



DANGER FORWARD



March 29, 2010 | Issue 9

USD-S transfers base to IA

By 1st Lt. Juan Torres
2nd Sqdn, 13th Cav Regt

COS HUNTER – Preparing for any re-deployment often involves extensive inventories and equipment reallocations, but the process for one U.S. base in southern Maysan Province has the added challenge of transferring the entire base, equipment and crucial infrastructure.

Like other U.S. bases in Iraq, when the U.S. leaves, Iraqi personnel will be taking over and making use of Contingency Operating Station Hunter, which officially changed hands March 26.

“[COS Hunter] is the largest property closing for all of southern Iraq this year and continues to set the standard for future base closures,” said Tony “Tank” Cameron, a team leader with the Base Closure Assistance Team.

The base will transition from the 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment “Saber” to the Iraqi Army’s 41st Brigade. The process requires a continually evolving inventory system known as FEPP, or Foreign Excess Personal Property. The Base Closure Assistance Teams and unit logistics personnel work round-the-clock to maintain accountability of equipment for transfer to the Iraqi Army 41st Bde.

“Items like generators, tents and water



Photo by 1st Lt. Juan Torres

Spc. Vincent Taylor, a supply specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt., from Virginia Beach, Va., records movement of shipping containers in preparation for an upcoming FEPP inventory at COS Hunter, Feb. 19. The 13th Cav. Regt. is deployed in an advisory and assistance mission from Ft. Bliss, Texas.

purification units get nominated for transfer because it is often more cost effective to transfer items as opposed to shipping to Afghanistan or other theaters,” said Cameron, a resident of Lillington, N.C.

FEPP is a large-scale inventory system designed to organize property from various sources that range in size from a single trash can to multiple buildings.

Equipment not deemed mission-essential for units in theater are then considered excess and later become potential nominees for transfer and reimbursement.

The execution of this complex mission is generating momentum as more bases prepare for closure.

After identifying suitable bases, the equipment nominated to fall under FEPP is inventoried and cataloged for submission for United States Forces-Iraq level approval.

“It’s quite intense when you step back and recognize the amount of equipment needed to be accounted for,” Cameron said.

This new system provides Iraqi Army partners with increased infrastructure assets to continue operations as well as to create a joint training facility in southern Maysan.

Under earlier base transfers, U.S. units are not be able to leave critical items -- such as wiring -- needed to maintain functionality.

See **TRANSFER**, page 11



IPs train for investigating p. 4



BTT spreads cheer, p. 7



Soldier now Citizen, p. 10

Danger Six sends

I will begin this edition of Danger 6 Sends with congratulations to each of you and to your partners (Iraqi and PRT) on delivering a secure and legitimate election. You were part of making history, and you are still doing so today.

The purpose of the business we conduct every day is to improve the quality of life for Iraqis. Through partnerships and the deliberate responsible draw down of equipment and people, we're meeting our goal to preserve enduring relations with the Iraqis. Perhaps the most rewarding endeavor we can achieve is through the establishment of economic development zones, which will help to put in place the economic strength that is needed for Iraq to be able to take care of itself as a stable, sovereign country.

Our continued work to improve security by helping the Iraqi Security Forces apply pressure on violent extremist networks is not complete, but in large part, United States Division–South has already transitioned to stability operations. What we do with our remaining time in Iraq will make history and improve the lives of many people. The greatest threats are these things that undermine Iraq from becoming – and remaining – stable.

So, what is the work ahead of us? First we must continue to work with our Iraqi Security Forces partners, advising and assisting them to become more effective. This is especially true in the areas of border security and in sustaining themselves with effective supply and maintenance operations. Second, we must move quickly and efficiently to reduce the amount of equipment that is on-hand but excess to our needs as the number of troops in country reduces and the bases we operate are decreased. Third, we must establish relationships with new leaders who may begin duties under the new Iraqi government. Finally, we must advise and assist our Iraqi partners in addressing the issues that undermine stability.

That sounds like a heavy load. I know you can do it and more. The Victory 5 (the CSM, the two Deputy CGs, the Chief of Staff, and I) are honored to lead you and to serve you. Be focused – be safe in your work – be successful.

No mission too difficult; no sacrifice too great.



DUTY FIRST!



Vincent 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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-  17th FIB
-  4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.
-  12th CAB
-  3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
-  367th MPAD



Thinking about seatbelts



By Gus Walker

USD-S Safety and Occupational Health Manager

“Saving Lives”

We are often left pondering or grieving over the needless death of a fellow Soldier because he or she failed to put on a seatbelt.

Would they be alive today if we could have convinced them that their life depended on it?

Still today we witness fellow Soldiers driving without the use of a seatbelt because they don’t understand or disregard the magnitude of their actions.

Is it because the seatbelt makes them uncomfortable? Is it because they simply forgot or don’t care?

Whatever the reasoning is behind their negligence, it is unfathomable. Don’t we tell them that seatbelts save lives?

Death is real, and the reality is you don’t get a second chance once you are gone.

Are we vigilant in our efforts to persuade these Soldiers that the real consequences are not counseling statements, UCMJ, or a traffic tickets?

If we fail to convince them before it’s too late, we again will be left pondering or grieving over another needless death.

Who will be next? When will this circle end? Seatbelts Do Save Lives!

Duty First – Safety Always

Have a suggestion to make *Danger Forward* better? Send a SIPR email to our suggestion box: 1IDPAO SUGGESTIONBOX@1id.army.smil.mil

USD-S re-enlistments, March 19-25

- 4th BCT, 1AD**
HHC
SGT JASMINE N. LATIMER
- 121st BSB**
D CO
SGT JUSTIN A. SAKUTA
E CO
SPC JOSEPH ASHLEY TINDALL
SPC MATTHEW STALZER
F CO
SGT JIMMY D. SCOTT
HHC
SPC VERNEE R. MCGILVARY
- 4th Bn, 6th Inf Regt**
HHC
SPC PHILLIP K. YATES
SPC KALVIN D. PEACE
- 2nd Bn, 13th Cav Regt**
B TROOP
SGT MICHAEL J. SPICER
- STB**
B CO
SGT JERYLL S. DELMAR
SPC CARL R. JORDAN
- 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div**
BSTB
SPC ELIZABETH O. KOOIMA
SPC JOSHUA A. ARBOGAST
SGT CHRISTOPHER A. KOOIMA
SPC JASIA M. JOHNSON
- 203BSB**
SPC JONATHAN E. CLAWSON
- SSG NICOLE S DENNY**
- 2nd Bn, 69th AR**
SGT ROBERT SERRATO
PFC DUSTIN K. HAMILTON
PFC PATRICK W. KING
SGT KAMAKANI K. KAPUA
SGT STEVEN T. BERRY
- 3-1CAV**
SGT YAMANI F. ALBERT
SGT ZACKERY C. ZILLS
- 17th FIB**
HBB
SGT HALFAKER, MATTHEW
- HQ & Support Company**
SGT GREGORY A. BURNO
- Operations Company**
SPC JENEEN M. SAUCEDO
- 308th BSB**
A CO
SGT FIAS, RYAN
- 1st Bn, 214th AVN**
SPC BILLY SCYPHERS
PFC FELICIA HARDIN
- 12th CAB**
HHC
SPC CHRISTOPHER MORRISON
- 5th Bn, 158th AVN**
SPC JONATHAN MASSE
SPC LANCE JACOBS

This and other great information to help with risk mitigation can be found at: <http://1idportal.1id.army.smil.mil/SpecialStaff/DivisionSafety/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

In April of 1918 the Big Red One began to move into the Picardy Sector of France to help out the exhausted French First Army. The 28th Infantry Regiment attacked the town of Cantigny and captured it from the German 18th Army. This was the first battle won by Americans during WWI.

This week in OIF history

April 3, 2003: The 3rd ID moved into Saddam International Airport which was promptly renamed Baghdad International Airport. Not stopping to rest on it’s laurels, tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles began what was known as “thunder runs” as they stormed the streets of Baghdad rooting out insurgents who threatened the safety and security of the civilians and the Soldiers.

This week in 1st Armored Division history

April of 1945: The 1st Armored Division broke into the Po Valley in Italy after securing Rome, breaking a stalemate and forcing German soldiers to make their last stand in the Apennines Mountains. A month later, German forces surrendered, marking the last vestiges of Germany in Italy

Course sharpens Iraqi Police skills

By 1st Lt. Joseph Spado III
4th Bn, 6th Inf Regt (4BCT-1AD)

MAYSAN PROVINCE – Soldiers from Company D, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment and the Federal Police Transition Team are working with the Maysan Federal Police Brigade to help them maintain the security and stability of their nation.

Some of the recent training involved a basic investigation course. The Soldiers of Co. D – along with elements from the FPTT – conducted a three-day course covering the topics of securing a crime scene and evidence preservation, tactical questioning and “every soldier is a sensor” training. Four Iraqi police officers and their platoon leader attended.

“This is the first time that a class had participation from both the leader and subordinates,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shawn

Kenniar, operations, Co. D, from Jefferson, Texas.

The hands-on class had plenty of interaction between the teachers and students.

During each class, the instructors would call on a student and use him in a scenario. The instructors would then ask questions during the scenario and have the students figure out the answer, using both the knowledge they already had and what they had learned during the class.

This method enabled the instructors to gauge the students’ current level of proficiency and dispel “myths” and bad habits that they might be operating with.

The interactive training kept the students engaged and reinforced the lectures, said Maj. Douglas Laxson, FPTT team chief from Fort Hood, Texas.

Some of the most directly applicable training was “every soldier a sensor.” Using the counter-improvised rocket assisted

mortar patrols that the police officers were engaged in, instructors taught them the ESS concept and gave them homework that directly related to their patrols.

For the first day, this consisted of the police officers making an effort to pay closer attention to their surroundings to get an idea of what “normal” looked like. The next day, the students were to respond with what was different about their surroundings that they patrolled from the previous night.

“We want more of this training. It is useful and interesting,” said Lt. Jasim Mohammad, a Federal Police platoon leader, from Babil Province

For the U.S. Soldiers and civilians working with the Iraqi police, the point – and impact – of their work is clear.

“Every day we are helping this organization gain confidence in their mission to secure the citizens of Maysan Province,” Laxson said.



Photo by 1st Lt. Keith G. Greer

Federal Police pay close attention to the details of a potential crime scene as part of their practical application during their site exploitation exercise. Iraqi Federal Police officer Mohaned Almufaje (left) takes notes, while his counterpart, Ehab Shahib, collects evidence and Azhar Muachami (right) takes a picture of the crime scene during a practical exercise led by U.S. instructors, Feb. 13, in Amarah.

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

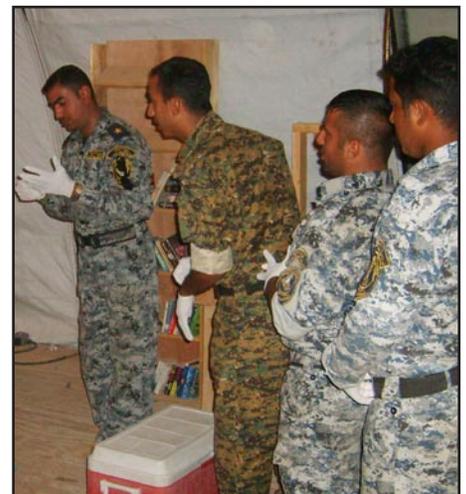


Photo by 1st Lt. Keith G. Greer

Iraqi Federal Police are given a practical exercise involving the securing and maintenance of possible evidence by U.S. instructors, Feb. 13, in Amarah. The students put on latex gloves to ensure that they do not get their prints on any evidence or mistakenly smudge off prints of potential suspects.

PSYOP Soldiers continue work in Basra

By Sgt. Diana Del Valle
318th PSYOP Co., USD-S

BASRA – U.S. Army psychological operations Soldiers went out into the local area to work with the people of Basra Province near Contingency Operating Base Basra, March 11.

As with most missions, the intent of 318th PSYOP Company, 10th PSYOP Battalion, 7th PSYOP Group, is to gather information on the local community and to disseminate hand bills with tip lines that residents can call with information regarding everyday activities in Basra.

The mission went well and the Soldiers gained enough information to begin creating new information products. They were also able to determine if previous leaflets – given to Iraq Security Forces to disseminate – were reaching the communities.

Though the mission was short, it was important. This was the first time the team had been out since the March 7 elections, said Cpl Patrick J. Bramlett, a psychologi-



Photo by Sgt. Diana Del Valle
A local police officer for a school in Basra, proudly explains his duties and responsibilities to a psychological operations specialist from Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment 1070, March 12.



Photo by Sgt. Diana Del Valle
An Iraqi Security Forces soldier poses while pulling security, March 12, just outside of COB Basra. The ISF plays a major role in securing the areas where the U.S. forces go on missions.



Photo by Sgt. Diana Del Valle
Iraqi Security Forces assist U.S. forces by pulling security, March 12, just outside of COB Basra. The ISF plays a major role in securing the areas where the U.S. forces go on missions.

cal operations specialist and the assistant team leader, Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment 1070.

During the day, every time the Soldiers made a stop to talk with people in markets and surrounding areas, they received positive feedback regarding security in the area.

Bramlett asked the residents questions about their safety, food, schools, jobs and about their trust in the ISF.

“It is safe here, no problems, and we have the ISF,” said a young local gentleman, who owned a candy shop in a small neighborhood.

Once Bramlett and the team received enough information from a targeted area and handed out pamphlets, he rounded everyone up and moved to another. The areas targeted for the mission were safe, according to the locals, and they had few issues or complaints.

The intention of the PSYOP team is to ask questions, gain knowledge of the issues that may trouble an area, and bring

what they learn back to be analyzed, so problems may be addressed. It’s a way to gain an understanding of the environment and the impact of the local government, he said.

Some of the issues that the locals are concerned with are already being addressed. In one case, a local gentleman complained to Bramlett about the government not helping remove garbage.

Bramlett responded with suggestions for the garbage issue, but mainly, he listened and took notes of the concerns.

The situation in Iraq is far from perfect, but through missions such as this, the hope is to discover and eliminate – one by one – the obstacles facing this fledgling democracy.

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

Logistics partnering within Maysan Province

By 1st Lt. Lawrence T. Sao
121st Brigade Support Battalion

COS GARRYOWEN – The 121st Brigade Support Battalion's partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) focuses not only on developing their ability to conduct combat operations, but also upon developing their administrative and logistics capabilities.

The "Iron Hammer" battalion's Echo Company Logistics Training and Advising Team [LTAT] is one such resource advising Iraqi Army units in Maysan Province.

Working with the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade since August 2009, the LTAT provides guidance when needed as the Iraqis control their own logistics system.

"Though our system is ours alone it has been very helpful to have ongoing conversations about the issues we face with our American counterparts, it is good to get a different perspective and sometimes fresh ideas," said Maj. Abdul Karim a supply officer for the 38th IA Bde.

In addition to the advice in running an effective supply system, the LTAT has

"Logistics is the stuff that if you don't have enough of, the war will not be won as soon."

- General Nathaniel Green,
Quartermaster, American
Revolutionary Army

been able to provide practical hands-on training in other areas, including maintenance classes and reading classes.

Sgt. 1st Class Gustavo Contreras, LTAT noncommissioned officer in charge and wheeled vehicle mechanic, coordinated the maintenance classes with the 38th IA Bde., and feels that being able to live side by side with their Iraqi counterparts is beneficial to the mission.

"Advising is an ongoing process, for me living here at (Joint Security Station) Maysan and having daily face-to-face meetings with key leaders is crucial to our efforts. All interactions in the Islamic cul-



Photo by 1st Lt. Lawrence Sao
Students review vehicle schematics during a self taught portion of the 5-day humvee maintenance course. The Iraqi Army mechanics are advised by Soldiers from 121st Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division deployed from Fort Bliss, Texas.

ture are based on trust so living here gives us an edge which we wouldn't have if we only came down for visits," said Contreras, an El Paso, Texas native.

The LTAT has expanded efforts to improve literacy among the Iraqi jundee (enlisted soldiers) so they can read technical manuals. The team implemented a program to combat the paltry 50% literacy rate among the jundee.

Samir "Slim" Zarrah, a civilian interpreter currently assigned to Echo Company and acting as the literacy program's main instructor said, "I've really enjoyed teaching this program because it gives the [jundee] hope, they come in and they work hard. This is because to them it's about securing their careers and self improvement."

As the Army's mission continues to change, LTAT personnel continue to make a difference. Iraqi logistics has already improved but the mission continues. Through mentoring and advising, the company allows its Iraqi counterparts the room they need to grow. The ISF faced their challenges with an increased sense of independence and they will continue to master the skills necessary to have a successful logistics program.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lawrence Sao

Sgt. 1st. Class Gustavo Contreras, a logistics advisor, from El Paso, Texas, inspects a new shop van, procured through the Iraqi Army supply system. His counterparts, Iraqi Army Capt. Abdi Shakir, Maintenance officer, and Maj. Abdul Karim, the units supply officer look on. Contreras is deployed with 121st BSB to advise and assist Iraqi Army logisticians in Maysan province.

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

Border team handing over tradition

By Spc. Samuel Soza

367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

AZ ZUBAYR – Since soccer is a popular game among Iraqi children, the inclusion of soccer balls in humanitarian missions is more than a gift, but a symbol of goodwill between U.S. forces and Iraqi residents.

On a typical patrol March 18, Soldiers from the 14th Brigade Border Transition Team carried out that subtle tradition, which in turn is being continued on by members of the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, 14th Brigade.

While the tradition remains the same, the faces are changing as Iraqi border soldiers bolster their presence within the community.

“The mission today was going out to a local school, having the 14th Brigade soldiers and officers issue out school supplies, books, book bags, [and] clothes, so the local people can see the good things the 14th Brigade is doing for the area,” said Staff Sgt. Altierre Bell, of Montgomery, Ala., 14th Bde. BTT communications chief.

Bell and his fellow BTT Soldiers played a logistical role gathering the supplies, but the soccer balls and backpacks were given to local students by Iraqi Border Enforcement soldiers.

“It allows the Iraqis to put a face on operations instead of the face being coalition forces,” said Capt. Joe Grubb, operations and planning officer with the 14th Bde. BTT.

“It’s important that the Iraqi populace feels comfortable with the Iraqi law enforcement, Department of Border Enforcement, Iraqi Police, and the Iraqi Army taking over all operations,” said the Roanoke, Va. native.

The mission had many contributors, who came together when an opportunity arose to distribute the surplus of supplies.

“Lt. Col. Bill Crouse, 1st Lt. Michael Porter, and 1st Sgt. Patrick Daley [of the 1314 Civil Affairs Company] had an abundance of HA items they needed to



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Iraqi boys at a local school in al-Zabera wait after accepting school supplies, soccer balls, backpacks, and other gifts from the Iraqi Dept. of Border Enforcement, 14th Brigade, March 18.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

An Iraqi boy at a local school in al-Zabera holds a soccer ball given to him by the Iraqi Dept. of Border Enforcement, 14th Brigade, March 18. The 14th Bde. personnel and U.S. forces from the 14th Bde. Border Transition Team organized the mission as part of an initiative to build a relationship of trust between Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi citizens.

pass out to the local populace so I saw it as a great opportunity to facilitate the 14th Brigade of the Department of Border Enforcement,” he said.

“It was a lot of moving pieces but a lot of people chipped in and helped out,” Grubb added.

Iraqi leaders with the 14th Bde. also played a part in planning the mission.

As well as being the face of the operation, the 14th Bde. determined the school where the donated supplies were to be distributed and coordinated the event with the headmaster.

The chosen school was located close to their headquarters and the Iraqi soldiers hope that by fostering a relationship of trust with the local community they ultimately develop sources for information to better perform their mission, according to Grubb.

The 14th Bde. patrols the border between Iraq and Kuwait attempting to stop the flow of illegal goods going either direction.

See **BORDER**, page 11

Students reach back to Georgia

Photos by Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs Office

COS KALSU - The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team sponsored a communications event between the School for Exceptional Students in Hillah, the School for Exceptional Students for Girls, and the Brookstone Academy in Columbus, Ga. March 16.

The event allowed students from the Iraqi schools and Brookstone Academy to talk to one another over the Internet.

Most of the Iraqi students were able to converse with their American counterparts in English and share information about their culture and likes.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit
www.facebook.com/3hbct3id



Lt. Col. Jonathan Boston, the information operations officer for the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, attempts to log on to the internet at the School for Exceptional Students in Hillah, March 16.



Soldiers remember lost comrade

By Sgt. Ben Hutto

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div PAO

COS KALSU – They gathered in the Contingency Operating Station Kalsu chapel with heavy hearts and somber silence. The tiny chapel was filled to capacity, but the overwhelming stillness that filled the small building signaled the somberness of the event.

The memorial ceremony of Spc. Mike Snelgrove Feb. 12 was a bitter-sweet event that highlighted the life of an exceptional Soldier and attempted to give answers to a group grasping for a way to deal with the loss of a treasured comrade.

The Soldiers assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, pride themselves on being prepared. Soldiers at all levels in the battalion trained for a year for their current deployment. In most respects, they are prepared for almost all the situations they have encountered in the Panther Battalion's operational environment.

Yet, nothing could have prepared them for the unexpected death of Spc. Mike Snelgrove, a combat medic in the company's mortar platoon. Snelgrove unexpectedly passed away just a single day into his mid-tour leave. The loss of the single fa-



Photo by 1st Lt. Jerone Smith

ther rocked his fellow Soldiers half a world away at COS Kalsu. With a picture of Spc. Mike Snelgrove lighting the screen behind him, Spc. James Jenner, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 69th AR, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, speaks at Snelgrove's memorial ceremony at COS Kalsu, Feb. 12. Friends and platoon mates of Snelgrove filled the small chapel at the base to pay their respects to Snelgrove.

ther rocked his fellow Soldiers half a world away at COS Kalsu.

"The loss of every Soldier is difficult and it hurts us, but some are particularly painful," said Lt. Col. Robert Ashe, the commander of 2nd Bn., 69th AR, "Some Soldiers have a personality or some qualities about them that seem to define the unit.

Their peers gravitate towards them and they exude a confidence and energy that touches everyone in the area they are around. Mike Snelgrove was that guy."

Sgt. Kenneth Jordan, Snelgrove's front-line supervisor, said he was an exceptional medic who could accomplish any task that was given to him.

"He was all-around one of our better medics," said Jordan. "He excelled at everything. He was great at P.T. [physical training], knew his job, and knew everything a Soldier needed to know. He was great."

Snelgrove, who enlisted in the military with a nursing degree, had an enthusiastic presence that lifted the spirits of everyone around him, according to his platoon mate, Spc. James Jenner.

"He always seemed to be happy," Jenner said. "You never saw him without a smile on his face. He was one of those guys that would pick you up if you were having a bad day."

Everyone who spoke at Snelgrove's me-



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Bn, 69th AR, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div, render honors during the memorial ceremony for Spc. Mike Snelgrove at COS Kalsu, Feb. 12. Snelgrove, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters Company, 2-69 AR, died unexpectedly back at home on the first day of his mid-tour leave.

See **COMRADE**, page 10

Cavalry Soldier becomes US citizen

By Spc. David Dyer
3rd Bn, 1st Cav Regt PAO

BAGHDAD – During a ceremony inside the Al-Fal Palace at Camp Victory in Baghdad, a young Soldier of Pakistani descent became the first person in his family to earn his U.S. citizenship, Feb. 15, 2010.

Pvt. Falak Mir Shafi, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, was one of 107 Soldiers who took the oath of citizenship that day.

Each Soldier received a coin, certificate, and flag from the United States Forces - Iraq deputy commanding general for operations, Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr.

Shafi was born in Lahore, Pakistan and is the son of Dr. Mir Waseem Gul and Dr. Nuzhat Naheeb Waseem.

When his family moved to the United States from Pakistan in 2002, Shafi came with them and made a new home in Youngstown, Ohio.

Shafi started his application for citizenship in August 2009.

“I really did not expect it to go this quick,” he explained. “It was a great ceremony.”

Shafi places high importance on not only gaining his U.S. citizenship, but in exercising the responsibilities that come with it.

“I want the right to vote. I want to do my part in helping to build our democracy,” he said.

COMRADE, from page 9

memorial ceremony mentioned what a committed father he was.

“My time with Mike taught me a lot about dedication to family and friends,” said Jordan. “Unselfishness - he planned his life around his daughter, Stella’s, future, while always providing for others before himself. Every decision he made was based around what was best for his daughter. You’ll never meet a more dedicated father than him.”

Ashe implored his Soldiers to use the example that Snelgrove set to move forward.

“For all the reasons stated and for all of the things Mike brought to the team, I need



Photo by Capt. Carlos Plata

Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., USF-I deputy commanding general for operations, congratulates Pvt. Falak Mir Shafi, A Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., after a ceremony at Camp Victory, Feb. 15, on earning his U.S. citizenship.

Still, obtaining his status as a U.S. citizen was only a waypoint on his path to realizing a much bigger dream, one of service.

“I wanted combat arms,” he said. “I chose cavalry because it is rich in history and tradition.”

“I want to become an officer and this is but one step toward reaching that goal, he added. “I want to do my part in the

big picture.”

With his citizenship secured, Shafi looks forward to the potential the future offers.

“Now I can move on and do what I want to do,” he said. “It has opened up a lot of options for me.”

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

those who worked around him to endeavor to be like him as we collectively try and fill that void,” he said. “We should pay extra attention to that part of Mike that was a positive influence and was a friend lifting those around him.”

Admittedly, this will be a tall task in the coming days for Snelgrove’s friends and associates, but many say they are ready to move forward with Snelgrove’s spirit in the back of their minds.

“I will always feel his loss, but I know he is looking over us with a huge smile,” Jordan said.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id



Photo by 1st Lt. Jerone Smith

Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Bn, 69th AR, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div, bow their heads in prayer during the memorial ceremony for Spc. Mike Snelgrove at COS Kalsu, Feb. 12. Snelgrove, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters Company, 2-69 AR, died unexpectedly back at home on the first day of his mid-tour leave.

TRANSFER, from page 1

“[Task Force Saber] is able to transfer important items that make an office function, as well as additional hard structures and areas built with specific purposes like motor pools,” said 1st Lt. E. Blaine Decker, supply officer, TF Saber, and a native of College Station, Texas.

The Iraqi Army leadership is updated regularly on the FEPP process. Staff Brig. Gen. Muhammad, commander, 41st IA Bde., has partnered with TF Saber over the past year. His unit will receive millions of dollars in equipment at COS Hunter.

“Working with the 41st IA staff, we know that the material will go towards good use,” said Decker.

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



Photo by 1st Lt. Juan Torres

U.S. Army M1070 Heavy Equipment Transporters on COS Hunter are staged to retrograde Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles prior to transitioning the base to Iraqi control. The 13th Cav. Regt. is deployed from Ft. Bliss, Texas to advise and assist in Maysan Province.



Photo by 1st Lt. Juan Torres

Spc. Vincent Taylor, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Sqdn, 13th Cav. Regt., a supply specialist from Virginia Beach, Va., directs equipment movement in preparation for an upcoming FEPP inventory and equipment retrograde from COS Hunter, Feb. 19. The 13th Cav. Regt. is deployed from Ft. Bliss, Texas to advise and assist in Maysan Province.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Iraqis from the Iraqi Dept. of Border Enforcement, 14th Brigade offer a backpack, water bottle, and school supplies to a girl at a local school in al-Zabera, March 18. The 14th Bde. personnel selected the school and U.S. forces from the 14th Bde. Border Transition Team gathered the supplies.

BORDER, from page 7

“They’re doing a great job,” Grubb said, “They’ve had several recent arrests in the area – people posing as hunters – and they’ve also stopped some people going from Iraq in to Kuwait to get funds for terrorist activities.”

“We’re pulling back and giving them more responsibility,” he said, “Its being seen that they can step up and take over that responsibility.”

Although very different from a tactical operation, the humanitarian mission was still a part of the transition between U.S. and Iraqi security forces and gave the Soldiers involved a sense of satisfaction.

“It makes me feel good to seeing how the kid’s faces light up,” said Bell.

Grubb agreed.

“It shows great progress,” he said, “It was a terrific feeling today. I got to see a lot of happy children – less fortunate children receiving items they may never have gotten before. It will definitely contribute to them getting a higher level of education.”

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Soldiers of the 14th Brigade Border Transition Team load school supplies on to a truck at the Iraqi Dept. of Border Enforcement, 14th Bde. headquarters, March 18. The supplies, as well as backpacks and soccer balls, were taken to a local school and given out by the 14th Bde. personnel unit as part of the transition effort to foster a relationship of trust between the Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi people.

Hometown Hero flies with Thunderbirds

By Jenn Rowell
Montgomery Advertiser

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - After high school, Michael Gross wanted to be an Air Force pilot. But his vision didn't meet the tough requirements for military pilots, so he became a teacher.

On Thursday, things came full circle as he climbed into a two-seater F-16 fighter jet behind pilot Lt. Col. Derek Routt. He was wearing a flight suit with a "Thunderbird VIP" patch on the chest.

Gross' name was painted on the side of the jet and for about 45 minutes, Gross saw the River Region from the sky.

Gross was selected as a Hometown Hero, a program run by the Air Force's Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds are an elite aerial demonstration team and are in town for the air show at Maxwell Air Force Base this weekend.

Heroes were nominated and had to meet physical requirements. The Thunderbirds made the final selection, and Gross was notified last week that he had been selected.

Gross teaches at Auburn Montgomery and spent 14 years as an elementary physical education teacher in Montgomery Public Schools. He has his doctorate in physical education.

Routt said after takeoff they made a G-turn, did barrel rolls, loops, flew upside down over the Alabama River and pulled 9.1Gs.

After the flight, Gross climbed out and hugged his wife. He said his stomach didn't bother him and he enjoyed the ride.

The Tallassee native also travels to Brazil each year, leading mission trips to an orphanage in Maringa. The couple has made the trip for the past 10 years and usually stay for 10 to 12 days, Marcilla Gross said. They leave May 21 for this year's trip.

She nominated her husband for the flight because of the work he's done in Brazil and because she thought he'd love the flight.

Gross said he never thinks of himself as a hero.

"That's a pretty heavy thing to carry,"



Photo by David Bundy

Michael Gross, left, an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science at Auburn Montgomery, listens to the instructions of pilot Lt. Col. Derek Routt as he prepares to fly with the Thunderbirds as a Hometown Hero.

he said.

Montgomery, Ala. is the hometown of Staff Sgt. Altierre Bell of the 14th Bde. BTT, featured on p. 7

El Paso Times named newspaper of year

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - The El Paso Times won Newspaper of the Year among newspapers with circulations of 30,000 to 124,999.

The Austin American-Statesman was named the Newspaper of the Year and the best online newspaper among the state's largest metropolitan dailies at the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors' annual meeting over the weekend.

Corpus Christi Caller-Times won best online paper among newspapers with circulations of 30,000 to 124,999. The Denton Record-Chronicle won best newspaper and the Galveston County Daily News won best online paper honors among newspapers of 10,000 to 29,999 in circulation.

In the small newspaper division, the

New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung won Newspaper of the Year and the Plainview Daily Herald won best online paper.

Winners in the Headliners Excellence in Journalism Awards were announced Sunday from finalists named in each of the four divisions.

They were: Star Reporter of the Year, Gabe Semenza of the Victoria Advocate; Star Photojournalist of the Year, Lisa Krantz of San Antonio Express-News; Star Designer of the Year, John Hancock of The Dallas Morning News; Star Breaking News Report of the Year, the staff of the Killeen Daily Herald for their coverage of the Fort Hood shootings; and Star Investigative Report of the Year, Kevin Krause and Ed Timms of The Dallas Morning News for their in-depth investigation of wrongdoing by constables.

The daily university and college Newspaper of the Year honors went to The Lariat at Baylor University. The best non-daily campus paper was The Flare of Kilgore College.

The Spanish language Newspaper of the Year honor went to Al Dia in Dallas.

Fred Hartman, vice chairman of Hartman Newspapers and a leading advocate for newspaper and First Amendment interests before the Texas Legislature, was given the Jack Douglas Award, the Texas APME's highest honor. The award is given each year to honor a person who has made significant contributions to the organization and to Texas journalism.

El Paso is the hometown of Sgt. 1st Class Gustavo Contreras, 121st BSB LTAT, featured on p. 6

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

March 29, Issue 9

Legal

(VOIP 858-4098)

Legal Assistance Office

Mon. – Fri.
0800-1800
Sat.
0800-1700

Trial Defense Services

Mon. – Sat.
0900-1130
1300-1700

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

This week at the USO

USO Idol

Wed, March 31
2100

Religious Services

(COB Basra Chapel)

Protestant

Sundays Contemporary Worship

1000

General Protestant

1130

Gospel Worship

1400

Liturgical Protestant

1700

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

0830

Saturday Vigil Mass

2000

Mon-Fri Mass

1130

Jewish

Friday
1800

Orthodox

Easter Service

April 6 Basra Chapel
1800

LDS

(COB Basra House of Prayer)

Sundays
1400 - 1500

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

Regular

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Wednesdays
2000

Gospel of John

(RIVRON MWR - Camp Alpha)
Wednesdays

1800

New Believers

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursdays
2000

Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

Mondays
1900

The Truth Project

(308th MWR tent)
Wednesdays
1900

AA

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursday
2000

Wild at Heart

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

Fridays
1900

Holy Joe's Coffee

Mon.-Sat.
0600 - 2200

Special Events This Week

Military Working Dog Appreciation 5K Run

3 April 2010
MWR Stage
Start Time 0600
Registration 0545

"Victory 8" Band

Cookout 2000 at Oasis Bazaar

1st ID Band

Every Saturday
1900 at Echoes

Times & programs

Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher classes

(Fire Station 1, across from D-Main)

Wednesday @ 1000

- All unit Fire Wardens are required to submit the USF-I Task Force Safe Fire Safety Checklist to the fire chief monthly. This form can be taken to either fire station or emailed to Mike White, mwhite@sally-portglobal.com. For an electronic copy, email Mike White.

- Fire extinguisher exchange and re-service program: Expelled or unserviceable extinguishers can be brought to either fire station for exchange or reservice. We also have a limited number of extinguishers to hand out.

March Madness on the COB

March 27 - April 20, every Wednesday and Saturday at the main gym courts

- 18 teams
- Battle to elimination
- Prizes provided by Harley Davidson and other businesses on COB Basra.

“Hopefully, we give the Soldiers something to do and a memorable event.”

- Master Sgt. Darwin Nealy senior medic, 1314th CA Co. and tournament organizer.

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week

Big Red One
Puzzle of the Week

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Hint for this week: Fits most people

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

*Solution for last week: Paradigms
Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell*

A look around USD-S



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza, 367th Public Affairs

Maj. Thomas Clair, of Junction City, Kan., 1st Inf. Div. engineer officer, and Maj. Joe Hatch, of Kingman, Ariz., 1st Inf. Div. assistant fire support coordinator, play a hand of Texas Hold'em during a poker tournament at Contingency Operating Base Basra, March 25.

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, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku.html