49th Military Police Brigade Chain of Command



COL. GRACE EDINBORO
DEPUTY COMMANDER

CAPT. EDWARD BOMBITA
HHC COMMANDER

BRIG. GEN DONALD CURRIER
COMMANDER

CSM ROBERT LILES
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

COL. WILLIAM ARRUDA
DEPUTY COMMANDER

1ST SGT. BENNETT JANDREAU
HHC FIRST SERGEANT



LT. COL. PETER CROSS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SANDRA BOMBITA
FRG LEADER

----- **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE TEAM** -----

1ST LT. WILLIAM MARQUEZ
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

SGT KENNETH BINCE
NCOIC

SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
SPECIALIST

THE A'EILA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE 49TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM AND SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE BRIGADE HOME BASED IN FAIRFIELD, CALIF. THIS EDITION AND THOSE THEREOF ARE PRODUCTS OF THE 49TH MP BDE'S EFFORT FOR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN IRAQ. VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE OR THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY DEPARTMENT. THE A'EILA IS A RECOGNIZED PUBLICATION AUTHORIZED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARMY REGULATIONS 36-1 AND AFI 35-101.

From the Command Sergeant Major

It's not the Hilton or Radisson, but Iraq does have 'near beer'

Sentinels, Sentinel families and friends:

As most of you already know, we have finally arrived in Iraq and are fully engaged in a magnitude of duties that make our days disappear. Everyone is conducting a Relief in Place (RIP) and getting ready for the 8th Military Police Brigade to depart Iraq and return home to their loved ones.

The Sentinels are doing everything possible to help make the 8th MPs transition home a safe and memorable experience. We wish them the best and God speed.

As for us, we know that our families back home have been taking on some of the same operational duties and challenges that we have. Such as cleaning the barracks, or home, in your case, washing the tactical vehicles (cars for you all), enjoying the pleasantly warm days and cool nights, traveling to the elegant dining facilities (kitchen and dining room), consuming the finest of culinary delights (Chili Mac and Cheese for me please!), staying hydrated (drink water!!!), and... well ,you get the picture.

Anyway, we all miss our families, friends, and our daily lives back at home, but are adapting well to our new environment.

The weather is hot and wearing body armor is uncomfortable and heavy. We have found that our new tactical vehicles are less then comfortable and not forgiving if you happen

to bump a knee or elbow on a door, or hinge...etc.

The 8th Military Police Brigade made some great improvements to our compound that helps our quality of life immensely. We have enjoyed social hang outs, and a sort of Oktoberfest, with NEAR beer and everything, to meet, greet, and auction off fine used items such as furniture, TVs, refrigerators, and electronics. Let's keep it real, Iraq is not the garden spot in the desert. A Soldier has to have some comforts.



CSM ROBERT LILES

We have a very nice living area here on Camp Liberty. Yes the weather is hot, it is very dusty all day long and the living area is not the Hilton or the Radisson.

I have had the privilege to travel to several of the outlying bases, here in Iraq, that our subordinate units are living and working out of. Please believe me; we have subordinates living in very austere and challenging areas and the 49th MP BDE is very lucky to be where we are.

Please know that by the time you all get the chance to read this, we will be over one month into the game, and one month closer to getting back to the ones we love.

We know that you truly are the ones that rope the moon and we salute you. Your strength truly keeps us moving forward. Please stay safe and know that you are always in our prayers and thoughts.

Facebook on its way

Your Public Affairs Office team will expand its lines of communication to the 49th's subordinate units and to our families.

Soon we will launch a Facebook page and take advantage of cyberspace. Gen. Donald Currier approved this idea as long as it is within Army regulations.

The internet is an effective way of communicating with not just our units stationed throughout Iraq, but with our loved ones accross the seas. Facebook is a popular site-seeking tool and several 49th Soldiers already have accounts. Membership signup is easy and there's no cost to join.

So stay tuned! Our internet book of faces will soon be launched.

Camp Liberty hosts events

When your Soldier isn't working or engaged in a regular physical fitness program, chances are he's taking advantage of what Camp Liberty's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office offers.

Currently there's a soccer tournament going on that features various nationalities and entities that make up the Forward Operating Base. In a few days, MWR will begin sign ups for flag football.

Jose Valdez, MWR event organizer, said flag football is one of Camp Liberty's most popular events. Every football season packs new teams and great competition, he said.

But the 49th anxiously awaits a softball league. Lt. Col. Paul Rogers, 49th's equal opportunity advisor, plans on leading a unit softball team considering a slew of ballplayers have shown interest. It all started back at Fort Dix, when several Soldiers brought their own gloves and were throwing softballs when not in training.

Rogers, who also excels as a softball umpire in California, said once he gets confirmation about a league, we're in.

Have a story suggestion?

Your Public Affairs team is always looking for story ideas. If you have a suggestion, or simply would like to see it here, forward it to Lt. William Marquez, PAO, at: william.marquez@mnd-b.army.mil

From the Company Commander

Communication and cookies: Keys to living at Camp Liberty



CAPT. EDWARD BOMBITA

Sentinel Families,

Our Soldiers are in now in place to take over the mission here in Iraq from the unit that currently owns it. It has been a tough transition, with a great deal of information and many procedures being shared and learned by the Soldiers of both units in a short amount of time. Our Sentinels are stepping up to the challenge and already taking the reins.

As far as the living conditions here are concerned, Soldiers have been assigned their CHUs, or Containerized Housing Units. This is a fancy name for a two - three room trailer where Soldiers are housed. All the Sentinels have been able to settle in and start making these rooms more like home.

Although nothing like home cooking, the Dining Facilities here on base (there are several) offer up to four meals a day for our Soldiers, which should keep them energized during our time here.

Don't let the fact that we are well fed discourage you from sending goodies. The food is varied and they serve us plenty, but I am sure that most of us would like some treats from home. Receiving these from all of you make our Soldiers very happy.

Speaking of which, our mail system is up and running, so

you can start sending mail in earnest! If you haven't gotten our mailing address, it is as follows:

Your Soldiers Rank and Name
HHC 49th MP BDE
Camp Liberty, Iraq
APO, AE 09344

Other means of communication available to your Soldiers are internet and phones. Our unit has an Internet and phone trailer exclusively for us! The internet is free, however the phones are not, however the price for usage is very reasonable. Soldiers also have the option of purchasing their own internet and phone service for their CHUs, so all of you should have some contact with your Soldier.

The outlook for our mission is great and our Soldiers are ready to make a positive impact while here in Iraq, so I ask you to continue your support for us. It is the foundation for our Soldier and unit success.

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

Several Soldiers from the 49th set a moment aside recently to honor their heritage.

The US military recognizes Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month, a period that honors the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries-Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, according to Wikipedia, an online resource.

In addition, says Wikipedia, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

Members of the 49th with Hispanic backgrounds were busy adjusting to deployment trials after leaving Fort Dix Sept. 24 and transitioning through Kuwait and Iraq since then. But they kept in mind the month dedicated to their heritage.

"It is important to recognize the contributions made by individuals from every ethnic group. Publicly acknowledging and appreciating these contributions helps undermine ignorant and racist stereotypes," said 1st Lt. William Marquez, 49th Public Affairs Officer. "Our Army is a very diverse professional organization. It truly represents all of America. Every soldier, and his or her willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice, is a blessing to his or her nation, no matter what ethnicity."

"Hispanics have been an important part of the US military," added Spc. Ernesto Soria, personnel specialist. "We make sacrifices for our freedom just like every other Soldier who fights for our country."

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-

speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino."

More than 35 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2000 Census.

Wikipedia states: The observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week was approved by President Johnson and was expanded by President Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on Sept. 15 and ending on Oct. 15. It was enacted into law on Aug. 17, 1988 on the approval of Public Law 100-402. Out of the multitudes of Hispanic Americans serving on active duty in the military, 40 have received the Medal of Honor.

Off duty with our Sentinels

NAME, SECTION	WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE?	HOBBIES	WHY ARE YOU DEPLOYING?	WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?	YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?
SGT DELEAL GLADNEY G-1		Singing, dancing, coaching youth cheer and shopping	Did I have a choice? I knew I was going to deploy sooner or later	Family, Education	My children, my education
MSG MICHAEL DAWSON G-4		None	Because I have to	My Family	None
COL WILLIAM "RUDY" ARRUDA JR. Deputy Commander		Woodworking, museums, family events, travelling	Is this a serious question?	Family	Family
SPC MICHAEL HAYS G-1		No answer	Serving my country	Family and freedom	Graduating from community college
SPC MAX VALDERAMMA G-3		Running	Experience	Family	My kids and joining the Army

From the Brigade Chaplain and Assistant

Challenges will happen

Can you believe it's already the middle of the month?

Anyhow, today (Oct. 11) in chapel we talked about Joseph suffering unjustly at the hands of his 10 older brothers (Genesis 37). Life is that way ... we often suffer at the hands of our loved ones.

We, as deployed Soldiers, and you as our beloved wives, husbands, fathers, mothers, siblings and significant others, are not immune to disagreements, arguments and other negative issues even though we are separated by thousands of miles.

These challenges will happen.

What is important is that we keep

a realistic perspective. Your incident, whatever it is or hopefully was, is simply a bad snapshot taken in a moment of time in what is normally a wonderful life.

Joseph, although sold into slavery by his brothers and then thrown into prison, would soon rise to the most powerful position in Egypt, exceeded only by Pharaoh.

God had a purpose in Joseph's suffering. Subsequently, Joseph in a heart-wrenching moment, will be fully reconciled with all of his brothers and save his people from starvation and thus extinction.

You see, God was ultimately in control



**LT. COL (CHAPLAIN) DANIEL VIVEROS
STAFF SGT FRANK TSAI**

of Joseph's suffering. So let us maintain God's perspective on our present and future circumstances.

Be of good courage. God has a wonderful plan for your life.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Pfc Elvin Jenkins displays the bravery that got him his current PSD role. (Actually, Jenkins is looking for a McDonalds or Burger King.)

Welcome to the 49th

The 49th put out the welcoming mat for Capt. Jacquelyn Atkinson, an officer formerly with the Marine Corps. Her last duty with the Marines was a combat engineer.

Atkinson was previously stationed at Camp Pendleton. She will work with our Civil Military Operations Center's Police Transition Team in Information Operations.

Thanks for joining us, Capt. Atkinson!

Out of Ranks

IN-FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT:
"WE'LL BE LANDING IN KUWAIT SHORTLY. PLEASE FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS."

'BOUT TIME. I NEED THE BATHROOM.

I NEED TO GO SHOPPING.

KUWAIT? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAWAII!

I THOUGHT WE'RE GOING TO DISNEYLAND!

IT SAYS RIGHT THERE: "DO NOT OPEN FIRE UNTIL CHRISTMAS."

KUDOS!

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who celebrate their birthdays this month and next:

OCTOBER

- SSG Jonathan McDonald OCT 05
- SPC Darnell Sanders OCT 08
- SPC Wesley Adams OCT 10
- SFC Brandon Harding OCT 10
- SSG Victor Rae OCT 10
- PFC Robert Buxton OCT 13
- SPC Max Valderrama OCT 15
- SSG Jessica Kaake OCT 16
- SSG Clinton Bayoneta OCT 20
- SSG Cedric Daga OCT 25
- SGT Lauren Whitted OCT 27

NOVEMBER

- SPC Melvin Brunson NOV 01
- SFC David Northrup NOV 02
- CPT Robert Marquez NOV 03
- SPC Weston Sill NOV 10
- SGT Donald Moore NOV 13
- SGT Jefferson Austrie NOV 15
- SPC Ernesto Soria NOV 23
- SFC Christopher Johnson NOV 23
- SSG Arlyce Baty NOV 25
- 2LT William Martin NOV 30
- MAJ Jeanette Stuart NOV 30



PFC ROBERT BUXTON

Lean, mean and
41 years young on Oct. 13

New Command: 49th now in charge

From Page 1

are capable.”

The Oct. 12 ceremony also marked Pennsylvania’s 336th Military Police Battalion’s replacement of the 91st Military Police Battalion.

It’s been more than a week since the 49th arrived here. It has been transitioning with the 8th to make a smooth handoff. Each command section, ranging from personnel to special staff, shared knowledge of the current operation. Now the 49th will implement its methods to assure its overall mission is met.

“To our Iraqi guests, be assured you are gaining a true, tried and proven leader, one that is no stranger to this land,” Col. Byron A. Freeman, 8th commander, told the crowd that included Iraqi dignitaries. “I pray on behalf of all the (8th brigade Soldiers) that you, and most importantly your families and friends, will receive many blessings as we have during your time here in Iraq. Bring everyone home safely.”

Freeman called for a moment of silence to honor 11 servicemembers who died within the past year. They died with honor, he said. They died trying to make a difference.

“The 8th has done more than what was needed. While all of them gave some, sadly, some gave all,” Maj Gen. Aylward added.

This is the 49th’s second deployment in three years. From 2005-2006 it commanded three battalions and focused on PTT missions. Thousands of Soldiers trained Iraqi Police in villages, towns and cities in various regions. It was the first time a military police brigade was tasked with the sole mission of administrating, supervising, manning, planning and assessing the training of an Iraqi police force.

“There will still be the presence of military police in Iraq, but not at this level. This is absolutely the final chapter. I would say we’ll be turning out the lights on MP missions in Iraq,” said Col. Grace Edinboro, 49th deputy commander.

This time, the 49th’s role is one of partnership. Iraqi Security Forces are taking the lead on all combat and police missions. Iraqis take the lead while Soldiers



Soldiers from different battalions and companies within the 49th’s brigade served as the color guard during the Oct. 12 Transfer of Authority at the 49th’s Camp Liberty compound. Second from the right is the 49th’s Spc. Daniel Greene, who holds the unit guidon while it is still encased. It was revealed when the 8th Military Police Brigade relinquished its command.

“Bring everyone home safely.”

-- Col. Byron Freeman

observe, advise and report; and whenever possible, give Iraqi Police credit for what they do.

“We are in Iraq during a time when that nation is at a crossroads,” Currier said. “If we do our job well by assisting the Iraqi government in building credibility with the populace, we may be able to influence the outcome of the entire conflict.”

More than half of the 49th Soldiers have already deployed. This is Currier’s

fifth mobilization and second to Iraq. The 49th is California’s only military police brigade. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently awarded the 49th with the Governor’s Outstanding Unit Citation, designated by a yellow streamer with thin blue stripes that is attached to the unit’s guidon. The unit’s previous mobilizations include the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and their 2005-2006 tour in Iraq.