



# DANGER FORWARD



February 15, 2010 | Issue 3

## U.S. and Iraqi security forces commission joint training facility in marshes

By: 1st Lt. Juan Torres Jr.,  
4BCT-1AD

JSS UMM SA'AH — U.S. and Iraqi leaders joined in the marshlands of southern Maysan Province Feb. 4 to celebrate the official grand opening of the Common Training Center on Joint Security Station Umm Sa'ah.

“Today is a truly historic day as we come here to commission a facility which brings together representatives of all of the Iraqi Security Forces to achieve a common purpose: secure the borders of the sovereign nation of Iraq,” said Lt. Col. William Walski, commander of 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, from

Chino Hills, Calif.

The event, observed by Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, deputy commanding general for maneuvers, 1st Infantry Division, is a significant milestone for leaders dedicated to improving the capacity of Iraqi Security Forces as they concentrate on developing advanced tactical capabilities for interdicting threats in the marshes of southern Maysan.

Members of the Navy Special Warfare group and Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement demonstrated newly acquired capabilities and a static display of river patrol equipment to guests. These personnel focus on counter-smuggling operations in the Huwayzah Marshes and Tigris



Photo by 1st Lt. Juan Torres Jr.  
Following the opening ceremony of the Common Training Center on Joint Security Station Umm Sa'ah, Iraq, Feb. 4, 2010, guests socialized over a traditional Iraqi meal.

River tributaries.

“The security established through the cooperation at this facility is critical to establishing the secure environment necessary in southern Maysan, as well as throughout all of Iraq, to strengthen a governmental system which continues to work to improve the conditions for all people living in Iraq,” said Walski.

Readings from the Quran and the presentation of the Iraqi National Anthem set the tone for what was a patriotic day for both nations.

The commander of the DBE's 11th Brigade, Brig. Gen. Razzak, offered his

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Photo by 1st Lt. Juan Torres Jr.

Ceremony attendees salute the Iraqi flag during the playing of the Iraqi National Anthem at the opening of the Common Training Center on Joint Security Station Umm Sa'ah, Iraq, Feb. 4, 2010.



Arba'een success , p. 4



Giving investors perspective, p. 7



Walking for awareness, p. 8

## Danger Six sends

### The Port of Umm Qasr – Iraq’s Gateway to Prosperity

Iraq is a country with tremendous economic potential. Right now, Iraq’s economic status is recovering from decades of war and bankrupt policies of a former regime. In United States Division–South, one of our jobs is to support the Iraqi government by assisting in the development of potential economic opportunities, and my top priority is focused right here in Basra.

Oil is by far the most practical short term solution to stimulating Iraq’s economy. Just recently numerous international oil companies signed tentative agreements with Iraq to lease southern oilfields. On the surface, that’s great news, but below the surface the Iraqi government has many serious issues to address. Some of those issues include security at the port, workforce training, infrastructure improvements, as well as the remaining violent extremist networks still operating throughout Iraq.

Big oil companies assume risk in bringing expensive enterprise to a fledgling democracy where infrastructure has been neglected and port security is inadequate. These are friction areas where we can help influence positive outcomes through partnership with our Iraqi friends in a relatively short amount of time. Oil is not the only resource in abundance within Iraq’s borders. Arable land, rivers, industrious people all give Iraq a tremendous potential that we can help them fulfill.

For the last several years Iraq has looked inward to solve problems at home. Fortunately, southern Iraq is now in a position to look outwardly at the potential of becoming a contributor to the global economy. The key to southern Iraq’s future is the sea port of Umm Qasr – another terrific resource with immense potential – where a large portion of Iraq’s export capability lies. Our focus in the coming months is to increase civil capacity in Umm Qasr.

There’s much to be done, and we cannot afford to look past the vital importance of securing the national elections and helping our Iraqi partners facilitate safety at the polls. Once successful elections are completed, we’ll work to connect with all the key Iraqi players who can influence positive change in Umm Qasr, southern Iraq’s gateway to prosperity.

Thanks for the great work you are doing for our Nation and for Iraq. You are changing the world, and I’m honored to serve with you as you do so.



DUTY FIRST!



Vincent K. Brooks  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding



Major General  
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sergeant Major  
Jim Champagne

## DANGER FORWARD

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- 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.
- 12th CAB
- 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
- 367th MPAD



# Indiscipline lowers combat effectiveness

By Marc Greene

USD-S Safety & Occupational Health Manager

Each day we prepare for some of the most difficult missions of our careers. We use every resource to ensure these missions go off without a hitch. We drill the smallest details of the missions so that everyone comes back safe and sound.

When you are on a tactical mission, your senses are on high alert. You think of any and every thing that could go wrong, and you plan for those contingencies.

What seems to catch us with our guard down are missions we perceive to be "easy." These would be the missions that take place inside the wire. We become complacent and don't think about tasks we may consider everyday or mundane.

When I completed the roll-up for this past year's accidents, one of the items we looked at was Personal Injuries. Under that heading was the subcategory for when a service member is struck by an object.

Of these accidents, 20 percent came from lack of discipline and 44 percent were from inattention. So, 64 percent of these accidents were caused by service members not thinking about what they were doing or disregarded the standards.

This caused well over 300 days of restricted duty. That leads to the degradation of the missions we can perform at 100 percent.

We would never leave a fallen comrade on the battlefield, so don't let your team go on a mission without you because you wanted to take a shortcut and are now laid-up in bed. Don't leave your buddies outside the wire without you there to cover their backs. When it comes to safety, indiscipline has no rank, age or gender. We must maintain safety discipline in everything we do.

Remember, Duty First and Safety Always.

**This, and many other helpful links can be found on the 1st Infantry Division SharePoint under the Shared Documents link.**

## USD-S re-enlistments, Feb. 5 - 11

### 17th FiB

- B Btry, 1st Bn, 377th FAR  
PFC Christopher M. Smith

- C Btry, 1st Bn, 377th FAR  
PFC Corey D. Newton

### - A Co, 308th BSB

SPC Aliku K. Akui  
SPC Antwan D. Young  
SGT Christopher L. McCall

### 3HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

#### - 1st Bn, 10th FAR

SPC Joey S. Payton  
SPC Erickson P. Salazar  
SGT Aaron M. Arthur  
SGT Correan R. Brown

#### - BSTB

SPC David E. Dimurorodriguez  
SSG April A. Hulsizer  
SPC Clifford R. Phillips

#### - 203rd BSB

PFC Christopher T. Council  
PFC Logan R. Bernhard  
PFC Jarryd R. Dawson  
SPC Geraldine G. Jimenez

#### - 2nd Bn, 69th AR

SSG Allen J. Kirkland  
SPC Makoto L. Kelly  
SGT Len D. Ward  
SPC Michael W. Nixon  
SGT Carl S. Albanes  
PFC Romonte D. Knox  
SPC Anthony M. Dickerson

#### - 1st Bn, 15th Inf. Regt.

SSG Kenneth M. Bernhard  
PFC James B. Cox  
PFC Kevin M. Wisecup  
SGT Joshua C. Rennels

### 412th BSB

SGT Curt Lee Johnson  
SPC Jeremy Thomas Sowell  
SSG James R. Gramling Jr.  
SGT Zaida C. Jimenez

### 2nd Bn, 159th ARB

SGT Laura Hodiwala

### 3rd Bn, 158th AVN

SPC Jonathan M. Haut  
SGT Michael E. St. John Jr.  
SGT Anthony James J. Lawhorne

### 3rd Bn, 58th AOB

SSG Duanes C. Cookson

### 2nd Bn, 29th FAR

- A Btry  
SGT Nathaniel C. Matthews-smit

### 1st Bn, 77th AR

- C Co  
SGT Jim Cardenas

#### - HHC

PFC Casey A. Carl

### 121st BSB

#### - A Co

SSG Michael A. Iriarte

#### - F Co.

PFC Zachary S. Beckett  
SPC Corbett W. Simpson

#### - HHC

SSG Sheila D. White

#### - Rear Det.

SGT Justin W. Conrad

### 4th Bn, 6th Inf Regt

#### - E Co

SPC Chester L. White

#### - HHC

SGT Colin D. Knight

# This week in Army history

## *This week in Big Red One history*

Feb. 15, 1943: Gen. Terry Allen established an infantry replacement training camp at Guelma, Algeria. By Feb. 10, 1943, the division's infantry battalions needed a significant number of replacements. Having found that many of the men were poorly trained in critical field skills, Allen established the camp to acclimate the new men and teach them the basic soldiering skills needed in the harsh North African environment. Allen also recommended that the Guelma camp be used by the 34th Inf. Div. and that a British offer for American Soldiers to use British training facilities be accepted.

## *This week in OIF history*

Feb. 21, 2007: News breaks of the British intention to hand British-controlled areas of southern Iraq back to the Iraqis. At the time, Britain had approximately 7,000 troops in Iraq, based mostly around Basrah. "Control of the south of the country, unaffected by the civil war raging around Baghdad, will be handed back to the Iraqis," the Sun reported on page one. "We're pleased that conditions in Basrah have improved sufficiently that they are able to transition more control to the Iraqis," U.S. National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. In January 2007, when the United States had announced plans to increase its contingent in Iraq by more than 20,000, British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett had said London would not be following suit.

## *This week in 3rd ID history*

The 3rd Infantry Division took part in clearing the Colmar Pocket, 23 January-18 February 1945. Located in Alsace in eastern France, the Colmar Pocket was the site of a three-week operation during the Second World War where the French First Army and the U.S. XXI Corps overwhelmed German Nineteenth Army resistance in bitter, extremely cold winter fighting over terrain that offered practically no cover for attacking forces.



## Iraqi Army, Police keep pilgrims safe

By Pfc. Erik Anderson  
3rd HBCT PAO

**COS KALSU, Iraq** – An estimated 14 million pilgrims flocked to the city of Karbala, Iraq, in celebration of the Muslim holiday Arba'een Feb. 5, marking the seventh year of the gathering since U.S.-led forces removed Saddam Hussien from power.

Ten years ago, the pilgrimage was hardly attended, due to a ban on the Shi'a holiday by Hussien's regime, said Col. A'aed Saer Rageeb, commander of Iraqi Police operations in Babil province. According to Rageeb, the pilgrimage has grown in attendance every year since that time.

"During Saddam's rule, Muslims traveled by country road and feared capture by police," Rageeb continued. "Even cooking food and giving it to the poor [an Arba'een tradition] was not allowed."

With the continued drawdown of U.S. Forces, Iraqi Security Forces planned and executed the security measures needed to provide safety for the people making the journey to Karbala, said Cpt. Andrew Hubbard, commander, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

"The Karbala Province security plan for the Arba'een pilgrimage was entirely planned by the Karbala Operations Cen-

**"During Saddam's rule, Muslims traveled by country road and feared capture by police."**

Col. A'aed Saer Rageeb  
Commander of Iraqi Police Operations in Babil province



Photo by Maj. Myles Caggins, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

**A young man carries a banner Jan. 18 in honor of Husayn bin Ali, the grandson of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad, a symbol of the eternal fight against oppression and injustice, while passing through rural Muthanna Province on his way to the holy city of Karbala to mark the Shiite mourning day of Arba'een. Some walk for over two weeks to make the journey.**

ter, and was a joint effort between the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police," he said.

Hubbard said his company's primary role in the operation was as a command and control enabler for the 33rd Iraqi Army Brigade.

"The Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police have been and will continue to be in the lead for both planning and executing operations in Karbala Province," Hubbard said, "but they do appreciate the help that we occasionally provide in the form of bomb dogs, unmanned aerial vehicles, and additional specialized training."

Prior to the religious holiday, Dealer Co. supported their ISF counterparts by assisting in searches for weapons caches and other threats to public safety. During the celebration, Iraqi forces used U.S. unmanned aerial vehicles to search the area for possible threats.

Although Dealer Co. had additional medical assets and a special explosives team on standby at Patrol Base Hussiniyah in case of a mass-casualty situation or a bomb that the ISF could not diffuse by themselves, neither asset was required.

During Arba'een, many pilgrims crawl through the streets of Karbala in a show of humility, while others fall on their hands and knees as they approach the shrine of Husayn bin Ali, the grandson of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad.

The celebration of Arba'een reminds the faithful of the core message behind Husayn's martyrdom: establishing justice and fighting injustice, no matter what its incarnation.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit  
[www.facebook.com/3hbct3id](http://www.facebook.com/3hbct3id)

# Training Iraqis to rain steel from above

By 1st Lt. Patrick Vickery,  
4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment

**COS GARRYOWEN** – As the U.S. military prepares to leave all of Iraq's security in the hands of Iraqi forces, the training the two forces have conducted has created a military capable of defending Iraq's sovereignty from any threat.

Mortar units don't factor into normal security and stability operations, but they are a key element for the Iraqi Army and its ability to safeguard its borders.

Beginning in July 2009, the Mortar Platoon, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and Capt. Michael Bradbury, the battalion's fire support officer, began talking with the leadership of the Mortar Battery of the Iraqi Army's 38th Brigade. Once a solid foundation was established, U.S. and Iraqi leaders began to plan training for the Iraqi mortar soldiers in Maysan



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lykins  
Iraqi mortar soldiers practice referring the sight and the polls on a 60mm mortar system near Amarah, Sept. 1, 2009. The 38th Iraqi Army Brigade soldiers were trained by mortar Soldiers from the 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., 4th Bde., 1st Armd. Div., deployed to Iraq to advise and assist the Iraqi Army in northern Maysan Province.

Province.

In August, "Thunder Platoon" hosted a six-day Fire Direction Center class at Contingency Operating Site Garryowen.

The intent of the class was to "train the trainer" – teaching skills in a way that helps students pass them on to others – and create a foundation for further joint training between the 4th Bn. and the 38th IA Bde.

The course covered the fundamentals of the indirect fire team, and culminated with a live-fire exercise that allowed Iraqi officers to use their newly acquired skills, directing their men in Arabic, independent of American guidance.

"We train the Iraqis to the same high standards required of U.S. Army mortar-men," said Staff Sgt. Gerardo Gutierrez, from Laredo, Texas, primary instructor for the indirect fire course. "I've seen them significantly improve their proficiency over the past few months."

Thunder Platoon also executed a nine-day familiarization course on the Serbian 81mm mortar system for 20 Iraqi soldiers. Five soldiers from each battalion of the

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**"I was impressed on how quickly the Iraqi Soldiers were able to grasp the skills taught during the course."**

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Sgt. Christopher Leavitt

38th IA Bde. were selected for the training.

The primary instructor, Sgt. Christopher Leavitt, had to learn about the Serbian systems in order to prepare for the differences in the U.S. and Iraqi equipment. The course focused on the characteristics and capabilities of the equipment, safety



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lykins  
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lykins, a mortar platoon sergeant from Indianapolis, Ind., instructs soldiers of the Mortar Btry., 38th IA Bde., on use of the plotting board.

checks and duties and responsibilities of the mortar squad members.

"To start with such a basic understanding, I was impressed on how quickly the Iraqi Soldiers were able to grasp the skills taught during the course," said Leavitt, from Bangor, Maine.

As 4th Bn, 6th Inf. Regt., nears its re-deployment, the mortar platoon can look back and see that it has made a positive impact in the abilities of fellow Iraqi Army mortar soldiers.

They have developed relationships in spite of language and cultural barriers, which were overcome through the shared goal of a stronger and democratic Iraq.

"The 38th IA [Brigade's] Mortar Battery has and continues to strive for excellence in mortar gunnery skills and tasks," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lykins, the mortar platoon sergeant, from Indianapolis, Ind. "This will provide the citizens of Iraq and the Maysan Province the security and stabilization to prosper."

For more from 4th BCT, visit  
<http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>

# US, Iraqi soldiers share fun, lessons of combatives

By Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick  
3rd HBCT PAO

**COS ECHO** – U.S. and Iraqi soldiers enjoyed a unique training opportunity Feb. 7, crawling toward each other in a seven-on-seven “Braveheart” rumble at Contingency Operating Site Echo.

The goal of the competition was to take down the opposing team’s “king” using techniques learned in their 10-day, level-two combatives class. To get to the king, the combatants had to fight their way

Spc. Tyhavis Dennis, Company F, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., said a typical day begins at 8:00 a.m. with warm-up and rotational exercises, followed by a review of moves the students learned the day before.

“When we do the review, if anyone had a problem with any move, we go over that move again,” he said.

Dennis explained how, when the class reviews a move, two Soldiers demonstrate it and are critiqued by the rest of the class.

“We help each other,” he said.

Chatter amongst the class is crucial according to Staff Sgt. Joe Vasquez, an instructor in the course. Each combatives move is taught visually and verbally.

“We do and say the moves because these are the guys that are going back to their companies and teaching this,” Vasquez said. “They are going to be the subject matter experts, so they have to be able to do the move and explain how they are doing it.”

Aqueel said that combatives is not taught in the Iraqi Army, so he will go back to his unit to teach his fellow soldiers.

Vasquez said that the faster students understand a particular move, the faster they can move on to something else. They learn between five and 10 moves a day.

Vasquez, who is one of seven level-four combatives certified Soldiers in the battalion, explained that more goes into learning how to fight than grappling moves.

“We do slaps and punches so they know what contact feels like,” he said. “We also do things like dives and rolls so they know how to land without getting injured. There is a difference between hurt and injured. The Soldiers need to know that.”

Each move, whether it’s fighting or falling, is taught in detail, with emphasis on technique instead of brute strength. Dennis explained that strength plays little part in properly executing a move. The instructors make sure the students understand that.

“They tire us out by making us do ‘burpies,’” he said. “When we’re done, all we have is technique because we are so tired. It makes us better fighters.”

A burpie is a push-up followed by a quick jump in the air with fingers and arms extended, then back down to a push-up and repeat.

The class is tough but fun, Vasquez said, and it teaches the students a deeper lesson about being a Soldier.

“It builds esprit de corps and a sense of confidence,” he said. “It instills in them the Warrior Ethos and the Soldier’s creed. It makes it true to them.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and the 4th Battalion, 8th Iraqi Army Division, grapple during the “Braveheart” competition Feb. 7 as part of the level-two combatives course at COS Echo.

through chokes and take-downs while trying to get their opponents to tap out.

It was quite an experience for the Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and the 4th Battalion, 8th Iraqi Army Division.

For Pvt. Aqueel, one of the four Iraqi soldiers going through the class, competitions like this one are what make learning hand-to-hand combat fun.

“The best part of this class is the fighting,” he said. “It’s not real fighting but it looks real and it can be used in real situations.”

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“It instills in them the Warrior Ethos and the Soldier’s creed. It makes it true to them.”

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Staff Sgt. Joe Vasquez  
Combatives Instructor

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## Providing vision for Iraq's investors

Story By Capt. John Landry,  
TF 2-29 Pathfinder, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

**COB ADDER** – Ibn Al Haytham, the man known as the “father of modern optics” believed that a person’s perception of reality is shaped by the quality of the images they see.

This native of Basrah, Iraq, may have understood well the goals of a flyover with Iraqi, Italian, French and U.S. Army journalists to some key areas of Muthana Province.

The idea came from a recent conversation during which the Muthana Provincial Investment Commissions chairman, Adel Dahil Mohammed Al Yasiri, approached the U.S. State Department’s Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team with a request to explore ways of improving their marketing materials.

In Iraq, Provincial Investment Commissions are organizations composed of elected officials and local businessmen that serve to encourage foreign and local business, much like a chamber of commerce in the U.S.

Yasiri suggested a videotaped flyover of key locations, and explained how providing potential investors with a different view of Muthanna’s industry, natural resources and historical sites would present a better visual perception of the province.

Four PIC cameramen flew over the ru-



Photo by Maj. Myles Caggins

**A UH-60 Black Hawk from 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment, flies over the ruins of Uruk, in Muthanna Province, Jan. 24. The Black Hawk was part of a trip arranged for media to give potential investors the “big picture” of Muthanna.**

ins of (Al Warka) Uruk, Sawa Lake, and the East Samawah Industrial Zone, along with the several provincial factories.

None of the cameramen had ever seen these sights from such a perspective, and

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**“Encouraging more trade and Foreign Direct Investment is a key way for Iraq to build its economy for tomorrow.”**

Kirk Johnson  
Senior economic advisor for the Muthanna PRT

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on the day of the event they showed up eager for the experience.

“[It] provided an opportunity for the PIC’s media staff to gain valuable experience,” said Kirk Johnson, the senior economic advisor for the Muthanna PRT. “They are now in the process of editing their footage for DVDs and brochures. The footage will greatly improve their marketing materials, enabling them to attract new foreign investors.”

Capt. Mike Martin, A Company, 1st

Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, described the event as “a great ride and I could see why they had asked for our help to make this happen while flying over the ruins of Uruk. It was nothing short of amazing.”

Since mid-2008, the Muthanna PIC has received advice and technical assistance from the PRT. With the arrival of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, the Army’s first advise and assist brigade, this partnership has expanded to include the additional support of their Task Force Pathfinder, a unit dedicated to providing military support to civil capacity operations in southern Iraq.

“Encouraging more trade and Foreign Direct Investment is a key way for Iraq to build its economy for tomorrow,” Johnson said.

Although the final products have not yet been released, Johnson and the rest of the PRT remain optimistic that the flight will have a positive effect on the PIC’s endeavors.



Photo by Maj. Myles Caggins

**The ruins of Uruk in Muthanna Province, as seen from the air Jan. 24, during a flyover of the province intended to give potential investors perspective on the diverse resources of the region.**

For more from 4th BCT, visit  
<http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>

## Taking awareness to the street

Story by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**COB BASRA** – Over 200 service members walked together Feb. 12 at Contingency Operating Base Basra in an event coordinated by the 1st Infantry Division to make a statement about sexual assault in the armed forces.

It's not an easy thing to talk about, not for anyone. In one of the tightest and most close-knit families – the U.S. military – there persists this fact, ugly and without honor, without loyalty, without the basic respect for another human being, let alone a comrade-in-arms.

Awareness has many aspects. Most would not suspect the ones they know as capable of sexually assaulting another, and many who are capable of it would not guess that about themselves.

Sgt. Ryan Jalim, 206th Military Police Company, from New York City, has several reasons to be ever mindful of how common sexual assault can be.

"I have three older sisters," Jalim said "I'm also a police officer back in New York City, so I've seen rape and sexual as-

sault cases a lot."

For Jalim, the event on COB Basra was about making a statement of support for victims, but also about raising awareness.

"I thought this would be a more appropriate way of supporting the victims, because I deal with victims a lot," he said.

"It will definitely bring awareness, I think, to Soldiers out here in Iraq, to know this does happen, even in a professional military organization like the Army," Jalim said. "People need to be aware of what's going on."

Members of the 203rd MP Battalion, out of Huntsville, Ala., were waiting for the marchers at the final water point, offering refreshment and encouragement to participants, several of whom had chosen to walk in full combat gear.

"I take it as something positive," said Pvt. Terrell Cole, 203rd MP Bn. and Huntsville, Ala. native. "It builds unity within the organization, throughout the military itself."

"We had to take a class about sexual assault, and I didn't know that it was as bad as it is, especially in the military," he said.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
First Lt. Marcus Dyl, platoon leader, and Sgt. Joe Aylsworth, both from the 354th MP Co., out of St. Louis, Mo., came to the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Day Walk, Feb. 12, at COB Basra, in full "battle rattle."

It's easy to question what something like a 5k walk does to highlight that fact, to fight back in some way against statistics that tell us the most likely people to hurt fellow Soldiers are the ones they are closest to and most depend on.

Cole was short and to the point in countering questions of what an event like the walk can bring about to create a difference. "Knowledge," he said.

According to the Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2008, recent Army survey data shows that as many as 70% of female Soldiers who said they experienced sexual assault within the previous 12 months did not report the assault; including 56% of rape victims.

Pfc. Carnell Clark, 203rd MP Bn. and Dothan, Ala. native, said the event sends an important message to victims.

"I think that it's showing that we actually care what happens to other Soldiers,"



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey  
Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon (second from right), 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for support, walks at the head of a throng of service members taking part in the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Day Walk, Feb. 12, at COB Basra. Some 211 service members and several contractors participated took to the streets of COB Basra to show their support.

See WALK, page 11

## In service of others

Story by Sgt. Ben Hutto  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

**COS KALSU** – He was born in Nigeria and lived there for 22 years. His father, a village elder and Muslim religious leader, made an early impression on his life, an impression that still guides him now as he works to become an Army chaplain.

Spc. Mikail Lawal traveled to America in 1995 to become an All-American tennis player at Morehouse University in Atlanta. While at Morehouse, he also earned a Bachelors of Science degree in psychology.

Unassuming and respectful, Lawal, a petroleum specialist assigned to Company A, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, has seen more of the world than his rank would suggest.

Lawal works as an attendant at the Contingency Operating Site Kalsu airfield, doing his best to be professional and helpful to the Soldiers and civilians who are leaving or coming to the COS. Whether he is helping passengers with their bags or informing them of flight times, Lawal ensures that travelers get on the right helicopter at the proper time.

At times, his can be a thankless job, but Lawal views it as another opportunity to help people.

“I can make money many ways; the money will come no matter what job I do,” he said. “Anything I do, I do because I really care about it. I know I will be successful; it’s a matter of when that will happen. What can I do in between those times to help people? That is the more important thing.”

His giving attitude comes from two sources; his deep faith in Islam and the example his father set for him at an early age. Not surprisingly, both are intertwined.

“He was a figure that everyone respected,” Lawal said of his father. “No one wanted to wrong him; he was that peace-

ful of a man. He is my example as a man and a teacher.”

Another lasting gift given to Lawal by his father was the opportunity to go on the annual Islamic pilgrimage called the Hajj. As one of the five pillars of the Islamic faith, a trip to Mecca is extremely important for any Muslim.

To be able to go on the Hajj was an even greater honor, according to Lawal. It was an eternal gift from his father, the chance to deepen his understanding of the faith.

He journeyed from Nigeria to Mecca with his mother and sister to participate in the spiritual event. Upon return, his life was changed forever

“It is a feeling you can never explain,” he said. “You leave there changed. It was like being touched by a spirit. To go through that was simply phenomenal. It is that simple.”

While his faith is his foundation, tennis is one of Lawal’s passions. He was so skilled at the sport that he was able to secure a tennis scholarship to Morehouse. He played there from 1995 to 1997 and became a collegiate All-American.

“I’m still playing tennis,” he said. “I don’t compete as vigorously now that I’m in the Army, but it will always be one of my professions.”

Even in tennis, his devotion to others shows through.

“My tennis academy means a lot to me. On all my business cards for the school, the phrase ‘I teach because I care’ is on them,” he said. “For me, tennis is another way to help people.”

That spirit of service, and the need he saw for chaplains to serve Muslims in the Army, led Lawal to pursue a career as an Army chaplain.

“There are a small number of Muslim chaplains,” he said. “There are a lot of misconceptions about the faith. It is a very noble faith. It requires a person to put everything in the hands of their creator. It re-



Photo by by Sgt. Ben Hutto  
**Spc. Mikail Lawal, a petroleum specialist assigned to Co. A, 203rd BSB, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., prepares for prayer at COS Kalsu, Jan.4. Lawal, a devout Muslim, leads a group of worshippers once a week at COS Kalsu.**

quires total submission to the will of God. It is not what many people think.”

Lawal leads a small worship service for Kalsu’s Muslims every Friday and normally has 12 other people who attend. Soldiers, security guards and contractors make up the varied congregation.

“I think worship gives you more benefit if you have a congregation,” said Lawal. “There is a reward in seeing a change in a person. It rubs off on everyone. I would say to be in the presence of godly people makes someone stronger.”

Lawal doesn’t find being a spiritual teacher to be a burden. He views his role as a way to demonstrate love to his fellow man.

“It is very simple,” he said. “You show people love. You don’t even have to say it. People just need to see that you care about them. You just need to be constant in your role. You cannot start off one way and change.”

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit [www.facebook.com/3hbct3id](http://www.facebook.com/3hbct3id)

# DOD satellite system changing for the better

1st Lt. Austin Minter,  
256th Network Support Company,  
17th Fires Brigade

**COB BASRA** – The Army's former chief information officer recently told a conference that a lack of military satellite capacity resulted in the U.S. Department of Defense spending one billion dollars in 2007 on commercial satellite leases.

Since 2000, the DoD has been purchasing and deploying the new military Wideband Global Satellite Communication satellites, a high-capacity communication satellite for the sole purpose of augmenting the X-band communications now provided by the Defense Satellite Communications System. In the interim, the government has been renting commercial Ku satellite bands at a heavy price.

The new changeover to Ka-band represents a huge step by the military in their investment in a DoD-only satellite network. This new satellite network will save

American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year and provide more bandwidth and flexibility to its military users wherever they find themselves.

The Ka-band allows improved network communications for more reliable and more mobile communication systems on the battlefield.

Members of the 256th Network Support Company, 17th Fires Brigade, from Fort Lewis, Wash., are excited about the change to the Ka-band, which will allow them to provide even greater network support for the Thunderbolt Brigade and its subordinate units throughout southern Iraq.

United States Division-South, headquartered at Contingency Operating Base Basra, has been selected to lead the way in Iraq as the Army transitions from its reliance on commercial satellite leases. So, as the 1st Infantry Division assumed responsibility of USD-S, 17th FiB is one of many units within the area to take advantage of



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army

**Brig. Gen. John E. Seward, deputy commanding general for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, and Brig. Gen. Ronald M. Bouchard, director, J-6, U.S. Pacific Command, cut the ribbon symbolizing the activation of the Wideband Global SATCOM. WGS-1 was launched Oct. 11, 2007 and was activated Apr. 14, 2008, and is now providing invaluable communications capabilities to the warfighter.**

the Ka-band capabilities available to the DoD network.

Training on the new equipment was conducted recently by General Dynamics field service representatives. Soldiers supporting the outlying camps came to COB Basra for the intensive 40-hour training on the switch process to the Ka-band.

The training gave 256th NSC Soldiers the hands-on experience they needed to ensure that the changeover went smoothly for 17th Fires Brigade and its supported units.

“This training was crucial to ensure each team was fully capable of accomplishing the mission of changing over to the new Ka feed system,” said Sgt. Dane Scharff, team chief.

Benefits of the Ka-band network have military commanders looking forward to the fulfillment of promises of faster, more flexible Video Tele-Conferencing and faster, more reliable phone, email and internet services.

Already enjoying the benefits of the Ka-band, Sgt. Shelby Coulter, the senior ranking satellite communicator for 256th NSC, summed up the changeover.

“This Ka changeover has provided end users with noticeably more bandwidth and helped smooth out communications within our unit,” Coulter said.



Photo courtesy of 256th NSC

Soldiers from the 256th NSC, 17th FiB, change out the satellite feed tray on the Satellite Transportable Terminal at COB Basra, January 2010. The Army's planned satellite frequency changeover from Ku-band to Ka-band is expected to save American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

For more from 17th FiB, visit  
<http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>

**FORCES, from page 1**

appreciation for the efforts to make the Joint Training Center a success.

“We would like to thank all of the people of Maysan for their



Photo by 1st Lt. Juan Torres Jr.

**Task Force Saber Commander Lt. Col. William Walski and Brig. Gen. Razzak, commander, 11th Bde., Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, unveil the JSS Umm Sa'ah name plate Feb. 4, 2010.**

support as we continue to progress,” he said.

Razzak commands shurta (police) who patrol over 200 kilometers of the Iran-Iraq border.

To conclude the ceremony, Walski and Razzak revealed the JSS Umm Sa’ah name plate before the crowd, offered congratulations and joined together to socialize around a traditional Iraqi meal.

With the sounds of celebration heard in the distance, the work still did not cease for the Soldiers of B Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt., who, even as the ceremony commenced, continued daily operations.

According to their leadership, much of the credit for the event is due to these Soldiers, who invested sweat equity in establishing the austere facility through some of the most adverse rain conditions seen in recent memory.

The ceremony was attended by Iraqi police and Army leaders from the Maysan province who have personnel assigned at a joint intelligence center at JSS Umm Sa’ah. The U.S. Army advisors will train Iraqis on counter-smuggling techniques, analyzing intelligence, and advanced soldiering skills.

For more from 4th BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>

**WALK, from page 8**

he said, “and showing that even when someone does something, there’s always someone around to help, someone you can talk to.”

Some 211 service members and several civilian contractors participated in the walk, not counting all the volunteers who made the event come together.

“The turnout was awesome, said Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan, equal opportunity advisor, 1st Inf. Div., a native of St. Louis.

“I think it was wonderful, it showed that a lot of people, they understand sexual assault, and they know how important

it is to make sure it does not happen,” she said.

Master Sgt. Thomas Miskevish, sexual assault response coordinator, Headquarters Support Co., 1st Inf. Div., a native of Charleston, W.Va. and the lead coordinator for the event, was equally pleased with the response to the event.

“I think the turnout was really good,” he said. “We just wanted to make sure we had enough Soldiers out here. There are probably more civilians on this base than there are military, so I really liked the turnout.”

The theme of the walk, which began in the hours before dawn and continued past

sunrise, was one symbolically suited to the progression from darkness to daylight.

“It’s so important that any victim, male or female, who is sexually assaulted or raped, that we take back our night,” said Jordan.

“I really think everyone came out to support that cause. It was amazing, from the command all the way down to the youngest Soldier, it was excellent,” she said.

Mishevish pointed out how important events like this can be to remind people how to keep themselves and their comrades from becoming victims.

“It makes people aware that sexual assault is out there, to make sure you have a buddy, to make sure you’re not going into unlit places at night and to make sure that you’re watching out for everybody,” he said.

Echoing Cole’s call for the spreading of knowledge, Jordan said that events like this are important as educational tools.

“It opens the eyes for people who probably have no idea how deep sexual assault is, how it can really hurt a person, and how important it is that we, every individual, would make a difference, to make sure that it doesn’t happen, not only in the Army, but just in everyday life,” she said.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey

**Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon (center group, left), 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for support, talks with Soldiers at the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Day Walk, Feb. 12.**

For more from USD-S PAO visit [www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision](http://www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision)

# ON THE HOMEFRONT

Danger Forward

Feb. 15, Issue 3

## Dems to name Governor candidate

Story by **Barbara Hollingsworth**  
*The Topeka Capital-Journal*

**TOPEKA, Kan.** -- Two big announcements will be coming from Kansas Democrats next week.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, of Topeka, said he expects Democrats to name their candidate for governor within the week. House Minority Leader Paul Davis, D-Lawrence, also said he expects Gov. Mark Parkinson to name the next secretary of state early next week.

In January, Sen. Tom Holland, D-Baldwin City, said he was considering a run for governor but hasn't yet officially declared his intentions. So far, the only Democrat in the governor's race is Herbert West, a

Paola man who party officials don't support and who has dropped in and out of the race in a bid for more attention. Marty Mork, a Wichita resident, has said he also plans to run for the Democratic nomination.

The Democrats will face tough opposition for governor with Sam Brownback the likely Republican nominee as he leaves the U.S. Senate.

Like the governor's seat, the secretary of state's position will be up for election in November. Longtime Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, a Republican, announced earlier this week that he will step down Monday, leaving Parkinson, a Democrat, with the task for filling his seat.

Parkinson, who isn't running for re-

election, previously avoided partisan politics when he selected Troy Findley as his lieutenant governor. Neither Parkinson nor Findley are running for election in the fall.

Hensley said Parkinson has interviewed both of the likely Democratic candidates for secretary of state: Sen. Chris Steineger, of Kansas City, Kan., and Chris Biggs, the state's securities commissioner. Hensley said Parkinson will appoint a Democrat next week, but he wasn't sure if the governor would select Steineger or Biggs or someone else.

"It's his call," Hensley said.

**The 1st Infantry Division is based out of Fort Riley, Kansas**

## Dad's voice on 911 saves baby's life

Story by staff writer **JEREMY PAWLOSKI**  
*The News Tribune - Seattle-Tacoma*

**TACOMA, Wash.** -- Panicked mother Janna Scott said she was "freaking out" when she called 911 from her Lacey home last week to get help for her choking infant son, Jacob.

A familiar voice answered the line – that of her 23-year-old husband, Chris, an Iraq War veteran now in the final stages of his training as an emergency dispatcher in Thurston County.

"My first words were, 'Chris, he's choking,'" she said.

Coolly and calmly, Chris talked his wife through the proper protocols for what to do.

Janna Scott said 6-month-old Jacob's eyes were rolling to the back of his head when she made the call. She added that Jacob probably wasn't breathing for about a minute and a half before she followed her husband's instructions to put him on his stomach and tap him on the back five times between his shoulder blades to clear his airway.

"It was scary," she said.

Chris, who left Iraq in September after a one-year deployment as a tank crew member with the Marine Reserves, said it's in his nature to remain calm under stress.

"That's just my personality," he said.

But the Yelm High School graduate who grew up in the Olympia area said that inside, he became scared as he had the dawning realization that he was taking an emergency 911 call from his wife – and that the person in danger was their son.

"My heart was pounding," he said. "My hands were a little bit shaky."

Chris said he referred to instructions on what to do in cases involving a choking baby and read them to Janna – standard protocol for dispatchers. He also sent emergency responders to their address.

After Janna patted Jacob on the back, he coughed up a small piece of plastic that he must have ingested after it fell to the ground from a windowsill, she said. He was OK, and the emergency responders who arrived on the scene minutes later did not have to take him to the hospital, she added.

Chris' training officer at the dispatch center, Tammy Clark, said there's no doubt that Chris and Janna saved their son's life. Cook added that immediately after Chris took the call, she walked up to congratulate him, but she had no idea he had been speaking to his wife.

"I said, 'Chris, you just did an amazing job; you just saved that kid's life,'" Clark said. "And he looked at me a little rattled and said, 'That was my baby.'"

Chris' employers gave him the rest of the day off.

"Nobody could have done a better job than him," Clark said. "This is a wonderful story. Semper Fi to all the Marines out there."

After Chris returned from his deployment, he went to Germany to visit with his wife and son. In December, the family moved to the Lacey area. Janna is from the Hanover area in Germany.

**17th Fires Brigade is based out of Ft. Lewis, Washington**

# AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

Feb. 15, Issue 3

## Dining Hours

### DFAC 2

0530 - 0830  
1130 - 1400  
1700 - 2000

### DFAC 3

0530 - 0830  
1130 - 1400  
1700 - 2000  
0000 - 0130

## Hair Cuts

### Barber Shop

0900 - 2000

### Beauty Shop

0900 - 2000

## USO

### Every day

Closes 0600  
Re-opens 1000

### This week at the USO

### Halo 3 / X-box 360 tournament

Mon., Feb. 15, 2100

### Mardi Grass, "Fat Tuesday" celebration

Tue., Feb. 16

### Bingo Night

Thurs., Feb. 18, 1700

### Texas hold 'em Tournament

Sat., Feb. 20, 2100

### Black History Month Spoken Word Event

(USO)

Fri., Feb. 20

2000

### UFC at the USO

Sun., Feb. 21, 0500

(TV Areas Open Only)

### 550 Cord Cuff Night

Mon., Feb. 22

2100-2300

## Religious Services

### Protestant

(COB Basra Chapel)

#### Sundays:

#### Contemporary Worship

1000

#### General Protestant

1130

#### Gospel Worship

1400

#### Chapel Next Protestant

1830

### Roman Catholic

(COB Basra Chapel)

#### Sunday Mass

0830

#### Saturday Vigil Mass

2000

#### Daily Mass

1130

#### Ash Wednesday

2000

### Jewish

(COB Basra Chapel)

#### Friday

1800

## LDS

(COB Basra Chapel)

### Sunday

1700 - 1800

## Chaplain Programs

### Bible Studies

#### Book of Colossians

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

#### Wednesdays

2000

#### Regular

(Panther Den / MWR)

#### Wednesdays

1930

#### New Believers

(COB Casra Chapel)

#### Thursdays

2000

## Fellowship

#### Every Man's Battle

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

#### Thursday

1800 - 1900

#### AA

(COB Basra Chapel)

#### Thursday

2000

#### Holy Joe's Coffee

(Chaplain's Programming Tent)

#### Regular hours

Mon.-Sat., 0600 - 1800

#### Fridays and Mondays

Music night

Come after-hours for  
a midnight snack or  
beverage

## Special Events This Week

### Ash Wednesday Service

(COB Basra Chapel)

#### Wednesday

2000

### Black History Month Observance

(Town Hall)

#### Fri., Feb. 20

1900-2000

- Entertainment by  
USD-S Soldiers and  
Civilians, 1st Inf. Div.  
Chorus & Band.

- Refreshments  
provided.

### Black History Month Spoken Word Event

(USO)

#### Fri., Feb. 20

2000

## New Times, programs

### Holy Joe's Coffee

(Chaplain's Programming  
Tent)

New hours with more  
time for fellowship!

#### Regular hours

Mon.-Sat., 0600 - 1800

#### Friday and Monday

nights, come for  
themed music.

Come after-hours for  
a midnight snack or  
beverage.

## The First Division Museum at Cantigny is looking for YOUR photos

The **First Division** Museum at Cantigny is looking for submissions to a Soldiers' section of their photo exhibit about the current 1st ID. The museum would like photos that cover your unit's most recent deployments and training. The goal is to show the public, from the Soldier's view, the full range of roles that 1st ID Soldiers are playing in the current conflict. The exhibit is slated to open in the summer of 2010. First, second and third place winners will all receive an all expense paid trip to Cantigny Park and the First Division Museum in Wheaton, IL plus:

- First Place:** \$250 Supply Sarge gift card, \$650 cash, \$100 active duty lifetime membership to Society of 1st ID
- Second Place:** \$150 Supply Sarge gift card, \$500 cash, \$100 active duty lifetime membership to Society of 1st ID
- Third Place:** \$100 Supply Sarge gift card, \$300 cash, \$100 active duty lifetime membership to Society of 1st ID

**Who can participate:** All Soldiers and former Soldiers assigned to or operating with any element of the 1st Infantry Division at the time the photograph was taken.

### Criteria for submissions

1. Photograph must be a minimum of 4x6 at 300 dpi
2. Photograph must be fully captioned, including names of people, units, locations and dates.
3. Must have been taken on or after January 1, 2003
4. Must be suitable for public viewing
5. All submissions will become the property of the First Division Museum at Cantigny

Deadline is March 15, 2010. Please submit photos digitally, with all caption info to [tbianchi@firstdivisionmuseum.org](mailto:tbianchi@firstdivisionmuseum.org) or mail a disc to:



Teri Bianchi  
Exhibits Manager  
First Division Museum at Cantigny  
1 S 151 Winfield Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189



## Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



*Hint: A phrase, a song*

**Each week, look for a new brain teaser here, with the answer in the following week's Danger Forward.**

## A look around USD-S



Photo by Sgt Matthew Hayes, 1st Bn., 10th FA Bn. Spc. Bobby Ortiz Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment reenlists Jan. 26, while riding in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that flew over Forward Operating Base Delta, Iraq. The special ceremony was arranged by Sgt. 1st Class Adrian Milton, 1st Bn. career counselor.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to [benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil), and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

## Sudoku

7				1	2			3
	8		3	6		5		
1			9	5				2
			6	2		9		
	5	4		3		6	2	
						1	5	
		8		9	6			
	9	2		8		3	4	
6	1		5	4		2		