



# DANGER FORWARD



May 10, 2010 | Issue 15

## Highlanders transfer partnerships

By Sgt. Neil W. McCabe  
4th BCT, 1st Armd Div PAO (4BCT-1AD)

**COB ADDER** – The Army brigade chosen as the “proof of concept” for the advise and assist mission in Iraq marked the end of its deployment May 2, with a ceremony commemorating the transfer of partnership to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

In his remarks at the event, Maj. Gen. K. Vincent Brooks, the commanding general for United States Division-South and the 1st Infantry Division, thanked the Iraqis for their attendance and their support of the transition from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, “Highlanders”, commanded by Col. Peter A. Newell, to the 3rd BCT, “Iron Brigade,” commanded by Col. James E. Rainey.

The advise and assist mission is at the core of the U.S. Army’s building of civil and military capacity in Iraq, involving the training and enabling of Iraqi Security Forces and support of Provincial Reconstruction Teams. The 4th BCT operated in the three southern Iraq provinces of Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan beginning June 4, 2009. The deployment included the June 30 enactment of the new security agreement between the U.S. and Iraq and the March 7 national elections.

“U.S. Forces have worked months to



Photo by Spc. Robert L. Sheets  
Col. Peter A. Newell, (right), commander of 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., and brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip D. Pandey roll up their brigade colors before “casing” them at a May 2 ceremony at COB Adder, marking the end of their deployment to southern Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Robert L. Sheets  
Col. James E. Rainey, (right), commander of 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Miles S. Wilson unfurl their brigade colors during the May 2 ceremony at COB Adder that marked the beginning of their deployment to southern Iraq.

ensure that the transition among these units will preserve all of the hard work done by the departing unit and all the knowledge and innovation, as well as keeping all important relationships intact,” Brooks said.

Progress is made step-by-step, and Brooks said he was very pleased with the tremendous steps that have been taken by the Highlanders.

Brooks also said he was impressed with how the Iron Brigade Soldiers joined the ongoing march of progress in Iraq in stride with U.S. forces remaining in Iraq, the Army’s Iraqi partners, the U.S. State Department-led PRTs for Muthanna and Maysan, and the Italian Foreign Service-

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MPs share police skills p. 4



Iraqi air assault training, p. 5



Securing the shoreline, p. 10

## Danger Six sends

As I visit with Soldiers deployed throughout the USD-South area and units of the 1st Infantry Division deployed elsewhere in Iraq I often encounter a sense that some of the newer Soldiers, or some of the first-time deployers, feel that they “missed out” on the kind of violent combat action that was experienced in cycles over the last 7 years in Iraq. Similarly, many of the veterans of previous deployments who are now here in Iraq often highlight how “this is nothing compared to the way it was” during their previous deployment or deployments. In this edition of Danger 6 Sends I want to put their views into perspective and to share with all of you the kinds of things I shared with them.

First, you should be proud of your service as it is. You are part of a very, very small percentage of our fellow citizens who has chosen to serve in the uniform of our Nation. An even smaller number has been deployed abroad in a high-stakes environment like Iraq. Thank you for serving and for being here right now.

Second, those who have been here before can definitely see the difference in the environment. The significantly lower violence is not the only difference from the “bad old days.” The Iraqi Security Forces are reliable security partners who greatly outnumber us. The government has taken responsibility for meeting the needs of the population. The Iraqis have had free and fair democratic elections to choose their provincial and national leadership. There is a sense of National pride and great potential.

No veteran wants to return to a scene from previously experienced combat and find that place the same way or worse. That is demoralizing. Our veterans here today, instead, have the great and rare honor of seeing success for their previous work. Enjoy it. Few veterans have had that experience. And first-timers -- learn what it looks like to win. You will need to pass this on to another generation of warriors who will find themselves in the deadly struggle again at some point in our future.

Look -- any warrior worth his or her salt wants to know if they are up to the ultimate test of a warrior. I completely understand. But take my word on this one -- your test will come at great cost to others around you. Your test will be measured in how you responded to the threat that emerged in your field of fire, but even more it will be measured by how you responded to saying goodbye to dear friends -- brothers and sisters, or in how you dealt with guilt or injury or haunting memories. Be ready every day. Build your resilience in all five pillars of strength, right now. Be the total professional who has been trained and prepared, and who now operates every day in an uncertain and still deadly environment. Be ready for the trouble to come; it will. You will not have to go and find it.

Iraq is the way it is today because of you and those like you who came before. The stability we are starting to see came through perseverance and determination by Americans like you who did the duty placed before them and who did not quit when they did not like the duty. It happened through the setting of a professional example as Americans exposed themselves to extreme violence and an ever-present threat of death -- for the sake of Iraq’s citizens and the generations to come. It happened in exchange for many memorials to fallen warriors, many notifications to family members, many wounds sustained. Do not take that progress for granted. Do not let it slip away. Do not feel you have missed anything.

I am immensely proud to serve with each of you, right here, right now. Our work is not complete and our exposure to violence and danger is not over. I know that I can count on you to do your current duty to the utmost.

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT. NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. 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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### Contributing Units

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



# A big safety shout-out and welcome

By Gus Walker

USD-S Safety and Occupational Health Manager  
 "Saving Lives"



The Big Red One Safety Office would like send a shout-out to Mr. Wert and the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division for an outstanding safety year, Godspeed. We would also like to welcome Mr. Ortiz-Sierra and 3rd BCT, 4th Infantry Division to our team.

I would like to take this opportunity to set the tone for an outstanding safety year.

The United States Division-South command is safety-focused on all missions and activities conducted in our AO. Establishing immediate visibility on unsafe acts is of high importance because we want to ensure that trends are not established and accidents are driven down.

We ask that all leaders strive to build a safety culture that empowers Soldiers to do the right thing.

The American public expects nothing but our best, and the needless loss of Soldiers is unacceptable. That's why we must always fight to ensure that complacency and indiscipline don't creep into our day-to-day activities.

Safety is about looking to your left and right in the foxhole, and ensuring we find ways to protect each other from accidents. Be vigilant, and take immediate action whenever you see safety violations. Ensure that control measures are established, followed, and protect our Soldiers from incurring injuries.

Safety is everyone's business, and we must maintain situational awareness at all times. Welcome aboard!

Duty First – Safety Always

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

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

**1st Bn, 214th AVN**  
 SGT DANGELO PETICE  
 BURGIN  
 SPC MANUEL JR GUTIER-  
 REZ

**HHC BDE**  
 SPC LOUIS DANIEL DEPAN

**3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div**  
**203rd BSB**  
 SGT ISRAEL ARREDONDO

**3rd Bn, 158th AVN**  
 SPC DANIEL JOSEPH  
 NEELEY

**1st Bn, 15th Inf Regt**  
 SPC NICHOLAS V. TEED  
 SGT JAMES P. CONNER  
 SSG JON C. MCBRIDE JR

**2nd Bn, 159th ARB**  
 SGT TIMOTHY ROBERT  
 AHLERS

**3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav Regt**  
 SPC MARIO ANGUIANO

**2nd Bn, 69th AR**  
 SGT MICHAEL B. GRIFFIN

**3rd Bn, 159th ARB**  
 SGT CHRISTOPHER  
 RUBOTHIN

**1st Inf Div**  
**HSC**  
 SPC CUTIS T. BORGE  
 SPC WAYNE E. ABBS JR  
 SPC NICHOLAS A. TILLMAN  
**SIGNAL CO**  
 SPC TONY A. WATSON JR  
**BAND**  
 SGT KENNETH T. CANTRILL  
 JR  
 SPC JOHN F. WOODWARD  
**SECURITY CO**  
 SGT BRANDON M. MILLER

**5th Bn, 158th AVN**  
 SGT PATRICK KEENAN  
 GORE  
 SPC JESSE HUTCHISON  
 WRIGHT  
 SGT ROBERT DOUGLAS  
 BREW  
 SPC DEREK WILLIAM  
 COHICK  
 SGT CHARLES BRANDON  
 STROUSE  
 SGT JASON HISAO ABE

**3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div**  
**64th BSB**  
**E CO**  
 SPC MOSLEY, SHENIKA  
**G CO**  
 SSG HOWE, BRYAN KEITH  
 JR.

**412th ASB**  
 SGT CHRISTOPHER ALLEN  
 JR TUCKER

**3rd Bn, 29th FAR**  
**HHB**  
 SPC ASHFORD, COURTNEY

HHB, 3-29 FA  
 SPC SPIVEY, SAMUEL  
 HHB, 3-29 FA, 3BCT

# This week in Army history

## *This week in Big Red One history*

May 15, 1942: The 1st Division was re-designated 1st Infantry Division at Camp Blanding, Fla.

## *This week in OIF history*

May 9, 2007: Vice President Dick Cheney began his tour of the Middle East with a previously unannounced visit to Baghdad, his second since the invasion. In 12 hours of meetings with Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki and other leaders, he urged the Iraqis to act decisively on issues that had divided Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds, and he told them that political progress in Baghdad was essential if American military support was to be sustained in the face of strong Congressional and popular opposition in the U.S.

## *This week in 4th Inf Div history*

May 1967: While deployed to Vietnam, 3rd Brigade, including the division's armor battalion, took part in Operation Junction City in War Zone C, after being sent to Tay Ninh Province northwest of Saigon.

## NY Guardsmen share police skills

Spc. Maurice Galloway

17th FiB PAO

**BASRA** – After receiving a week of intense training at the Basra Operations Center from the 206th Military Police Company, members of the Iraqi Emergency Response Battalion are better-prepared to handle any large-scale emergency situations.

Soldiers of 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 206th MP Co., attached to the 17th Fires Brigade, conducted a training session designed to increase tactical proficiency in the ERB's felony arrest procedures, search and seize raids, and weapons accuracy.

"After discussing different strategies for handling large-scale emergencies with the Iraqis, we found that they had a good grasp of response procedures," said Steve Sperber, a U.S. State Department contractor and international police advisor.

The training consisted of classroom scenarios, practical exercises and a tactical pistol course.

"We all had different vantage points of each scenario which allowed us to thoroughly evaluate their techniques," said Cpl. Brian Walker, 206th MP Co., emergency responder and native of Loveland,

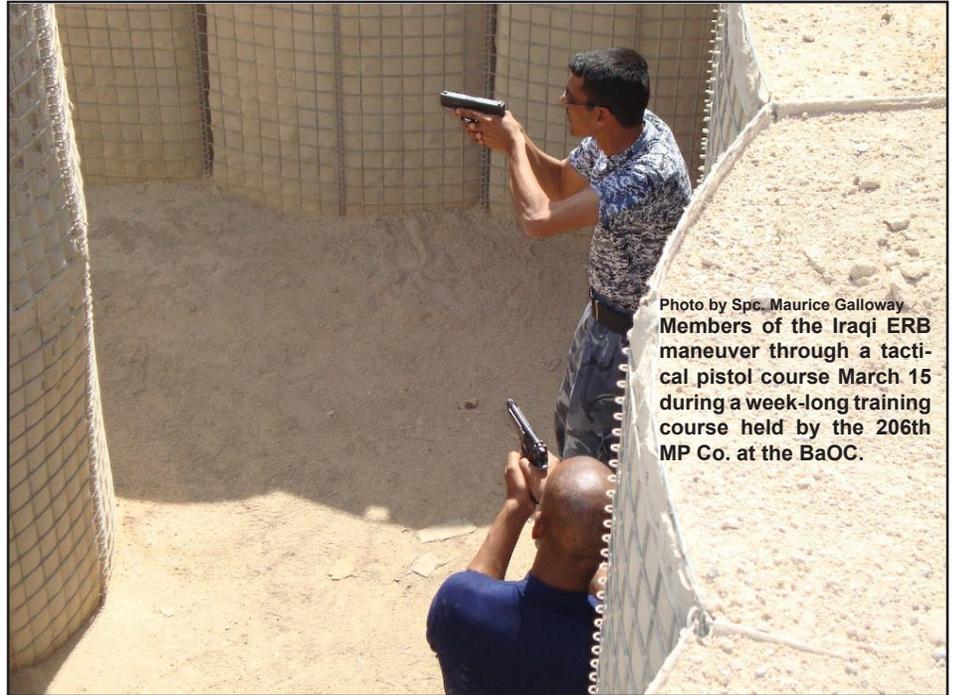


Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway  
Members of the Iraqi ERB maneuver through a tactical pistol course March 15 during a week-long training course held by the 206th MP Co. at the BaOC.

Colo.

During the classroom sessions, Sperber and the platoon leaders met with the ERB personnel to evaluate the scenarios and map out the courses of action using a terrain model.

Capt. Kevin Manion, 206th MP Co.

commander, planned and designed the course using the knowledge from his team's more than 75 years of combined civilian police experience.

Members of the New York National Guard unit come from city and state police and sheriff's departments from across the state.

"The Iraqis are being trained through the eyes of police officers, so they're gaining years of experience and knowledge that only comes from first-hand experience," Manion said.

Two 206th MP Co. Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Kent Theobald, a New York State Police investigator and native of Fort Johnson, N.Y., and Staff Sgt. Matthew Clark, a student from Hornell, N.Y., were in charge of training the Iraqis.

"Our goal was to instill the same sense of pride and professionalism in our Iraqi partners as we have in ourselves," Theobald said. "They picked up the training quickly, but what was most impressive was their eagerness to learn."



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway

Soldiers from the New York National Guard's 206th MP Co. monitor the Iraqi ERB search and seizer procedures March 15, during a training course held at the BaOC.

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

# Iraqis end training with air assault exercise

By Sgt. Cody Harding  
TF 12 PAO

**COB ADDER** – Culminating three weeks of training with U.S. Special Forces and the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Iraqi Commandos and the 5th Iraqi Tactical Security Unit Battalion conducted a simulated air assault raid at Contingency Operating Base Adder April 22.

The raid, which was the final event of the training, tested the knowledge the students had gained during the course. Using the skills given to them by their trainers, the soldiers will return to their units able to provide training to other Iraqi forces.

The day started with a helicopter ride to the training area, where they dismounted the helicopter and headed into the compound. Once inside, they neutralized and captured targets, cleared rooms and returned fire against simulated enemies.

The Commandos and TSU then set up a perimeter while a civilian inspection team guarded the captured combatants. Once helicopters arrived, the Commandos boarded and the simulation ended as the helicopters left the combat area.

The commander of the U.S. Special Forces detachment that has worked with the Iraqi Commandos said that he has seen improvement with the class they have been training.

“The Iraqi Security Forces continue to get better, become more professional,” the commander, who requested not to be named, said. “This is just another opportunity for them to get training and hit some of the topics where they’ve come to us and requested [assistance].”

Sgt. Mark Jones, the targeting noncommissioned officer in charge and fires support NCO for 12th CAB, said he was satisfied with the progress of the Iraqi Soldiers over the course of the three weeks.

“This is definitely the culmination,” said Jones, who lives in Chicago. “This is definitely the final product, and we can definitely build off of this, refine what these guys are doing.”

The goal of the training was not to cover everything the Iraqi troops will ever need to know, but to address specific prob-



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding  
An Iraqi TSU soldier guards a hallway as Iraqi Commandos and TSU troops clear a building in a final training exercise for the air assault course on COB Adder, April 22. The training helps the Iraqi forces take security for the county into their hands as the drawdown of U.S. forces continues throughout Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding  
Commandos and TSU personnel line up as a UH-60 Black Hawk touches down to extract them from the training area during the air assault training on COB Adder, April 22. Though the training is conducted with U.S. helicopters, the tactics translate to the helicopters used by Iraqi forces.

lems, said the U.S. Special Forces commander said.

“There’s certain areas they know they need a little more training on,” he said. “That’s what we attempted to do in this course: to hit those areas they requested for additional training.”

The class, which started with 30 Iraqi students, finished with only 14 remaining, Jones said.

“A lot of people come here, they think they want to be a part of the TSU,” Jones said. “They get here, get through a couple of days of training, realize this might not be the right route for them.”



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding  
Iraqi Soldiers and TSU personnel keep their eyes on the high points as they enter a building during a simulated raid April 22, part of the final exercise of their air assault training led by U.S. forces at COB Adder.

For more from 12th CAB, visit  
[www.12cab.army.mil](http://www.12cab.army.mil)

# Tip-line gives silenced a voice

By Spc. Samuel Soza  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**CAMP BUCCA** – Soldiers patrolling the area around al-Zabair April 23 were equipped with their usual protective gear and equipment, but recently they have added one more tool in the form of a small laminated card.

First Platoon Soldiers with Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Camp Bucca are now carrying a card with the phone number to a new tip line that is helping U.S. and Iraqi security forces gather information about the area straight from Iraqi citizens.

“The tip line is just a way for somebody willing to help their area to call in with in-

formation”, said 1st Lt. Stephen Tyminski, platoon leader for 1st Plt.

“Some people want to talk but are afraid for their lives or their jobs,” said the Reading, Mass. native.

The number goes to a cell phone, and tips can be called in or sent by text message.

“They can call about general information,” said Tyminski, “Though some calls we get are about [interpreter] jobs, or calling with complaints about infrastructure, but most of the time it’s straight-up intel. It’s just another information source.”

While talking with locals, Soldiers keep the number on-hand and pass it on if they meet someone who seems to have something to tell but is afraid to do it in public. By being selective in sharing the number, the Soldiers hope to increase their chances of getting valuable information, said Tyminski.

Tyminski said he knows which of his Soldiers have good people skills – such as Sgt. Travis Daniel, a team leader with 1st Plt. – and ensures they have cards when the unit conducts patrols.

“If I meet someone who seems aggravated, maybe about a job or something, and they obviously want to make it better, I will give them a card,” said Daniel, a Buena Vista, Ga. native.

Direct information from Iraqi citizens helps Co. D pursue missions that will benefit them the most as well as keep security forces and citizens safe by getting dangerous items off the streets, said Tyminski.

Recently, the tip line led to the capture of 18 high-explosive mortars and other materials for creating improvised explosive devices, as well as a detailed terrain model of an entry control point, said Tyminski.

Earlier in their deployment, the Soldiers of Co. D learned the value of a tip line while stationed at Contingency Operating Site Echo, in the northern part of United States Division – South, and sought to implement one after they moved to Camp Bucca, said Tyminski.

“We got together as a company and determined we needed this sort of asset. We said, ‘If we’re going to be down here, then we’re going to do this right,’” he said.

Any useful information that is gathered makes its way to meetings between Iraqi and U.S. forces, where they swap intelligence and coordinate their efforts.

Iraqi Security Forces take the lead role in pursuing or investigating tips, and they are also more familiar than U.S. forces with the areas where they operate.

In the case of the terrain model, the ISF were able to determine that it was a model of an entry point in Basra, indicating a possible vehicle-borne IED attack was prevented, said Tyminski.

“It was all based on information from al-Zubair,” he said.

Aside from the raw intelligence provided from the tip line, there are ways it benefits the relationship between U.S. and Iraqi forces and local Iraqis, said Tyminski.

“I think it helps them feel empowered,” he said.

The tipster responsible for helping find the terrain map and explosives cache was a former ISF member who had to quit after being harassed. After receiving the tip line number and sharing his information, he became a part of the fight once again, said Tyminski.

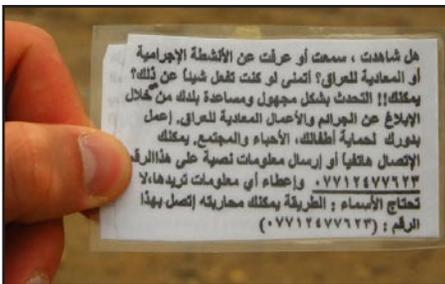


Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

A Soldier holds a laminated card with the phone number to a new tip-line that is helping 1st Plt., Co. D, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., gather information about the area.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

First Lt. Stephen Tyminski, platoon leader for 1st Plt., Co. D, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., and Reading, Mass. native, and an interpreter talk with a local man from al-Zubair April 23. Soldiers with 1st Plt. visit the village frequently to get information about how businesses are doing, what infrastructure needs there might be, and what sorts of dangerous weapons or bomb-making materials are in the area. Recently, a tip-line has been set up so that Iraqi citizens can share information.

See TIP-LINE, page 11

# Evidence collection course helps IPs close cases

By Spc. Maurice Galloway  
17th FiB PAO

**BASRA** – A training case that seems like an open-and-shut suicide quickly reveals itself to be a homicide as members of the Iraqi Police use the skills they learned during a two-week course taught by the 203rd Military Police Battalion on dissecting a murder scene.

Soldiers from the 203rd MP Bn., along with law enforcement professionals Mr. Donnie Weller and Mr. David Diaz, held a two-week evidence collection course in April at the Provincial Joint Coordination Center in Basra, Iraq, designed to implement standardized evidence collection procedures for the IP.

The training led to a final evaluation of a crime scene investigation held at the Iraqi Police Training Center on Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Two identical containerized housing units served as the murder sites, while two Soldiers from the 203rd MP Bn. posed as victims. As the IPs broke into two groups and delegated responsibilities, things appeared typical until they began assessing the scene.

“The first thing I did was check the victim to see if he was still alive. After concluding that he was dead, I began piecing together the evidence,” said Capt. Mush-

tak Nuri Abbas, an IP team leader with the Crime Scene Investigation Team.

“At first it looked like a suicide, but things just didn’t add up: the placement of the weapon, the handwriting in the suicide note that didn’t match the hand writing on other documents, a faint trail leading back into the room and a set of bloody fingerprints outside the door,” said Abbas.

Diaz said that they strategically placed 10 critical pieces of evidence throughout each crime scene the IPs had to find to deduce the cause of death.

“The evaluation was a bit harder than we expected,” said Abbas. “We had to rely on the training we learned in order to solve the scenario. This course was a tremendous help.”

In November, the Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team and 17th Fires Brigade Rule of Law team brought local judges and police together for the first time when they arranged a conference at the Basra Palace of Justice. The conference opened the lines of communication between the two.

During the conference, Chief Judge Khaz’al Da’bol Qasim said only by working together would the judges and the police be able to assess the system and implement a strategy.

Earlier this year, the two sides met with the intention of learning what each

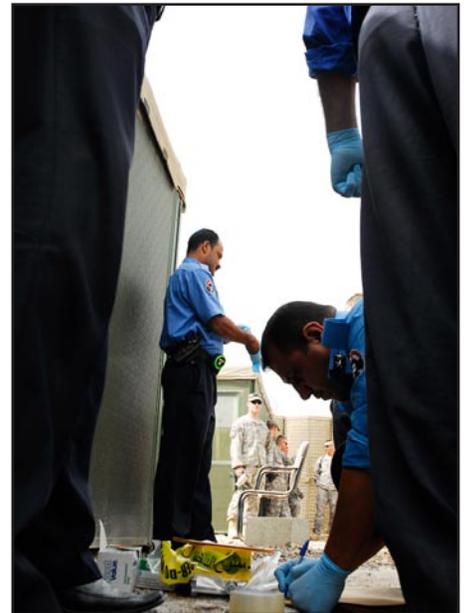


Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway  
Members of the Iraqi Police prepare to investigate a crime scene April 22 during the final evaluation of their two-week evidence collection course hosted by 203rd MP Bn. in Basra.

side required to ensure a better judiciary process. With the help of law enforcement professional Edgar Lacy, assigned to the 17th FiB ROL team, the judges and police were able to solidify a standard for admissible evidence.

“Everything depends on collecting the right evidence at the crime scenes,” said Lacy.

Based off the feedback from the second meeting between the IP and judges, the 203rd MPs began developing a curriculum.

“Our goal was to not only teach the IPs standardized evidence collection procedures, but to make sure they implemented those techniques in their routine,” said Sgt. Brandon Teague, a 203rd MP Bn. team leader.

The two-week course focused on tagging and documenting evidence, quarantining a crime scene, collecting evidence and collecting witness statements.

“Everyone at the crime scene is a potential suspect, so it’s important to make sure you question them thoroughly, because they may turn out to be involved,” Weller said.

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



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway  
Mr. David Diaz (left foreground), a civilian law enforcement professional assigned to the 203rd MP Bn., evaluates the Iraqi Police crime scene investigation procedures April 22 during a two-week evidence collection training course held on COB Basra.

## Bucca water treatment project starts flowing

By Spc. Samuel Soza  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**CAMP BUCCA** – With the first shovel-full out of the ground April 26, the U.S. military began a two-week project to create a network of pipe linking the water and wastewater treatment facilities on Camp Bucca.

Together, the facilities will provide the necessary groundwork for the activation and operation of a new multimillion-dollar water treatment plant that will increase or introduce water to several nearby municipalities including az-Zubayr, Safwan, and Umm Qasr.

“The issue with the [new] water treatment plant is, we don’t produce enough grey water to run it, so we’re trying to pump fresh water into it,” said Capt. Kenneth Ditch, commander for the 606th Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, and a native of Lafayette, La.

Col. Dan Lund, Camp Bucca’s commanding officer, explained the importance of keeping the water flowing through the microbial filters.

“The plant operates at a minimum of 620,000-640,000 gallons [of gray water] per day,” he said. “Once you turn it on,

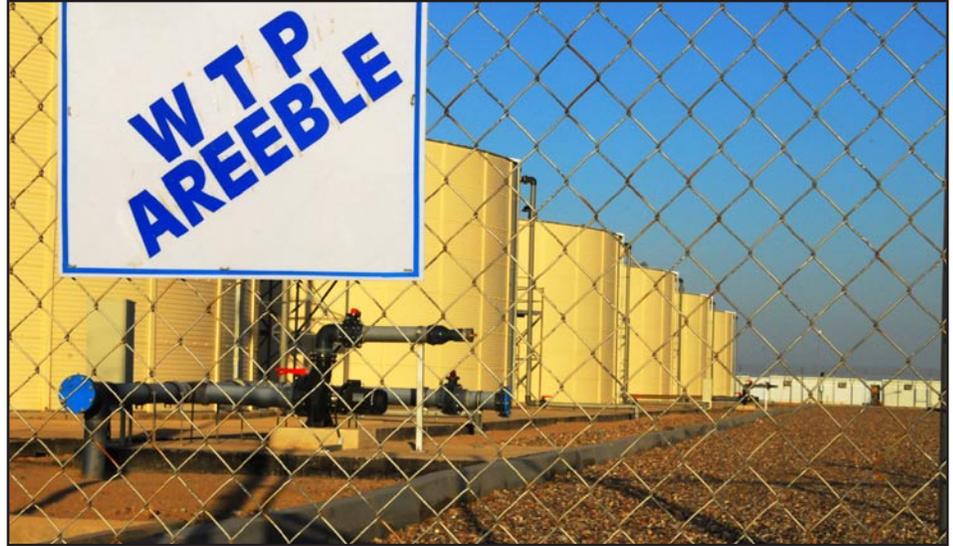


Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

**The water treatment facility on Camp Bucca taps into the region’s aquifer – the ninth largest in the world – to produce fresh water. Connecting it to the wastewater treatment plant will provide a constant flow of water for the operation of the microbial filters of a new water treatment plant that will provide up to 1.2 million gallons of fresh water to several local municipalities.**

you can’t turn it off, because they are active filters – if they’re not used, then they die.”

The wastewater treatment plant harnesses Camp Bucca’s sewage and creates grey water – non-potable water that can be used for anything from fire fighting, to agriculture, to washing vehicles – but not enough to operate the new plant by itself.

Camp Bucca’s water treatment facilities tap into the region’s aquifer – the ninth-largest in the world – to create fresh water. This includes an established water treatment facility on post and another operated by KBR, which produces 850,000 gallons per day.

The KBR treatment facility is not permanent, however, and will leave with U.S. forces.

“At the present time, for the operation of the camp, we are probably using about 140,000-150,000 gallons [of fresh water],” said Lund.

Combined, the water and wastewater treatment facilities will ensure the new plant can operate and keep the microbial filters intact – a major concern as each filter comes with the hefty price tag of \$800,000 – until municipal pipelines can be connected to supply the necessary operating water flow, Ditch said.

To cut down on costs, 4,200 feet of 8-inch pipe needed for the project was culled from excess found in theater and delivered to Camp Bucca April 24. An ad-



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza  
**Piping that will connect the Camp Bucca wastewater treatment plant to the water treatment facility waits, ready for use.**

See PIPES, next page

**PIPES, from previous page**

ditional \$16,000 was needed for connectors, switches and valves to complete the network.

“The new water treatment plant should be [running] in the next 60 days. That will have a capacity of 1.2 million gallons per day,” said Lund, a Denver native.

From the new plant, another pipeline will be laid, stretching about a half-mile from Camp Bucca, ultimately joining with existing main lines to flow into the local municipalities.

The pipeline’s path has not been resolved yet, but several proposals have been drawn-up.

One plan involves laying the pipe alongside roadways leading from the plant to the cities, but has faced objections from roadway officials who say the pipeline would then prevent the roads from being widened in the future.

However, if the path is extended a bit further from the road, it will be out of the jurisdiction of the roadway officials.

Yet, according to a briefing on the project with Brig. Gen. Randal A. Dragon, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, there is confusion as to who is responsible for the property the pipe would then run through.

The Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team has been working with municipal officials to find out who owns the land and get authorization to work in the area.

Once the paperwork is in order, an estimated \$500,000 will be spent on the pipe design, operating maintenance and processes to ensure the project construction does not interrupt other essential services.

“Around August or September they will have hooked that line up,” Lund said.

Following that, the plant will be activated for a two-week test with accompanying evaluations of the filters and equipment by representatives from Aeromix Systems Inc., a U.S. corporation based in Minneapolis, Minn., that was awarded the contract for the plant project in 2007.

Aeromix has worked on past projects in Diwaniyah and Hillah, both large cities located south of Baghdad in United States Division – South.

The plant will require approximately nine employees to operate, each requiring about three months of training. According

to the briefing with Dragon, the Iraqi officials plan to have a third party operate the plant until the personnel are trained.

“The plant was initially conceived probably three or four years ago,” Lund said. “We are probably eight or nine weeks off from when we have to deliver the plant.”

With such a long history, the project has changed hands as service members rotate into and out of country. The networking of the pipes and the activation of the new plant in the coming months are significant benchmarks in a massive project that is important to the area, said Lund.

“Personally, it’s been very rewarding – especially in this part of the country, which probably received less U.S. government and Iraqi government assistance than anywhere else that I know of,” he said.

Lund said that the likely reason for this is that, after the invasion in 2003, efforts were concentrated further north, where the U.S. had the lead.

When the project was conceived, Basra Province was the responsibility of British forces.

“I can’t speak to what the British did or didn’t do, but this has been very good, in the sense that the people of Umm Qasr are now recognizing the significant contri-

butions that we’re making to make things better for their citizens,” said Lund.

“I think that by forging that kind of presence, that kind of partnership and understanding with our Iraqi partners, particularly at the end of our time as we prepare to leave the country, is what they are going to remember: some of those last things we did,” he said.

Camp Bucca is the former site of a theater internment facility that held more than 22,000 detainees at one point in 2007, and closed down in 2009.

After its closure, the TIF was de-constructed and is now the site of an Iraqi Marine training facility, which will also benefit from the new water treatment plant. The Marine training grounds are slated to return to Iraqi control July 4, 2010.

“Eventually, we’re going to hand all this over to the government of Iraq,” Ditch said of the new plant.

This transfer must be done responsibly and professionally, he said.

“It’s our job to take the ball the last few yards and over the goal line,” he said, “How well we do that is going to be how the U.S. is remembered by the Iraqis in the future.”

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



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

The wastewater treatment plant on Camp Bucca has the potential to process 1.5 million gallons of “black water” into 1.2 million gallons of non-potable “grey water,” which is can be used for agricultural purposes, laundry and even fire fighting.

# TROOPS IN FOCUS

Danger Forward

May 10, Issue 15

## Riverines, MPs sweep Basra waterway

By Spc. Samantha Johnson  
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**BASRA** – Sailors and military police accompanied by their working dog recently conducted shore sweeps along the waterways of Basra Province to search for rockets and explosives.

The Sailors, from Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3, had partnered with MPs from the 97th MP Battalion to patrol the area, in which they have found weapons cache's previously.

On this particular mission, the Riverines swept the area, which is dotted with abandoned mud huts, clearing about a dozen or so of the huts with the help of Sgt. 1st Class Barry, a military working dog, and his handler, Staff Sgt. John Mariana, 97th MP Bn. and a native of Queens, N.Y.

While out on the water, the Sailors also did boat searches, called "lane searches." This is done by either signaling the boat to come ashore or pushing the boat to land.

Once ashore, they separate the personnel and question them looking for any dis-

Photo by Spc. Samantha Johnson

A Sailor from Det. 1, RIVRON 3, pulls security along the shoreline of Basra Province while a RIVRON patrol boat approaches. On this particular mission, the Riverines swept the area, which is dotted with abandoned mud huts, clearing about a dozen or so of the huts with the help of a Soldier from the 97th MP Bn. and his working dog.



crepancies in their stories.

These missions are all about the presence.

"At this point in the war, not everyone is a terrorist or an insurgent," said Lt. j.g. Michael Diehl, assistant officer in charge, Det. 1. "We talk to them and get a better feel for what's going on, but you also have to show that we have authority and we're working with the Iraqi's and that they have authority here and that people don't have free and punitive movement of the waters."

Chief Petty Officer Edwin Bennett, boatswain's mate chief, Det 1, known in the RIVRON community as the "flotilla commander," stated that their presence is "showing fisherman and also the bad guys that are out there that we are partnering and supporting the Iraqi Army. With that partnership we're showing everybody around who's in charge."

The shore sweeps don't just protect U.S. and Iraqi forces. There are a lot of children and livestock in the area, and they could easily stumble upon hidden munitions. The sweeps are not only about finding the live rockets and weapons, but also finding any old rounds that may be out there.

The Riverines normally have only the members of their team to rely on to get "on line" and walk the islands, but, on this mission, they were fortunate enough to have two AH-60 Apache helicopters for air support.

The Riverines' mission is part of the larger counter-insurgency operations – or COIN Ops – of U.S. forces.

This kind of counter-insurgency mission can only be a success when tasks such as protecting the population and reinforcing the local governments are present. Eliminating insurgent capabilities and gathering information from the locals is also key, and this is the RIVRON's mission on a daily basis.

These missions also have their share of problems, just as any other mission might, such as the boat engines clogging with mud from the banks and needing on-the-spot maintenance, and this mission was no exception. Yet, the guys of Det 1, drive-on and complete the mission regardless of the challenges they face.

The "flotilla commander" summed it up best: "It was muddy and nasty and that's where we work the best."

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



Photo by Spc. Samantha Johnson

Sgt. 1st Class Barry, a military working dog, and his handler, Staff Sgt. John Mariana, 97th MP Bn. and a native of Queens, N.Y., search for explosives and munitions along the shores of Basra Province.

**TIP-LINE, from page 6**

“It shows that there are still ways to help,” he said.

Tyminski said he feels the tip-line is a success.

“I’m pretty pleased with it,” he said.

Daniel said he has heard back about the effects of his efforts.

“I know for sure that several of the people I’ve given the number to have contacted us,” he said. “The intel guys said it’s good info – that’s good enough for me.”

Ultimately, anything that contributes to the safety of Iraqi citizens and Iraqi and U.S. forces is a plus, said Tyminski.

“I’ve had people from my past deployments get hit with IEDs, so it’s best we can head those off before they get started,” he said. “That was a potential 26 IEDs we got off the road, so, we’ll take that.”

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



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

**Sgt. Travis Daniel, a team leader with 1st Plt. and Buena Vista, Ga. native, and an interpreter talk with a local man from al-Zubair April 23. Soldiers with 1st Plt. visit the village frequently to get information about how businesses are doing, what infrastructure needs there might be, and what sorts of dangerous weapons or bomb-making materials are in the area. Recently, a tip-line has been set up so that Iraqi citizens can share information with U.S. or Iraqi forces without fear.**

**TRANSFER, from page 1**

led PRT for Dhi Qar.

The ceremonial end of the Highlander deployment came when Newell and 4th BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip D. Pandy, who grew up in Miami, approached their lowered brigade colors.

Together, the two men rolled the flag and then sheathed it in a cloth case. Once the flag was cased, its holder, Highlander Sgt. James R. Barrett, a native Parris, Texas, was dismissed from the color guard and marched off to the side.

Mirroring the Highlanders, Rainey and 3rd BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Miles S. Wilson approached the color guard and uncased their brigade's standard.

The ritual was given further symbolism by the two Iraqi Army soldiers in the color guard. Each carried the colors of their own units: the IA's 10th Division and 40th Brigade. The Iraqi Flag was borne by an Iraqi police officer from Dhi Qar.

Speaking for the last time before his return to 4th BCT's home base at Fort Bliss, Texas, Newell addressed his Soldiers.

“There is no way—no way-- this could have been done without you,” he said of the successes of the past months.

Then, referring to the upcoming name change from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn salted for Sept. 1,

Newell said he remembered his previous deployment to Iraq when he was a battalion commander in the November 2004 Battle of Fallujah, which was also called Operation New Dawn.

“Great things came from that Operation New Dawn, and on the other side of the battlefield, I saw this man, Colonel Rainey,” he said. “There is a new dawn coming in Iraq. Hopefully, you will be there to see it.”

Rainey opened his speech by telling Newell, “Our Soldiers will strive to build on your teammates’ success.”

To the Iraqis seated at COB Adder's Memorial Hall he said, “It is an honor to be back in my second home: Iraq.”

After the ceremony, the leader of the Dhi Qar PRT, Anna Prouse, said the last year working with the Highlanders changed her perception of the Army.

“The Army is an organization that is in constant flux. Sometimes we civilians, we foreigners, think: ‘This is the Army and the Army will stay the Army.’ But, the Army is constantly mutating towards what is working and it changes to what it finds on the ground,” she said.

“This year with the Highlanders has been very enlightening.”

The involvement of the Iraqis was critical to making the changeover the best he

has ever observed in Iraq, said Lt. Col. James J. Gallivan, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, “Steel Tigers,” who transferred partnership with the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, “Pacesetters,” commanded by Lt. Col. Jonathan E. Howerton.

Gallivan said that the Iraqi forces led the process of replacing the Steel Tigers with the Pacesetters at the various joint security stations and operations centers where U.S. and Iraqi forces work and live together.

“They grabbed my friends softly by the shoulder and walked them through,” he said of his Iraqi partners.

The 3rd Bn., 29th FAR, received their briefing on improvised explosive devices and roadside bombs from one of the IA's IED experts, and the chief of the Iraqi Highway Patrol for Dhi Qar presented the seminar on driving on Iraqi streets, he said.

As he made his last rounds to see his partners, Gallivan said that this time was different from the other times he has left Iraq.

“This time, it wasn't good-bye, it was, ‘Let's open the circle, welcome the new folks and make the family bigger.’”

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

## Spill could spawn human health hazard

The Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS** — With a huge and unpredictable oil slick drifting in the Gulf of Mexico, state and federal authorities are preparing to deal with a variety of hazards to human health if the full brunt of the toxic mess washes ashore.

The list of potential threats runs from minor nuisances such as runny noses and headaches to nausea. While waiting to see how bad things will get, public health agencies are monitoring air quality, drinking water supplies and seafood processing plants and advising people to take precautions.

"We don't know how long this spill will last or how much oil we'll be dealing with, so there's a lot of unknowns," said Dr. Jimmy Guidry, Louisiana's state health director. "But we're going to make things as safe as humanly possible."

Oil has been spewing into the Gulf at a rate of at least 200,000 gallons a day since an offshore drilling rig exploded April 20, killing 11 people. Little if any has reached land, but shifts in wind speed and direction could propel the slick toward populated areas.

In a possible hint of things to come, a foul stench drifted over parts of southwestern Louisiana last week. The oil probably was the culprit, said Alan Levine, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, whose office heard about dozens of complaints — even from state legislators in New Orleans, some 130 miles from the leaky undersea well.

Farther up the coast at Shell Beach, marina operator and commercial fisherman Robert Campo said the smell gave him a headache as he collected oysters 20 miles offshore. "It was rotten," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun round-the-clock air monitoring in Gulf coastal areas and posting online hourly readings for ozone and tiny particles such as soot. Both can cause respiratory problems and are particularly aggravating for people with chronic con-



A fire boat sprays the oil rig Acadian Ambulance Deepwater Horizon off the Louisiana coast. AP Photo

ditions such as asthma.

Crude oil emits volatile organic compounds that react with nitrogen oxides to produce ozone. Fires being set by the Coast Guard to burn off oil on the water's surface would produce sooty, acrid smoke.

"We don't know what the impacts are going to be yet," said Dave Bary, an EPA spokesman in Dallas.

The potential for unhealthy air quality depends on a variety of factors, particularly the speed and direction of winds that could disperse fumes and determine where they go, said Jonathan Ward, an environmental toxicology professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

With the leaky Gulf well some 50 miles offshore, Ward said much of the oil vapor likely wouldn't reach land, although the potential for air pollution from the slick will remain as long as the leak continues.

Public health agencies in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi advised people near the coast who experience nausea, headaches or other smell-related ailments to stay inside, turn on air conditioners and avoid exerting themselves outdoors.

Tainted water, food

In addition to air pollution, officials

were guarding against health problems from tainted drinking water and seafood.

Some communities, including New Orleans, get their supplies from the Mississippi River. Its southerly currents will prevent oil from drifting upstream to city intake pipes, and the Coast Guard is making sure that any ships with oil-coated hulls are scrubbed before proceeding up the river, Guidry said.

Even so, the state health department has ordered testing of municipal water systems near the Gulf for signs of oil.

"It's next to impossible that a high amount would get in," Guidry said. "Even if some got through, more than likely the treatment system would eliminate it."

The department this week began taking samples at seafood processing plants. Officials have ordered a temporary moratorium on fishing in federal waters from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle, but sampling will provide benchmarks enabling scientists to track any increases in contaminant levels once fishing is allowed to resume.

Louisiana health officials said they believe fish, shrimp and other Gulf delicacies on the market are safe.

**Lafayette, La., is the hometown of Capt. Kenneth Ditch, featured on p. 9**

# AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

May 10, Issue 15

## 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 This Week

### 1st ID Band

(Echoes Restaurant)  
Every Saturday  
1900

### Bingo Night

(USO)  
May 13  
2100

### AAFES New Release Movie Day

(USO)  
May 12  
1900-0200

### Armed Forces Day Spades and Dominoes

(USO)  
May 15  
2000

## Special Events Coming Up

### Texas Hold 'em Tournament

(USO)  
May 22  
2100

### Locked, Loaded & Laughing

(MWR Stage)  
May 16

## 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 ex-  
change 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.

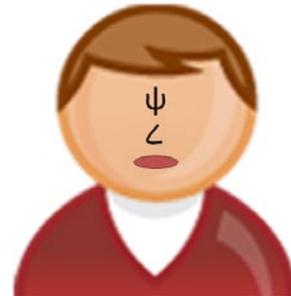


*Until Every One Comes Home.*

## The COB Basra USO needs volunteers

Talk to any USO staff member today to find out how you can help to make our COB even better!

## Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



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

*Solution for last week: An obtuse angle*

*Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell*

## A look around USD-S



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding, 1st Inf Div Corri English, lead singer of the band BrokeDown Cadillac, and lead guitarist Randy Dunham perform at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, April 23, 2010.

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

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

For solutions visit: [www.puzzles.ca/sudoku\\_puzzles/sudoku\\_hard\\_003.html](http://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_003.html)