



DANGER FORWARD



April 12, 2010 | Issue 11

Project recycles Basra scrap

By Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA – Iraqi and U.S. officials welcomed Iraqi media to view a surprising sight April 1: an empty lot. Until recently, the lot in Basra, Iraq, had been the site of a huge pile of scrap metal as tall as surrounding buildings.

“The project here at Hamden Hotel involved the removal of 6,000 tons of scrap metal and took 20 days of around-the-clock work to accomplish,” said Jerry Mallory, acting team leader of the U.S. State Department’s Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team.

As part of a larger plan to remove solid waste from areas in and around Basra, this project is the result of a continuing partnership between U.S. forces, the PRT and the local government.

Mallory was on-hand to mark the occasion, along with Col. Steven L. Bullimore, commander, 17th Fires Brigade, and Basra Governor Sheltagh Aboud. The three men explained the details of the project and answered questions from local media on the property that was, until just recently, piled high with twisted metal.

“It was initiated in response to a request for assistance by the governor’s office to clean up this location,” said Mallory.

Working together, the 17th FiB, the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Stryker

Some 6,000 tons of metal scrap once littered the property near the Hamden Hotel in Basra. U.S. forces, the Basra PRT, and the Iraqi government partnered to clean up the site, which involved the removal of all of the scrap metal in only 20 days.

provincial government and the Basra PRT ironed-out the details.

Units with the 17th FiB performed site surveys, soil analysis for contaminants, and checked for the presence of unexploded ordinance.

“Both the Iraqis and my Soldiers did independent radiological tests before, during and after the removal of this, to ensure that there was nothing that would hurt any of the workers or the local population as they removed the scrap metal,” Bullimore

said. “They found nothing harmful, but all the precautions were taken.”

A local contractor was hired to remove the metal and truck it off to a processing plant where it was set aside to be recycled.

It took 250 truckloads to remove the 3,000 square meters of metal located near the hotel.

Yet, this is just one of many scrap re-

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Tuning-up mechanics p. 4



Kut independent media, p. 6



New BRO chaplain, p. 9

COMMAND

Danger Six sends

During deployment, a lack of concentration or lapse in judgment can easily result in a negative outcome. No matter what the situation, we must remain mindful of our physical environment and the potential strategic implications of our actions. Self-discipline is an operational enabler American servicemen and women must use in every situation to effectively protect against the pitfalls associated with deployment. It is, above all things, the best force protection we have.

Commanders, leaders, battle buddies and fellow Soldiers; it's everyone's job to demonstrate adherence to rules and regulations. The ability to behave correctly in any situation requires character, intelligence and a positive attitude. Do the right thing – whether someone is watching or not.

Self-discipline is a skill and a habit that starts in the mind and is developed through practice. Successful units breed leaders and Soldiers who are highly disciplined in how they think and operate.

Practicing self-discipline adds substance to your life and helps balance your ability to effectively maintain comprehensive fitness. Every time you apply restraint to solve a problem, you train yourself to be more mentally fit. The feeling you get from overcoming an obstacle makes you feel better emotionally, which positively affects your self esteem, and in turn, your overall fitness to “bounce back” to face the next challenge.

Physically, the removal of unnecessary thoughts from your mind will provide you with more energy to concentrate on finding inspired ways of reaching your goals – which will improve your health. Disciplining yourself to avoid harmful excesses will give you a sounder body, and when the body is in good health, a more resilient Soldier emerges. Discipline, therefore, is part of the physical part of your resilience.

I challenge everyone to practice at improving self discipline to help direct your actions, improve your self confidence and achieve your goals. Harry S. Truman once said, “In reading the lives of great men, I found that the first victory they won was over themselves; self-discipline with all of them came first.” Conquer your weaknesses and you can achieve anything. No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great.



DUTY FIRST!



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



Commanding General
Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

PAO

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



Vacation! (Are we there yet?)

Marc Greene

USD-S Safety and Occupational Health Manager



As some get ready to redeploy and others look forward to R&R, we need to keep the right mind set.

First, when leaving Iraq, you have to make certain your mind doesn't leave before you do. Don't get complacent in what you are called to do each day, daydreaming about what you are going to be doing. Going home in a cast is no one's idea of fun.

Before even going home, we also need to do a little pre-mission planning for when we get to wherever it is we want to be.

Driving safety is at the top of the list. Not many of us have had the opportunity to drive much faster than 40 mph since we've been here. Going 70 down the highway might be a bit uncomfortable at first. So, ease into it.

And before we even get in the car, let's do some PMCS on the old hotrod. Give it a good once-over so you don't end up on the side of the road waiting for the "QRF."

With that said, did you know 70 percent of service members involved in a vehicle or pedestrian accident since 2000 were broken down or stopping to help someone? Do all you can to avoid a breakdown, but be prepared if something goes wrong.

Another thing we must address under this topic is drinking. I know we have all heard it a dozen times or more, but drinking and driving don't mix. Even the ancient Egyptians – the inventors of beer – warned about the effects of alcohol: an Egyptian papyrus from 1500 B.C. warns that drinking can lead to falls and broken bones.

Recreational safety is also a place where lack of proper planning can ruin a vacation. Swimming, biking, skiing, hiking, camping... well, any of the "-ings" we plan on doing: even with these leisure activities we can – and should – use the five steps of Composite Risk Management to ensure we make it back to our families and friends – and our teammates back here holding the line.

We all need to let our hair down at times and relax, but when we do, let's make sure we don't get it burnt in the fire.

Now let's be safe out there.

There is also a lot of great Summer Safety information at: <https://safety.army.mil/portals/multimedia/CAMPAIGNSINITIATIVES/SummerSafety2010/tabid/1838/Default.aspx>

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>

And there is always great information and help for your safety problems at: <http://bronet/dss/safety/default.aspx>

Do you or a "friend" have a story about how safe habits saved you, or how a lack of them made for a close call? Send it to marc.greene@us.army.mil with your email and snail mail addresses. If your story is picked, we'll send you some cool safety incentives.

USD-S re-enlistments, March 26 - April 8

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

BSTB

SPC SHAWN M. SMIERCIAK
SPC JEREMY D. LYNN
SPC SHAWN M. SMIERCIAK
SPC QUYEN VY KHANH BUI
SGT CHAD M. LUTTRULL
SGT NIL CLARNO

2nd Bn, 69th AR

SPC SHAWN E. STOKES
SGT GENE A. PYLES
SPC RUSSELL D. SMITH
PFC JEFFERY J. FRENCHWIXON
SPC JONATHAN A. RIDGE
PFC ALEC J. ROBINSON
PFC TERRY L. BAKER

203rd BSB

SPC CANDY L. MCDONALD
SGT KRYSTAL A. BELL VEAL
SPC TIFFANI E. DALENIXON

1st Bn, 15th Inf Regt

PFC ALFONZO Q. WALLACE
SGT ANDREW R. CRAIG JR

1st Bn, 10th FAR

SPC CLEVELAND POPE III
PFC STEPHEN A. AUTON

412th ASB

SGT STEVEN CUMMINGS
PFC PATRICK HUTCHINSON
SPC SHELLY BIGBY
PFC JACQUELIN TORRES
SGT ASHLEY ANNA JOHNSON
SPC JUSTIN TODD COLLINS
SGT GLENN RICHARD II MEADOWS
SPC JIMMY SANTIAGO MARSHALL
SPC BENJAMIN JAMES DOSS

12th CAB

PFC NICKO DESHAWN WALKER
HHC
SPC DOMINIC PERRY BAKER

3rd Bn, 158th AVN

PFC HARITH ARIFF WALLI
SPC MICHAEL EDWARD LEE

2nd Bn, 159th AVN

SPC JASON DANIEL BARRETT

3rd Bn, 159th AVN

SPC ANTHONY MCKEE MARTIN
SGT BENJAMIN DANIEL VASQUEZ
SGT MICHAEL ELLIS POWERS

5th Bn, 159th AVN

SGT JOYCE MEIN JOHNSON

1st Bn, 214th AVN

SSG JAMES M. HOLT

2nd Bn, 159th ARB

SSG DEMIS A. VALDEZAPODACA

3rd Bn, 159th ARB

SPC JUÁN JESUS ANGELARIAS

5th Bn, 158th AVN

SPC RANDY CARL CLEMENTS
PFC YESENIA RIOS VILLARREAL

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

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

April 15 1970:

The 1st Infantry Division Colors returned to Fort Riley from Vietnam. Eleven members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor during operations in South East Asia.

This week in OIF history

April 15, 2003:

The invasion phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom concluded when Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, fell with little resistance to U.S. Marines, and, on Apr 15, the coalition declared the invasion effectively over.

This week in 3rd Infantry Division history

April 1951:

When the Communists launched their big, Spring Offensive, the 3rd Infantry Division held firm along the hottest sector and saved Seoul, Korea. The 3rd Infantry Division later led the drive north to the Iron Triangle in central Korea.

Humvee class tunes-up ISF



Photo by Sgt. Diana Del Valle
ISF personnel take notes, March 23 during the humvee 20-Level Maintenance course held by U.S. Army Soldiers at JSS Wessam. Students received instruction from Staff Sgt. Thomas L. Hastings, 14th Div. MITT.

By Sgt. Diana Del Valle
318th PSYOP Co

JSS WESSAM – Iraqi Security Forces troops are getting their hands dirty with a humvee 20-Level Maintenance course held at Joint Security Station Wessam, which began March 20.

The course covers humvee parts familiarization, troubleshooting and parts functions. The students train on everything from simple maintenance to taking apart an engine and transmission. U.S. Army Staff Sgts. Thomas L. Hastings and Brian McCommas, both of 14th Division Military Transition Team, taught the 14-day class to 23 joint Iraqi forces troops.

During the course, students took notes during class instruction with overhead slides, and then completed hands-on training.

The students were selected by their units for the course. Some were more ex-

perienced than others, and some had no experience at all. Therefore, the course is taught at a basic level, so that no student is left behind.

Hastings said the biggest challenge is the language barrier, because the mechanical parts have names that are difficult to translate. He said it is a matter of simplifying the terminologies for them so they can be translated to something close to what is needed.

“They do ask a lot of questions pertaining to what things do and why they do it,” Hastings said. “Some of the mechanics are really smart, and will help explain something to the class in a way that they will understand.”

Toward the end of the course, the instructors conducted daily reviews of all of the material that was covered up to that point to keep the information fresh in the students’ heads and prepare them for the final exam.

“The participation of this class has been really good compared to classes we have taught or supervised before,” said Hastings. “I think the combination of lecture and hands-on mixture we have provided has kept them better in-tune.”

The students only have to show up to a 14-day course, but this class’ attendance has been very good, and Hastings believes it has to do with the Iraqi “Field Factory” leadership, who are in charge of accountability for the joint class. They ensure that all the soldiers are there and on time, spot-check the soldiers themselves, and provide the U.S. Army instructors with humvees, tools and any other training aids they require.

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Photo by Sgt. Diana Del Valle

An Iraqi soldier from the 20-Level Maintenance course points out parts in a humvee during the hands-on portion of the class held at JSS Wessam, March 23.

Japanese ministry aids Babil Province

By Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div PAO

COS KALSU – The minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq signed a contract at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu March 24 to provide funding for two grassroots projects that will benefit widows in Babil Province.

The Seddah Women’s Center and Jurf As-Sakhr Humanitarian Society both received grants that will help Iraqi widows learn to maintain and run honey-producing farms.

“The two projects we signed today will provide equipment and training for 100 women, but 40 times that number will ultimately benefit in the long run,” Katsuhiko Takahashi, minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq, said through an interpreter. “Japan and the United States jointly contributed to these projects and they will aid in the development of Babil Province.”

According to Takahashi, the Japanese government has funded

85 similar projects since 2003 and will continue to do so.

“The Japanese Embassy has been very active in supporting the reconstruction of Iraq,” said Capt. Bryce Wunder, a member of the 1411 Civil Affairs Company. “They have offered a great source of funding for non-governmental organizations, called ‘grassroots’ human security project grants.”

The funded projects tap into an abundant natural resource in the province: honey bees.

“The honey industry in Iraq is a lucrative one,” Wunder said. “The excellent taste and quality is due to its high level of cedar and eucalyptus.

This makes for a solid opportunity for the local people.

See **EMBASSY**, page 11



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Katsuhiko Takahashi, minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq, is greeted by an Iraqi tribal leader at COS Kalsu March 24. Takahashi was at COS Kalsu to sign an agreement that will provide Japanese funding to help train and equip over 100 widows as beekeepers.



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Katsuhiko Takahashi, the minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq, and Kadim Redha Hussein, the financial director of the Seddah Women’s Center, sign contracts at COS Kalsu March 24. Japan helped the center by giving financial assistance to programs.



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Katsuhiko Takahashi, minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq (left), and Jabbar Muhammed Al Naif, president of the Jurf As Sakhr Humanitarian Society, shake hands following a contract signing at COS Kalsu March 24. The government of Japan helped the society by providing financial assistance to a project that will help train Iraqi widows as beekeepers.

Center prepares Wasit media

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

AL-KUT – Freedom of speech and of the press are characteristics of liberty that many countries have fought to protect. A vigorous press is essential to an educated, informed populace, and in order to work properly, they must be free from control by the state.

The Wasit Independent Media Center, in Kut, is a non-governmental organization working toward a competent media able to perform independent of any political and business influence or interference.

Located in Wasit Province, the WIMC involves representatives of media outlets throughout the province, including broadcasters, newspapers and magazine groups. Most media in the province is affiliated with the group.

“Their function is to help support and to build upon the independent media that already exists,” said Steve Smith, Public Diplomacy Officer with the U.S. State Department’s Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team.

“It gives the media a forum where they can come together and talk about anything, giving them a venue to gather,” said the Winchester, Va. native.

The Wasit PRT, which helps Iraq build civil capacity by working with local government and business leaders on a wide variety of projects, visited the WIMC March 19 at their new headquarters near the Kut Tourism Hotel.

“We are good friends with the director, Jumaa Sayeed. His background is in print journalism,” said Smith.

Sayeed was elected by the press corps of Wasit to serve as the director of the WIMC.

A top priority of the PRT is helping the WIMC with media training classes for



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
The front sign of the WIMC in Kut, a non-governmental organization working toward an Iraqi media able to perform competently and independently of political and business influence

reporters and journalists within the province.

Journalists from Wasit did similar training in the town of Sulamaniya in 2009. Those classes offered resources on how to work responsibly and included a press conference and visits to local media.

The center also arranged for politicians and civil servants from Kut to travel to Irbil for workshops on the relationship between politicians and the press.

The focus for classes this time around will be reporting skills.

“Some of the skill sets are rudimentary, but, for the most part, they have the basics on up,” said Smith of the area’s journalists.

A recent interview by a local TV station highlights the areas that need worked on. The broadcaster set the tripod and camera up correctly and did everything right, but, when it was time to interview the subject, the reporter just held the microphone forward and did not ask any questions.

“The key is just finding training that is appropriate,” Smith said.

The PRT suggested the possibility of working with the local university, with the

WIMC providing the equipment and instructors and the university providing the space.

In addition to helping improve the quality of reporting in Wasit, the WIMC wants to improve the professionalism of the industry.

Because of the financial situation of many companies in Iraq, politicians and businesses can often pay the press to get a favorable story, thus compromising the integrity of all reporting.

The WIMC helps counter this by giving the press a professional and independent place to gather and organize.

The PRT is also helping to price and find a print house in order to maintain that independence.

As of now, newspapers and magazines must go to Baghdad in order to get printing done. If facilities were available locally, it would benefit all media.

“It would allow them to stay relevant... and is the key to the financial independence of the WIMC,” said Smith.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
Jumaa Sayeed, director, WIMC and Steve Smith, public diplomacy officer with the Wasit PRT, meet in the new headquarters of the WIMC, in Kut, March 19.



A small canal and approximately 250 meters are all that separate an Iraqi border fort from a similar Iranian one at the Shalamcha Port of Entry in Basra Province, where U.S. visited Iraqi counterparts, April 1.

US troops advise at Iranian border

Photos by
Spc. Maurice Galloway
17th FiB PAO

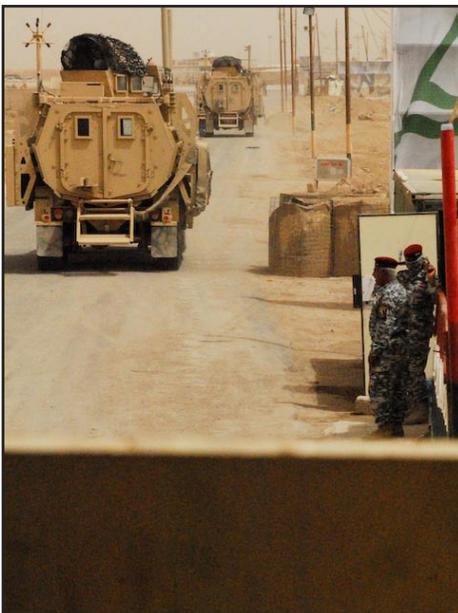
For more from 17th FiB,
visit <http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>



An Iraqi waves to a friend as Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, assist with security at the Shalamcha Port of Entry at the Iraq-Iran border, April 1.



U.S. troops travel in Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles to an Iraqi border fort near the Shalamcha Port of Entry in Basra Province to evaluate Iraqi border police tactics, April 1.



U.S. troops travel to the Shalamcha Port of Entry in Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to evaluate Iraqi border police tactics, techniques and procedures, April 1.



Iraqi border police check bags at the Shalamcha Port of Entry while Spc. Asher Hisaiah, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, provides security, April 1.

Fit to Fight

Danger Forward

April 12, Issue 11

Helping deployed Soldiers maintain bonds

By Sgt. Ben Hutto

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div PAO

COS KALSU – The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division is helping married Soldiers improve their relationships with their spouses during their current mission in Iraq.

The 3rd HBCT mental health assessment, given three months into the brigade's current deployment, determined that marital stress was a main concern of the brigade's Soldiers.

"Strong Bonds marriage retreats, Family Life [program], and counselors are all examples of the support systems available to our married Soldiers to help them and their spouses during and after our deployment," said Col. Pete Jones, the com-

mander of the 3rd HBCT. "We are near the mid-point of this deployment and our marriage retreats were designed to introduce techniques that maintain and build relationships."

In addition to counseling and retreats, the 3rd HBCT has sponsored the "Fireproof Your Marriage" peer study, a religious study based on the Christian film, and held events via the Internet to help provide Soldiers more options to improve their marriage and stay connected with their spouses.

"A stable home life allows our Soldiers to focus on their mission and not be looking over their shoulder on what is going on back home," said Jones. "A Soldier with an unstable marriage will not have his mind on the mission. I think our leaders understand that a Soldier with a strong home life is a combat multiplier for the brigade."

Jones acknowledged that his Soldiers do have stressors that can affect their marriage. Being away from their families for a year, working long hours and having to be away when problems happen back home can be extremely difficult on a relationship.

"Being in the Army can pose difficulties for a marriage, but that doesn't mean those challenges are insurmountable," said Chaplain (Capt.) Bruce Duty, with the Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "It just means spouses need to invest more time and effort into 'battle proofing' their relationships."

Duty explained that people can have difficulty working on their marriages when they are separated by time and distance, but it is possible.

"It is more difficult when one half of the relationship is back home," Duty said. "It takes two individuals to make a marriage work; however, it does require an individual effort on each partner's part."

"I think that Soldiers and their spouses can use this time for personal reflection and start building good habits that can continue when they are reunited," he said.

Duty and Capt. Gina Wright, the 3rd



Photo by Jan Bus

The 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., has made its Soldiers relationships with their spouses a top priority during its current deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. To help ease the stress associated with a year-long deployment, the brigade's chaplains and mental health providers offer a variety of workshops, marriage retreats and Internet communications events for the couples.

HBCT's social worker, sponsored the six-week "Fireproof Your Marriage" peer study. It focused on strengthening a couple's marriage by using a Christian view as a base.

Wright recognized the group may not be for every Soldier, but said that she thinks it could be used as a springboard for more events. She frequently deals with Soldiers who have concerns about their marriage and hopes more of them will take advantage of services the brigade offers.

"I see it every day," she said. "If we, as a brigade, don't put out opportunities for couples to get help, we are not making a difference. I'm hoping that events like the 'Fireproof Your Marriage' series will snowball into more opportunities and programs for married couples to improve their marriages."

While offering more programs and services to couples is a good start, Jones pointed out that they go to waste if Soldiers and their spouses don't use them.

See **MARRIAGE**, page 9



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Chaplain (Capt.) Bruce Duty, BSTB, 3rd HBCT, reads a love poem to his wife back home in Fort Benning, Ga., during an Internet communications event held at COS Kalsu. The 3rd HBCT has held several events and relationship-building classes to help its deployed Soldiers and their spouses strengthen their marriages.

Big Red One's new division chaplain

By Sgt. Francis Horton
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – In a time-honored tradition, the 1st Infantry Division held a changing of the stole ceremony April 5 to welcome in the new division chaplain at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Mallard, division chaplain for the 1st Inf. Div., donned the stole, which bears the names of the head chaplains for the division since the Balkans.

The changing of the stole ceremony is based on a story from the Old Testament book of Second Kings. In the story, the prophet Elijah took up the mantle which fell from the prophet Elisha as he was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire. This mantle identified him as the new prophetic voice and spiritual leader of Israel.

Mallard is now in charge of all of the chaplains and chaplain's assistants in United States Division-South, he said. And now that he is in charge, he has a

plan.

Using a three-step process of planning, training and executing, Mallard is work-



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton
Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander, 1st Inf. Div., places the chaplain's stole around Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Mallard at Contingency Operating Base Basra, April 5.

ing with all of the religious support teams throughout USD-S.

"We have to synchronize religious support with the units," Mallard said.

This effort will help chaplains throughout USD-S work around the needs of the Soldiers they serve.

One example Mallard gave was the observance of the Jewish holiday of Passover, which celebrates the liberation of the Jews from Egypt. Through coordination, a rabbi chaplain and Soldiers who wanted to participate in the event were flown to COB Adder.

Before coming to COB Basra, Mallard was stationed at the US Army Chaplains Center and School in Ft. Jackson, S.C. He received a phone call Christmas Eve asking if he would take over the care of the souls of the 1st Inf. Div., he said.

"I am deeply grateful to deserve this division," he said. "I felt joy tinged with a profound sense of humility."

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"We can provide these resources, but it is ultimately up to the families to use them and communicate their needs to make it successful," he said. "Like any Army pro-



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto
Chaplain (Capt.) Bruce Duty, BSTB, 3rd HBCT, talks with spouses back home during an Internet communications event held at COS Kalsu recently.

gram, funds are set aside for it to be used. If they are not used, those same funds may not be there the next time around."

During his 22 years in the Army, Sgt. 1st Class Danny Waldrip, an operations noncommissioned officer in the 3rd HBCT, has been through a divorce. He encourages Soldiers to use the programs available to help their marriages.

"No matter how strong your marriage is, it can never be too strong," he said. "I would encourage any Soldier to take advantage of the opportunities the Army has provided us. Marriage counselors and seminars out in the real world cost money. The fact that we, as Soldiers, have free access to them is a really good thing."

Waldrip encourages Soldiers to go into marriage with a serious mind-set.

"When you get married, you need to go into it with the mentality that it will not fail," he said. "The Soldier mentality you have about your military career needs to be infused in your marriage or it will not work...The words 'them' and 'they' cause divisions in a marriage. When you get

married there should be no more 'you' and 'me.' It should be about 'we' and 'us.'"

Waldrip knows first-hand how hard the time requirements of being Soldier can be on a marriage.

"An old football saying says that if you are the first one to practice and the last one to leave, you will be a good football player," he said. "With our job as Soldiers, we will always be the first one in the door and the last to leave. That isn't easy on a marriage. To be honest, cross-country truck drivers spend more time at home than we do. That being said, your marriage should never be something that takes a back seat to other things."

Duty agrees with Waldrip's assessment.

"In the Army, you get awards and accolades for doing well," said Duty. "In a marriage, doing well is expected. You won't get an award, but you will have the satisfaction of being in a good marriage and that should mean significantly more."

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

TROOPS IN FOCUS

Danger Forward

April 12, Issue 11

Drawing down responsibly: logistically speaking

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
17th FiB PAO

COB BASRA – U.S. forces have already begun redeploying to their home bases in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement with the Iraqi government, which states that U.S. forces will draw down to 50,000 troops in the country by Sept. 1.

“Units are going to have to conduct operations differently – and with less – as U.S. forces draw down,” said Maj. Kevin Jackson, operations officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Fires Brigade.

The drawdown will ultimately require equipment to be turned in for maintenance and reallocation, as brigades designated to advise and assist the ISF will have significantly less personnel than those they replace.

One of these units, the 17th Fires Brigade, based out of Fort Lewis, Wash., deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom last July and has maintained a large footprint in Basra Province with the help of Military Transition Teams and other smaller units attached to the brigade.

These smaller units rely on the larger brigade to support them logistically as they conduct their operations around Basra. The brigade also has a responsibility to track all of the excess equipment the units have as they draw closer to the September deadline.

“Included in the responsible drawdown of forces is the accelerated drawdown of equipment which requires all units to turn in their excess equipment such as computers, radios and vehicles,” said Chief Warrant Officer Dylan Caiga, property book officer for HHB, 17th FiB.

Over the past seven years, U.S. forces have established bases across the country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These bases are home to billions of dollars of equipment, which now need to be returned to the United States, or reallocated elsewhere.



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
Spc. Jeffrey Vucich, 206th Military Police Company, attached to 17th FiB, closes the case on another piece of equipment at COB Basra, March 26. The equipment has to be inventoried before he and his unit can return home to Lathem, N.Y.

“General equipment is pulled out of these bases that are being returned to the Iraqi Army, but basic life support equipment such as showers, tents, and furniture will remain for the Iraqi counterpart that fills the vacancy,” said Capt. Jason Supnet, brigade resource manager, HHB, 17th FiB.

The process of reallocating equipment is a complex one, and requires properly assessing any future needs.

“We have to set these gaining units up for success by properly restructuring everything to fit a smaller scale,” Jackson said.

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



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
Equipment lined up and ready to be inventoried at COB Basra, March 26.



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
Sgt. James Mack (left) and Staff Sgt. Charles Milsap (right), both 1314th Civil Affairs Company, conduct a final inspection of radio and camera equipment at COB Basra, March 26, before turning them in as part of the responsible drawdown of not only forces, but also equipment.

SCRAP, from page 1

moval projects.

“We’ve done 18 to date, throughout the city and six greater locations. This, by far, was the largest one,” Bullimore said.

The city of Basra has been at the center of conflicts since the early 1980s, and the scrap metal at this and other locations has accumulated over many years from different sources.

“Cleanup of scrap metal helps rid the citizens of Basra of the physical reminders of an unfortunate past.” Bullimore said. “This cleanup is about a new beginning and about getting Basra back on its feet following decades of war.”

“It is proof that we see our partnership as essential to Basra reaching its goals for the future. We are helping our Iraqi partners to a bright, prosperous future, one of peace,” he added.

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



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
Col. Steven L. Bullimore, commander, 17th FiB, Jerry Mallory, acting team leader of the Basra PRT, and Basra Governor Sheltagh Aboud, take questions from media April 1 at the Hamden Hotel, the site of a major scrap removal project in Basra, Iraq.

EMBASSY, from page 5

“Honey offers beekeepers a solid income each year,” Wunder said. “We have established programs which offer war widows the ability to become beekeepers.”

The commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Col. Pete Jones, thanked Takahashi and the Japanese government for their support to the people of Iraq.

“I truly believe these grants will make a great impact on the economy and further advance women’s initiatives in this area,” he said.

Established in 2008, the Seddah Women’s Center provides sewing jobs, training and humanitarian aid. It benefits the lives of 89,000 people, including 3,000 widows and 4,000 orphans.

The Jurf As-Sakhr Humanitarian Soci-

ety was established in 2003 and helps approximately 750 widows and 317 orphans. The Society teaches literacy, sewing, and human rights courses to over 50,000 people.

“Japan intends to continue to provide assistance as it pertains to the life of the people in Iraq,” said Takahashi.

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



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto
Katsuhiko Takahashi, minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq, speaks to female Iraqi leaders at COS Kalsu March 24. Takahashi was at COS Kalsu to sign an agreement that will provide Japanese funding to help train and equip over 100 widows as beekeepers.



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto
Katsuhiko Takahashi, minister of the Japanese Embassy in Iraq, speaks to Iraqi leaders, members of the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and the Babil PRT at COS Kalsu March 24.

Multicare unveils new Tacoma ER

By JOHN GILLIE

Tacoma News Tribune

TACOMA, Wash. - If Hollywood were looking for a set for a gritty urban medical drama, they would need look no further than MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital's emergency department.

Tucked in the underbelly of the sprawling medical center, the accommodations in this emergency department are a tribute to the adaptability of the doctors, nurses and technicians who work there every day and night.

Tacoma General and its adjacent Mary Bridge Children's Hospital are designed to handle a maximum of 32,000 patients a year. Last year, the two emergency departments treated 74,000.

"The waiting room has 62 chairs. On our busy nights, it can be standing-room-only," said Charlie Aleshire, clinical director of the Mary Bridge emergency department.

Every space in the 1992-vintage emergency departments has been drafted into patient-care use. A staff lounge has been converted to a four-patient room. Beds, patients and medical equipment share the hallways, and a single, one-stool restroom serves all 50 staff members – male and female.

All that make-do accommodation is about to change next week, when the two hospitals move their emergency operations into a new 70,000-square-foot, two-story, \$72 million facility. It will open for patient use on Thursday.

The public can get a behind-the-scenes glance at the new facility at South Fifth Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way at a grand opening today from noon to 4 p.m.

If the present emergency facility is television's County General Hospital, the new emergency room is the Ritz-Carlton.

At the old facility, ambulances mingled with patients' cars. At the new one, ambulances unload at a back entrance. Patient cars arrive beneath a second-floor portico beside a landscaped garden



Photo by Janet Jensen

Students from St. Nicholas School in Gig Harbor, from left, John Thomas Schmidt, Meredith Topla, Abby Olson and Catherine Parra, wait to be treated for their fictitious injuries this month on a trial run at the new Tacoma General Emergency Department.

where parking attendants spirit the vehicles to a nearby garage.

The two-story lobby itself is an oasis of comfortable furniture, art and calming colors.

The functional space is arranged into two parallel corridors on both the second and third floors. On the east corridor are Mary Bridge facilities. On the west are TG's.

Between those two wide corridors are nursing stations, doctors' work spaces, administrative work areas, common storage areas and private counseling rooms. The corridors are high-ceilinged and brightly lit in contrast to the dim and cramped quarters in the current emergency departments.

Washington is the home state of 17th Fires Brigade, based out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Manhattan fire chief resigns, rehired

By Scott Miller

KMAN Radio

MANHATTAN, Kan. - City of Manhattan Fire Chief Jerry Snyder is resigning from his position today (Friday) and will be rehired to serve in the same capacity May 3.

City Manager Ron R. Fehr says Chief Snyder has reached a maximum level of years of service for his Kansas Police &

Fire (KP&F) retirement plan, and that he has accepted Chief Snyder's resignation, reemployment proposal in order for him to draw a portion of his retirement benefits.

This action will result in savings to the city and will not require further contribution payments from the city to the KP&F retirement plan for Snyder.

Fehr stated in a press release, "Chief Snyder has served the City of Manhattan and the Manhattan Fire Department in

a very high capacity as Fire Chief since 2005. This was an opportunity to retain a quality employee, which will benefit the city and Jerry Snyder."

During Chief Snyder's absence, deputy fire chief Don Francis will serve as Interim Director of Fire Services. Snyder joined the Manhattan Fire Department in January 1977 as a firefighter.

The 1st Infantry Division is based out of Fort Riley, Kan.

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

April 12, Issue 11

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

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

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 Coming up

1st ID Band

Every Saturday
1900 at Echoes

Holocaust Day of Remembrance

Observance
(COB Basra town hall)
April 14
1900

Desert Heat

Poetry Lounge

(USO Theater)
April 17
2000

8K Holocaust

Remembrance Run

April 17

Basketball

Tournament

(USO Courts)
April 15
1700-2200
April 18
1400-1900

Hooters Tour

(MWR Stage)
Tue, April 20
1900
- Featuring band Brokendon Cadillac and comedian Amy Lauer

COB Basra

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Poster/Essay Contest and Pledge Campaign

Essay and poster submission April 14
Pledge Submissions can be sent throughout month of April
POC: MSG Miskevich
thomas.miskevich@iraq.centcom.mil
VOIP 858-4450

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@sallyport-global.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 re-service. We also have a limited number of extinguishers to hand out.

Record a Mother's Day Message

The Hallmark Channel
invites troops to send
minute-or-less messages
for Mother's Day,
introducing their mom
to the world

The Fighting First
DFAC
13 April
1200 to 1300

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week

π CC

Hint for this week: Something fishy...

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

Solution for last week: Ohm, Ohm on the Range!
Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

A look around USD-S



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway, 17th FIBs
As the night grows dark, Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, evaluate where a mosque is being built during a joint patrol with the Iraqi Army in Basra Province, March 31.

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

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_005.html