



# DANGER FORWARD



May 31, 2010 | Issue 18

## Iraqi river police unit graduates

By Capt. Michael S. Walter

1st Bn, 8th Inf Regt, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div

**COS GARRY OWEN** – For two months, the U.S. Navy Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 1, deployed to Contingency Operating Site Garry Owen partnered with Iraqi Police 1st Lt. Hissinin, commander of the 50-man Special River Police Company, providing hands-on training in every aspect of river patrolling operations.

This partnership and training led to a graduation ceremony May 15 in Amarah for a dozen new maintenance crew members and boat operators who completed the river patrolling academy in Baghdad.

The provincial governor, Mohammed Shaia Al-Sudani, the provincial council chairman, Abidul Hussein, and the provincial chief of police, Maj. Gen. Ashmail Arrar Khadim Al Majidi attended the ceremony along with Lt. Col. John P. DiGiambattista, commander, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at COS Garry Owen.

After the ceremony, the SRP Co. confidently displayed its new river patrol boats and maneuvering capabilities to the audience.

The SRP Co.’s graduation reflects the Iraqi Security Forces’ growing capability



Photo by Capt. Michael S. Walter

The Iraqi SRP Co. confidently display their new river patrol boat and maneuvering capabilities to an audience of provincial leadership and U.S. forces May 15 after a graduation ceremony marking the unit’s recent completion of the river patrolling course in Baghdad.

to protect the people of Maysan Province.

“The training we received is a direct contributor to our success, and the SRP is now a great contributor to the security operations in Maysan,” Hissinin said. “As of now, the SRP is officially ready to begin operations.”

The SRP conduct security patrols, save lives, deter swimming in restricted areas, move supplies and provide support to other Iraqi Security Forces in the area, said Lt. Col. Majid, public affairs officer for

the Maysan Police, which means that they multiply the effectiveness of other ISF units as well.

“The training our police are receiving is excellent, it is increasing our security, and overall force protection,” he said.

According to Navy Lt. Chris Garcia, commander of Det. 1, the focus of the river patrol mission is waterway security. However, smuggling interdiction, rescue

See **POLICE**, page 11



ISF train for Air Assault p. 4



Media training for POIs, p. 6



Commander inspires unit, p. 8

## Danger Seven sends

Once again, the Army is well ahead of its retention goals for the fiscal year. High retention rates are a great thing for the Army because they mean we are retaining a lot of great experience. It also means we can be more selective in who we promote, so advancement will likely become more and more competitive over the next few years.

It is up to each NCO to take charge of their career to make sure they don't get passed over. Here's how:

- **PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE NEXT LEVEL.** Specialists and corporals should be honing their skills to be successful sergeants. Sergeants are sharpening their steel edge in preparation to assume their role of staff sergeants. Being proactive and understanding the responsibilities of the next higher position will provide a Soldier an almost seamless transition to their next grade.

- **SEEK CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENTS.** This doesn't just mean deploying. Seek positions where people depend on you every day. For example, drill sergeant and recruiting duty are tough and challenging assignments. Airborne and Air Assault are assignments that challenge leaders both physically and mentally. Look into assignments within the special operations community. Seek additional duties such as Master Resiliency Trainer, Master Gunner or motorcycle mentor.

- **SEEK DIVERSE ASSIGNMENTS.** Soldiers need to demonstrate that they're not one-trick ponies. A Soldier who has excelled in combat leadership positions, but has never filled a staff position, will likely not understand the "big picture." Serving as an instructor at a service school is another way to directly impact initial entry Soldiers and peers alike.

- **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR NCOER.** Consistently communicate with your rater and senior rater about your performance and the opportunities to excel and help your organization. Ensure your rater is counseling IAW regulatory guidance so, when it's all said and done, there's no question about your report. Leaning forward in the foxhole when your annual NCOER is due is another important factor. Ensure your rater and senior rater know that it is due. There is only one section on the back of the NCOER that pertains to individual accomplishment, and that is physical fitness and military bearing. Boards will focus on what you have done to better the organization you are serving with, versus what you have done for yourself.

- **GET TO CLASS.** Take advantage education opportunities both while you're deployed and at home station. There's no excuse in today's Army to not pursue a degree. Distance learning and tuition assistance make higher education accessible, whether you are deployed or not. Also, do not forget military schools as they are important to your professional development and growth as a leader.

Every career field has a model of the assignments, positions, and schools that will make you competitive. Go to your field management area and download your Army Career Tracker. It not only helps you, but will help you mentor your subordinates to achieve excellence in their careers.

Maturation is achieved through growth and experience. In order to develop those skills both professionally and personally a Soldier must be proactive and seek diversity.

Now get after it!



Jim Champagne  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army



Commanding General



Major General  
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major  
Jim Champagne

# DANGER FORWARD

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



# Weapon safety

By Gus Walker

USD-S Safety and Occupational Health Manager



The word “negligent”, as defined by Webster’s Dictionary is, “the lacking or exhibiting a lack of due concern.”

If you look up the synonyms, you will find similar words such as neglectful, careless, inattentive, slipshod, remiss, lax, slack, and casual. In summary, it means indiscipline, overconfidence and complacency.

The USD-S has had 14 negligent discharges since February 2010 and fortunately, only one Soldier was injured and no one killed. In most cases, it’s clear the basic fundamentals of weapons handling were ignored.

Most mistakes that lead to negligent discharges are horseplay, improper clearing procedures, incorrect weapon status, failure to keep the weapon on safe and finger off the trigger when there’s no intent to fire, and lack of muzzle awareness.

Ninety percent of these incidents were preventable. Leaders must enforce the standards for weapon safety and keep our Soldiers in the fight. Units must ensure that tactics, techniques and procedures are in place to prevent negligent discharges.

Soldiers must THINK weapons safety at all times, as in:

**T** - Treat every weapon as if it’s loaded.

**H** - Handle every weapon with care.

**I** - Identify the target before you fire.

**N** - Never point the muzzle at anything you don’t intend to shoot.

**K** - Keep the weapon on safe and finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

THINK is a U.S. Army Weapons Safety Campaign that reminds Soldiers to handle all weapons in a safe manner on and off-duty.

Duty First – Safety Always, Engaged Leaders Make a Difference

Here are some additional weapons safety resources for leaders to assist Soldiers:

- <https://safety.army.mil/Portals/multimedia/Repository/THINK%20Weapons%20Safety%20POW%20Poster%202.pdf>

- See the Privately Owned Weapons section, Range & Weapons Safety Toolbox (AKO Login required)

- [https://crcapps3.crc.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety/privately\\_owned\\_weapons.aspx](https://crcapps3.crc.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety/privately_owned_weapons.aspx)

- <https://crcapps3.crc.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety/index.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, May 14 - 27

### 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

#### 203rd BSB

SPC LASHUNDA S. MORRIS  
SGT JOE J. ESPARZA III  
SPC LASHUNDA S. MORRIS

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

SSG JASON J. LAPAN  
SSG TOMASZ RATUSZNY  
SPC BLAKE A. DODDS  
SPC MICHAEL S. IBARRA  
SSG ADAM L. HEDRICK  
SSG JOSEPH D. MARSTRELL

#### 2nd Bn, 69th AR

SPC QUINTIN J. BRYAN  
SGT MATTHEW W. MCIVOR  
SPC FRANK C. RENTH  
SGT CASEY L. SMITH  
SPC NORFLETT T. THOMAS

#### BSTB

SFC DERRICK L. MEARS

#### 3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav Regt

SGT RYAN J. CALLINAN

### 3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div

#### BSTB

HHC  
PFC CHRISTOPHER QUICK

#### A CO

SGT SAMANTHA OJEDA

#### 64th BSB

##### B CO

SGT CHAD M CLEMENT

##### E CO

SGT PERON HENRY

##### G CO

SGT PABLA MEDINA  
1ST BN, 8TH INF REGT

##### HHC

SSG MATTHEW R DALEY

### 1st Bn, 68th AR

#### HHC

SGT BRAD L STUCKEY

### 12th CAB

#### 5th Bn, 158th AVN

SPC TYLER WELCH  
SPC JASON NOWLING  
SPC YELOSIS DIXON  
SGT SEAN CURRY  
SFC ANGEL HERNANDEZ

#### 412th ASB

SGT LOUQUIN LOUD  
SSG KEVIN SANDERS  
SGT MARCUS STEWART  
SGT CHRISTOPHER HOLLIS  
SGT NATHAN RAY DOVER

#### 2nd Bn, 159th AVN

SSG JOSE SANCHEZLOPEZ  
SSG RONNIE BURGESS  
SPC ERIK NEWMAN

#### 3rd Bn, 158th AVN

SGT JAMES SUMMERS

### 1st Inf Div

#### HSC

SGT JOHN P. PAYLOR  
SGT INEZ N. WILSON  
SPC LKENDRA S. KERSON

#### OPS CO

SFC FELIX G. RAMOS  
SPC DARNELL A. JONAS

#### BAND

SPC MYRON J. ZENKER

#### SIGNAL CO

SPC DAVID J. WILSON  
SSG AMOS M. WADE

#### INTEL AND SUST CO

SGT THOMAS CZARKOWSKI

## This week in Army history

### *This week in Big Red One history*

June 6, 1944: The 1st Infantry Division was one of two divisions that stormed Omaha Beach. Some of the 1st Inf. Div.’s units suffered 30 percent casualties in the first hour of the assault and secured Formigny and Caumont in the beachhead by the end of the day.

### *This week in OIF history*

June 4, 2009: Romanian forces officially end their Iraq mission. On July 23, the last Romanian soldiers left Iraq. Three Romanian soldiers were killed during the period Romania employed troops in Iraq and at least eight were wounded.

### *This week in 12th Combat Aviation Brigade history*

June 1999: In April 1999, the Brigade deployed to Tirana, Albania as part of Task Force Hawk in support of NATO Operation Allied Force. When peace was declared in June 1999, the Brigade transported elements of the 82nd Airborne Division into Macedonia and Kosovo, moving 390 personnel, 24 vehicles, and 13 pallets of equipment in less than 48 hours of the signing of the Military Technical Agreement.

## ISF improves air assault skills

By Spc. Maurice Galloway  
17th FiB PAO

**COB BASRA** – Soldiers from the 52nd Military Transition Team and Iraqi forces secured weapons and mortars and served warrants recently during an air assault mission conducted in the al-Zaire district of Basra Province.

After extensive planning, intelligence gathering and coordination by the Iraq Army, Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz, the 14th IA Division commander, requested U.S. air weapons support.

“What the Americans are doing for our forces is amazing. We have received constant logistical support as well as high-quality training,” Aziz said. “Where we are lacking is air support and that was a critical part of this mission the Americans provided for us.”

Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Rodriguez, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Fires Brigade, brigade aviation element noncommissioned officer in charge and native of Fayetteville, N.C., coordinated air support.

“Air assault missions provide a difficult challenge,” he said. “You have to transport the Soldiers in and out of battle and pro-



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway  
A sniper with the 4th Co., 2nd Bn., 52nd IA Bde. pulls security in a neighborhood where weapons smuggling was suspected, during a recent air assault mission in Basra.



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway  
Twenty-five Soldiers from the 4th Co., 2nd Bn., 52nd Bde., 14th IA Div. are loaded on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in preparation for a recent air assault mission with U.S. forces in Basra.

tect them with air weapons teams.”

Rodriguez said the mission used six different aircrews from 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, which flew from both of their locations: Basra Air Base and Tallil.

During the operation, nearly 250 Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers patrolled a neighborhood suspected of housing criminals, weapons caches and mortar rounds. The IA confiscated a dozen AK-47 assault rifles and 20 mortar shells.

“Our mission was to provide security. We received reports of kidnappings and weapons smuggling going on. We found weapons, but more importantly we gained information on those behind these acts,” said Capt. Saad Aziz, commander of 4th Company, 2nd Bn., 52nd IA Bde.

As U.S. Forces transition into an ‘advise and assist’ role throughout Iraq, missions such as these serve as platforms for first-hand evaluation of ISF progress.

“We were there to support the 52nd IA Brigade and, from an advisory standpoint, we saw some good things which we will evaluate and then make our training recommendations,” said Lt. Col. Gary King, commander of the 52nd Military Transition Team, which works with the 14th IA

Div. “This was the fourth kind of this mission and they have become extremely efficient at this.”

“You can’t measure trust, which is exactly what we’re gaining with the people in the neighborhoods that we search. They see that we are here to provide safety and security, not to cause them harm,” Capt. Aziz said.

As U.S. forces draw down, signs indicate the Iraqi Army is becoming more self-reliant. However, the partnership between both sides continues.

“We owe it to our Iraqi partners to continue our efforts in training and advising all Iraqi Security Forces even as we draw down U.S. forces in Iraq,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Colman, United States Forces Iraq.

“I applaud what these advise and assist teams are doing for the Iraqi Security Forces,” Coleman said. “Their success shows in the competency level the ISF have demonstrated while conducting their own operations, but the Iraqis still have areas they need our help and we will continue to provide that assistance until they no longer need us.”

For more from 17th FiB, visit <http://www.17thFiresBrigade.org>

# Joint training sharpens ISF skills

By Spc. David Dyer  
3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav Regt Public Affairs

**COL SHOCKER** – The capability of Iraqi Security Forces is paramount to keeping Iraq safe, and U.S. Soldiers are training Iraqi troops to provide that stability and security for their country.

This is the situation at Contingency Operating Location Shocker, where a group of Iraqi Commandos received training in May from the Cavalry Scouts of A “Assassin” Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The Iraqi Commandos will return to their units and assist in training fellow soldiers on the tactics they learned from the Assassin Troop Soldiers. This will increase the overall capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces and lend stability to the government and safety to the population, according to 2nd Lt. Bryan Holder, a platoon leader in A Troop from Houston, Texas.

“It is very important that we help our partners build proficiency levels to the point where they are self-sustainable and trainers become organic to the organization,” he said.

The training covered a wide area of

subjects, said Sgt. Edward Ford, from Phoenix, Ariz., one of the trainers from A Troop working alongside the Iraqi Commandos. Vehicle and personnel search techniques, escalation and ethics of force, and checkpoint manning guidelines were just some of the subjects covered.

“We were reinforcing the training that they already received, and improving their overall efficiency,” said Ford.

Lt. Abdulkhaleq Abdalqader, 3rd Region’s 1st Commando Battalion, one of the Commandos who participated in the reinforcement training, appreciated the relevance of the training.

“Everything about this training was good,” he said. “I thought that the search training was very good. The things we learned here have many outside applications. We were able to learn things that will help us to gather more evidence and capture more bad guys.”

According to Ford, not in too many other professions can a person be happy in the knowledge that he is teaching himself out of a job.

“It really motivates me to know that they were able to benefit from this course,” he said.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit [www.facebook.com/3hbc3id](http://www.facebook.com/3hbc3id)

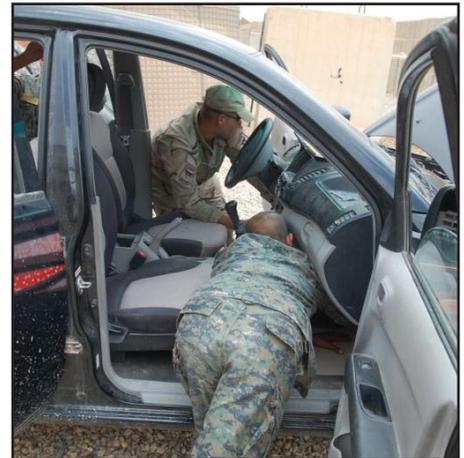


Photo by Spc. David Dyer  
Iraqi Commandos practice vehicle search skills outside of the classroom during the reinforcement training at COL Shocker in May.



Photo by Spc. David Dyer  
An Iraqi Commando searches Sgt. Larry Reyes, A Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., who is playing the role of a suspect while another Commando simulates providing security during reinforcement training at COL Shocker in May.



Photo by Spc. David Dyer  
An Iraqi Commando provides over-watch for his partner while he secures a “suspect,” Spc. Patrick Breakall, A Troop, 3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., as a part of the reinforcement training held at COL Shocker in May.



Photo by Spc. David Dyer  
Sgt. Edward Ford (left), A Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and the honor graduates from the Iraqi Commando reinforcement training pause for a photo with Sgt. Larry Reyes (right), A Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., after the graduation ceremony at COL Shocker in May.

# U.S. forces train Iraqi media officers

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

**COB BASRA** – Iraqi Security Force public information officers met with their U.S. counterparts at Contingency Operating Base Basra May 19, for classes designed to improve their public affairs and media relations capabilities.

Representing police, army and border guard units throughout Basra Province, the PIOs were led through class work and then tested on their skills in an on-camera interview.

“One of your biggest jobs is explaining what you do in the ISF,” said Lt. Col. Matt Hackathorn, United States Division-South and 1st Infantry Division public affairs officer.

A primary function of ISF public information is clearly communicating goals and objectives. In order to do that, most representatives, who receive little training in media engagements and interviews, face a steep learning curve.

Currently, the Ministry of Defense allows only ISF commanders to engage media with direct written consent in advance. By training personnel in media relations, the goal is to prepare ISF leaders at all levels of command to interact with the local media and get their story out.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney  
**Alaa Alden Abbas, a traffic control officer with the Basra Police, is interviewed as part of media relations training held at COB Basra May 19.**

The Iraqi Policeman and Soldiers asked questions about how to handle press inquiries and what information they should release.

Hackathorn stressed the fundamentals of dealing with the media; telling the truth, providing timely information, maintaining security of the source, maintaining the unity of the message at all levels, and telling the MoD’s story.

Every military and civilian member of the MoD should help provide accurate

information about the armed forces and national defense operations to the public, he said.

TV is by far the most-used medium in Iraq, so the training emphasized on-camera interview skills and prepping spokespeople for interviews

Alaa Alden Abbas, a traffic control officer with the Basra Police, was thankful for the opportunity to work on-camera and for pointers on how to act, as he has been interviewed by local media before.

The training was very helpful, Abbas said through an interpreter. When previously interviewed by Iraqiya TV while working, he was very nervous and started sweating and swaying back and forth.

The training, which covered interviewing, standing up straight and remaining relaxed, helped tremendously, he said.

The classes ended after participants were critiqued on their interview and given advice on how they could improve.

After promising to continue the training partnership, Hackathorn reminded them of the importance of their mission of informing the populace.

“Remember, they are looking at you as an official member of the ISF,” he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney

**ISF public information officers review an on-camera interview held during a public affairs and media relations training class at COB Basra May 19.**

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

# CIVIL CAPACITY

Danger Forward

May 31, Issue 18

## Conference brings leaders together

By Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

COS KALSU – Leaders of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division met May 14 at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu for the second Provincial Reconstruction Team conference of the unit’s current deployment to southern Iraq.

“Although this was the second PRT conference we held on COS Kalsu, it was the first time we focused primarily on the PRT deputy team leaders,” said Maj. Gary Bantad, civil-military operations officer for the 3rd HBCT.

The deputy team leaders for all five provinces in the 3rd HBCT’s operational environment assumed their responsibilities just last month, Bantad said. The five provinces include Babil, Wasit, Karbala, Diwaniyah, and Najaf.

“The conference brought the PRT deputy team leaders together so the brigade (leaders) can provide them with information on how we can enable the PRTs,” Bantad explained.

During the meeting, leaders discussed contracting, rule of law

initiatives, information operations, psychological operations, Human Terrain Team operations, medical capabilities, and the brigade aviation capabilities.

Also discussed was the Commander’s Emergency Relief Program.

“These are funds that resource high-payoff projects and have proven to be an excellent enabler for winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people,” Bantad said. “CERP projects can provide urgent humanitarian relief and provide employment opportunities and essential services for the Iraqi populace.”

CERP provides commanders a way to influence key people from key political leaders and provincial councils to shaykhs and farmers, Bantad explained.

“It is also used to augment and support PRT programs and initiatives,” he said. “As we move toward stability operations, CERP is the ‘weapon of choice’ for advancing the brigade’s civil capacity efforts.”

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



Leaders from the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., pose for a group photo after the PRT conference May 14 at COS Kalsu.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick

# TROOPS IN FOCUS

Danger Forward

May 31, Issue 18

## Goal-oriented commander inspires success

By Spc. Maurice Galloway  
17th FiB PAO

**COB BASRA** – The U.S. military has a long-standing reputation of excelling at reaching its goals, and many service members join the military to give themselves a sense of direction.

Twenty years ago, one Soldier embarked on a journey that would contribute to not only his success, but the successes of those he commands as well.

Lt. Col. Michael Phillips, commander, 308th Brigade Support Battalion and native of Monaca, Pa., recalls the beginning steps of his goal to run 10,000 miles.

“I can remember my first Army run vividly,” Phillips said. “I was in the University of Dequesne ROTC program. The downpour of rain and the icy wind made for the worst possible conditions imaginable. As I thought to myself how much I hated the cold, hated the rain and especially hated running, I will never forget the words that broke my train of thought.”

Those words came from the ROTC instructor: “You have to be out here and you’re going to run, so you might as well get something out of it.”

“That day the only goal I could think of was finishing that run and getting out of the freezing rain,” Phillips said.

Phillips’s soon developed a passion for

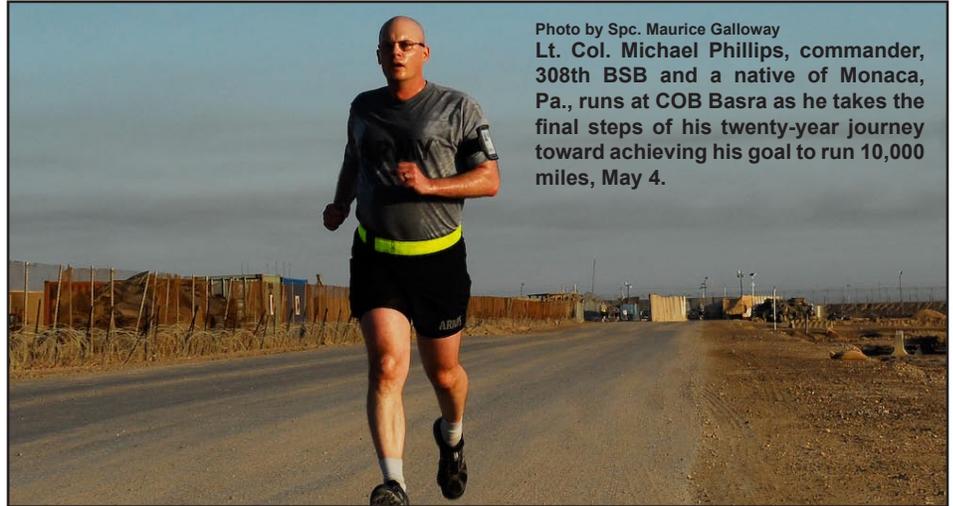


Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway  
Lt. Col. Michael Phillips, commander, 308th BSB and a native of Monaca, Pa., runs at COB Basra as he takes the final steps of his twenty-year journey toward achieving his goal to run 10,000 miles, May 4.

running which has turned into a goal-oriented philosophy that has trickled down through his battalion, known for its motto ‘Pride in Performance.’

“We encourage our Soldiers to set goals for themselves and to strive for development,” said 1st Sgt. Vinson Washington, Company B, 308th BSB, and a native of Augusta, Ga.

Washington said that, during developmental counseling’s, each Soldier is asked to list goals and develop a detailed plan to achieve them.

“Our leaders are assisting each Soldier in their goals, whether it’s getting their associate’s degree or achieving the maximum score on the physical fitness test,” Washington said.

The 308th BSB approaches their deployment to Basra Province with that same goal-oriented mentality.

Phillips said he asked each section in his battalion to evaluate their goals for the mission and the response was remarkable.

The unit completed

over 1,300 missions, drove over 65,000 accident-free miles, moved eight million bottles of water, six million pounds of ice, and three million pounds of other supplies such as vehicles, medical supplies, and mail throughout the 17th Fires Brigade’s operational environment in southern Iraq.

The “Red Lion” battalion accomplished this on top of managing a dining facility that has served over 1.8 million meals.

Phillips said he approached every run with the mentality that it would draw him closer to his goal.

“I set benchmarks for myself in my running, which keeps me focused. I applied these techniques toward our deployment, which allowed us to achieve so much,” Phillips said.

Phillips’s reward is simply the satisfaction of knowing he accomplished his long-awaited goal.

The 308th however, received a more tangible reward. The unit was recognized in September 2009 by the U.S. Navy Theater Electronic Warfare as the best Electronic Warfare Team in Iraq and was selected as the 2010 Quartermaster Corps Distinguished Unit of Regiment.



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway

Spc. Charles McGee Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 308th BSB food specialist, verifies the food at the Thunderbolt Dining Facility on COB Basra is being served at the proper temperatures.

For more from 17th FiB, visit  
<http://www.17thFiresBrigade.org>

# Above and beyond the call of duty

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Applebee  
1st Inf Div, USD-S OSJA

**COB BASRA** – As the mission in Iraq has transitioned to one of fostering political stability and bolstering the Iraqi Security Forces, Military Transition Teams, who embed with and advise the ISF, have played an integral role.

The training they provide is also increasingly important as U.S. troops draw down, leaving the security of Iraq in the hands of the ISF.

MiTTs are normally composed of senior commissioned and noncommissioned officers who have experience and training to teach, mentor and supervise the Iraqi units they are assigned to. It is unusual to find a Soldier of junior rank with the knowledge and understanding necessary to conduct this training.

For this reason, the recent selection of Spc. Ronald Boon as senior medic for the MiTT assisting the Provisional Transportation Regiment, 14th Iraqi Army Division, is unprecedented.

When the PTR, 14th IA Div., lost their medic, they asked for assistance from Headquarters and Support Company for a Combat Lifesaver class to train their soldiers.

“It was kind of a brief class because of the timeframe we had to teach it,” Boon said.

“We only had nine or 10 hours to teach; me and another NCO accomplished that mission in three days.”

When the IA medical officer and warrant officer asked for assistance in improving their treatment procedures, Boon was again selected for the task because of his professionalism and demeanor.

“Spc. Boon is training the 14th PTR on establishing medical treatment records for soldiers throughout the regiment,” said Master Sgt. Robert Richardson, 2110 MiTT NCO-in-charge.

“He is working on establishing proper sick call procedures and triage,” Richardson said. “He is assisting them with identifying their medications and how to properly record and dispense medications. Spc. Boon is doing a lot for the regiment



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Applebee

**Spc. Ronald Boon, senior medic for the MiTT assisting the PTR, 14th IA Div., examines a fellow Soldier.**

and he is doing it with very little supervision.”

When asked what rank or position would be commensurate to his performance, Richardson said he believed the work he was doing was that of a staff sergeant.

“His abilities and knowledge far exceed his current rank,” Richardson said. “He is self-motivated and a make-it-happen type of Soldier.”

For Boon, it is no big deal.

“I’m just doing my job. I’m just doing what I love to do.”

Still, he takes pride in being a part of something significant.

“I feel like I am contributing something to the whole Iraqi mission,” he said when asked about teaching the MiTT teams.

“Being able to teach the Iraqi Army – to know that we’re doing some good here – it’s sort of a hands-on personal experience, and it feels good.”

Training the MiTT teams is not Boon’s first teaching experience. In fact, he is rather passionate about teaching.

While pursuing his Forensic Science degree from Michigan State University, Boon taught swimming. He later worked for seven years as a canine handler and trainer with the Michigan State Police before retiring. He also served as a field training officer, teaching the ropes to new recruits during his time as a State Trooper.

In 2001, Boon started teaching martial arts classes and self-defense classes to kids and parents.

Since his arrival in Basra, Boon has continued to pursue his passion for teaching.

“I just got approved to teach through Central Texas College here on Basra. I’m still deciding what class I want to put together,” he said. “I’m leaning toward forensic science because it’s my background.”

“I think people would be interested, with all the CSI shows out there, and there are tons of shows on forensics. I can almost call it a CSI class, really,” he quipped.

Boon has also recently put together a program to teach a women’s self-defense class. He said classes should start in June.

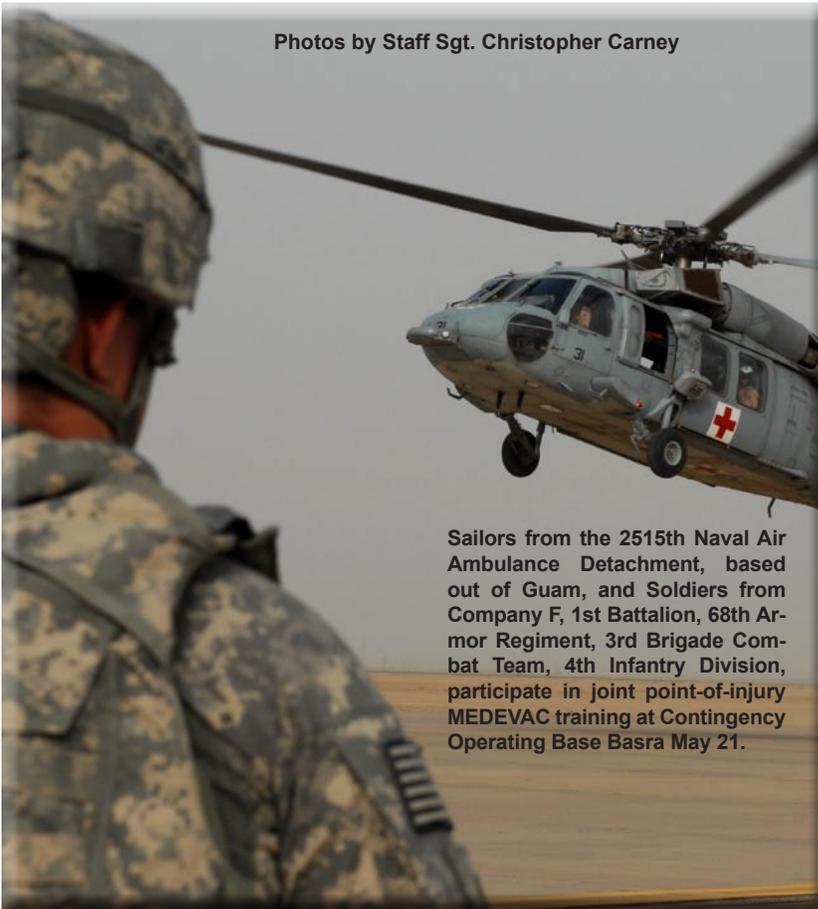
On a couple of occasions Boon acted as a security escort for VIP’s visiting Basra, including the Hooters girls and Rick Trevino. He also assisted in the creation of the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Aid Station. He is currently a shift leader, supervising two other medics, and assists the training NCO.

“Spc. Boon has unlimited potential,” said Sgt. Brooke Schiebel, Boon’s platoon sergeant. “He has the motivation and de-

See ABOVE, page 11

# Rescue specialists train in Iraq

Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney



Sailors from the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment, based out of Guam, and Soldiers from Company F, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, participate in joint point-of-injury MEDEVAC training at Contingency Operating Base Basra May 21.



**POLICE, from page 1**

operations and basic patrol boat maintenance are all skills the Iraqi Police are learning from the partnership.

Interacting with the local population and requesting them to lower or raise their “crossing lines” helps to develop a working relationship and foster trust with the people living along the Tigris River, Garcia said.

For example, if local residents see an Iraqi Police officer riding on a U.S. Navy patrol boat waving to children, or a U.S. Sailor assisting an Iraqi SRP mechanic with engine problems, they will see that the two forces are cooperating and have a strong relationship, he said.

To the average Iraqi, these examples are necessary to show that the security situation is getting better, he said.



Photo by Capt. Michael S. Walter  
**U.S. Navy Lt. Chris Garcia, commander of Det. 1, RIVRON 1, deployed to COS Garry Owen, and 1st Lt. Hissinin, commander of the 50-man SRP Co., shake hands after the Iraqi unit’s graduation ceremony in Amarah May 15.**

**For more from 3rd BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/3bct4id>**

**ABOVE, from page 9**

termination to get the job done and strives to be the best at what he does.”

Boon said he enjoys staying active and puts 100 percent into whatever he takes on.

“I apply that to everything I do,” he said.

Boon’s next goal is to be accepted to the Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program, a program that allows enlisted Soldiers to attend college full-time to complete a bachelor’s of science in nursing. Upon graduation, Boon would be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

In addition to his career goals, Boon plans to spend more time with his wife, Bethanny, and their two children after the deployment..

“I want to be there more for my son during baseball,” he said.



Photo Courtesy of Spc. Ronald Boon  
**Spc. Ronald Boon, senior medic for the MiTT assisting the PTR, 14th IA Div., works with Iraqi Security Forces, training them on how to provide medical treatment.**

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

Do you know a servicemember in the grade of E-5 or below serving in USD-S who deserves recognition? Email [melissa.applebee@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:melissa.applebee@iraq.centcom.mil).

# ON THE HOMEFRONT

Danger Forward

May 31, Issue 18

## USO opens its first center in Kansas

Courtesy of [blog.uso.org](http://blog.uso.org)

**FORT RILEY, Kan.** – The USO opened their first center in Kansas – USO Fort Riley – May 25 to serve the more than 23,000 troops and family members stationed on one of the largest U.S. Army installations in the United States.

“USO Fort Riley is a home away from home for our service members and families – a place for them to unwind and feel comfortable,” said April Blackmon, center director at USO Fort Riley.

“We are extremely grateful for the support of our partners and the Fort Riley community, as well as the dedication of our wonderful volunteers,” she said.

The new center will be open 365 days a year to provide a wide variety of programs for the Fort Riley military community.

With 7,000 square feet of room, the center features a computer lab with nine computer stations and WiFi connectivity; a video gaming area with Xbox®, Sony Playstation 3, and Nintendo® Wii™ consoles; a library and family room; pool, air hockey, foosball, shuffleboard, poker and chess tables; a movie theater with a large DVD and Blu-ray library; nine televisions with DirecTV; a United Through Reading® recording area, outdoor patio, snack bar and fireplace lounges.

The USO extended gratitude to the Defense Department for their cooperation in opening the center, to the TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Mark Gelfand, United Renovations and Harbor Group, and for donations from the public that made it all possible.

“The USO Center offers Fort Riley-based men and women a place to relax, have fun and meet friends,” said David J. McIntyre, Jr., president and CEO of TriWest Healthcare Alliance and a USO board member.

“TriWest is proud to contribute to the construction of this new center as a ‘thank you’ to service members and their families who sacrifice so much in defense of our nation,” he said.



Photo by Virginia Hagin

Col. Kevin Brown, Fort Riley Garrison commander; Sloan Gibson, USO president and CEO; April Blackmon, USO Fort Riley director; Mrs. Carol Brooks, wife of Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South; David McIntyre, president and CEO of TriWest Healthcare Alliance; and Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley deputy commanding general, cut the ribbon at the grand opening of USO Fort Riley May 25.



Photo by Virginia Hagin

Service members enjoy the gaming area at the new USO Fort Riley center, the first USO center in Kansas, during a grand opening celebration May 25.



Photo by Virginia Hagin

USO Fort Riley features a computer lab with WiFi connectivity, a video gaming area, library and family rooms, game tables, movie theater, televisions, a United Through Reading® recording area, patio, snack bar and lounges.

# AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

May 31, Issue 18

## 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

## The New Basra Bulletin!

For updates on times and locations of COB Basra activities and events, check the **BASRA BULLETIN**, sent daily on NIPR and SIPR and posted on the NIPR share drive at:

\\10.65.20.61\Media\Downloads\Danger\_Edition\BASRA\_BULLETIN\bulletin.pptx

# facebook

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## *Danger Forward*

We know it's the finest weekly literary masterpiece but there's a piece missing...

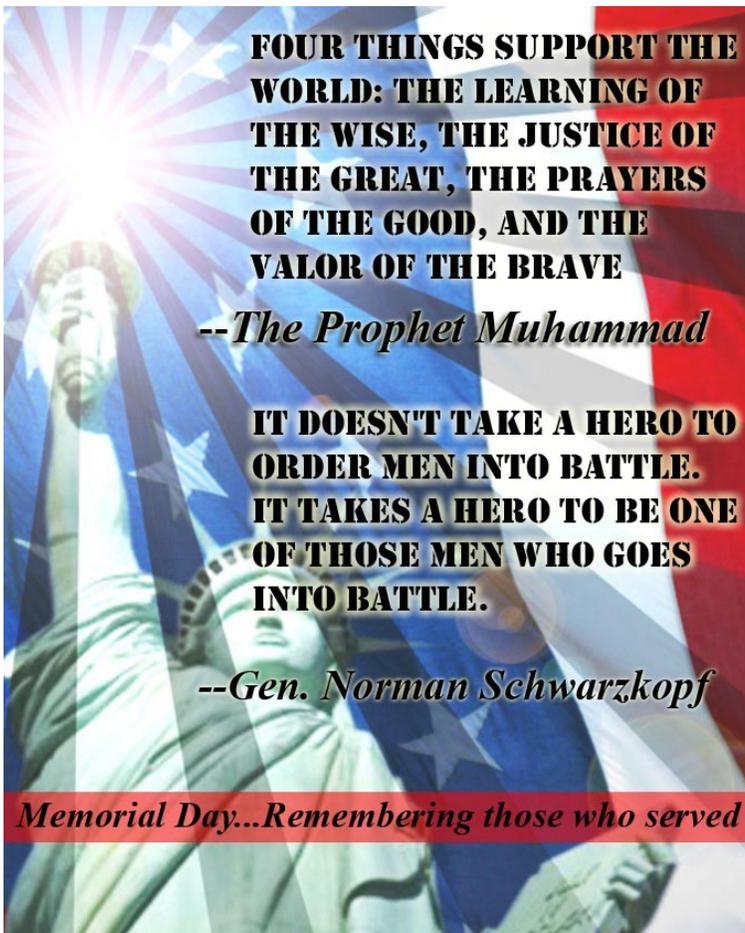
It's whatever you like to keep up with regularly and we want to know what that is!

**Do you want:**

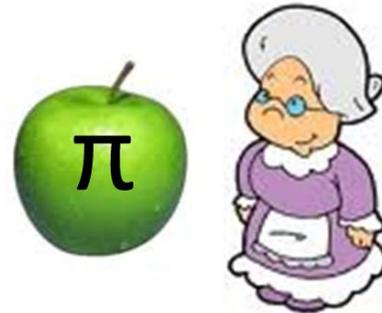
*Sports Scores  
USO Movie Schedules  
Puzzles or Trivia  
Movie or Video Game reviews  
Personal Columns  
Comics?*

Send your ideas to  
[DangerForwardTips@yahoo.com](mailto:DangerForwardTips@yahoo.com)

or SIPR email to 1st ID PAO  
[suggestionbox.@1id.army.smil.mil](mailto:suggestionbox.@1id.army.smil.mil)



## 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: Gama Goat*

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

## A look around USD-S



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffery A. Curtis, 1st Inf Div AMD  
 Spc. Matthew Wheeley, from Jonesboro, Ark., a radar maintainer with 1st Infantry Division, backs up a radar system onto a running C-130 Hercules airplane May 23, during the United States Division-South reset of radar equipment. Wheeley escorted the radar throughout all USD-S during the reset.

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

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

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