



DANGER FORWARD



August 16, 2010 | Issue 29

Fleet of Abrams arrive at Umm Qasr

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

UMM QASR – Iraqi Soldiers and Police have been training under the watchful eye of Coalition Forces to prepare them for the duty of protecting Iraq, but training can only take you so far. The Iraqi Security Forces recently took their next step toward self-reliance.

“We’ve off-loaded the first batch of M1 (Abrams Battle Tanks)” said Andreas Elesky, a program manager for defense contractor General Dynamics working with the Iraqi Training and Advisory personnel at the Port of Umm Qasr.

The M1 Abrams tank is a heavily armored, highly mobile tank that entered service in 1980.

Eleven tanks and one tank recovery vehicle were delivered to an Umm Qasr port. Iraqi flags adorned the turrets, alerting local residents to the fact that the heavy firepower being delivered was for their own government, Elesky said.

Working with the U.S. and Iraqi governments, General Dynamics has been in the process of receiving, transporting and delivering the tanks to the Iraqis, Elesky said. The company will train the ISF on the operation and maintenance of the tanks.

“Shipments will be coming in on a monthly basis,” Elesky said. Altogether, 140 M1 Abrams will roll to Forward Oper-



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

An M1 Abrams Battle Tank waits to be transported to FOB Hammer from the Umm Qasr port.

ating Base Hammer, a joint U.S. and Iraqi Army base southeast of Baghdad. U.S.-based American United Logistics, which partnered with an Iraqi transportation company, ensured the tanks were loaded directly onto heavy equipment transport trucks, said Matthew Berger, director of logistics and transportation for AUL.

Once more tanks have been cleared for transportation, they will convoy to FOB Hammer, guarded by an Iraqi security company, Threat Management Group. American security forces will not be present at any time, Berger said.

The first iteration of training on the tanks for Iraqis will take place in January.

The tanks are a major upgrade from the Russian, Yugoslavian and Chinese-made tanks the ISF is accustomed as the M1 Abrams is more versatile, allowing Iraqi

armor units to fight on the move.

In the past, there has been little to no maintenance management training on tanks. General Dynamics plans to change this by teaching Iraqi soldiers how to perform general maintenance, Elesky said.

“The more sustained we make them, the quicker U.S. troops can get out of the country,” Elesky said.

While U.S. Army is not involved in the acquisition and movement of the tanks, training exercises are already planned for 2011 and beyond, Elesky said.

“We’re helping them become a better-equipped and better-trained military,” Elesky said.

Delivery of the tanks is expected to be complete by August 2011.

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



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Danger Six sends

In previous versions of “Danger 6 Sends,” I highlighted comprehensive fitness and the resilience that comes from it. Comprehensive Fitness remains an important matter to me and to the rest of the chain of command. While fairly new as an approach, it is already showing effectiveness and we in US Division – South, and the First Infantry Division are committed to it. So, let’s go a bit further in this article.

A resilient person can endure more hardship, and can recover from that hardship, sometimes quickly.

You might think I mean physical resilience – and I do – but physical fitness is just one component of the comprehensive fitness we must have to be successful while deployed and afterward. To be truly and wholly resilient, we must exercise our minds, our spirits, our



relationships, and our bodies to prepare us for the challenges that are certain to come in a military life . . . or any other life, for that matter.

The Army’s Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program identifies five dimensions of strength: physical, emotional, social, family, and spiritual. Think of them each as pillars holding you up. If one of the pillars weakens, you will be out of balance. If one or more weakens, there is also the potential for a collapse.

In the Army we like to deal with measurable standards. Currently, there is no easy scoring system for comprehensive fitness. But there are some descriptions that we can apply to ourselves and see how close we are to being “fit.” Take a look at the box to the right of this column and evaluate yourself according to each dimension of strength. Be honest with yourself – like we say when you are training your upper body for the push-up portion of the PT test – “give it your best or you’re cheating yourself” . . . so don’t cheat yourself when measuring your comprehensive fitness. For a more precise assessment, go to the Army Comprehensive Fitness web site at www.army.mil/csf and take the Global Assessment Test. Once you’ve assessed your fitness, it’s time to get to work.

On COB Basra we will soon open a resiliency campus to help individuals “work out.” The campus will have dedicated areas for each dimension of strength, with subject matter experts, resources, and information to help you to improve your comprehensive fitness. And remember, exercise helps the strong get stronger just as it helps the weak get stronger – so no matter how you measure yourself, this work-out zone will help you. The Basra resiliency campus will be open to everyone in USD-S. I encourage leaders to allow their personnel to come here and take advantage of the facility for a few days, much like Soldiers travel to COB Adder to train on the rollover simulator. Not only will they get valuable training, but they can gain ideas to take back to their location.

This center is intended to concentrate the programs, the players and the place for all five dimensions, but you don’t need a resiliency center to start working on your comprehensive fitness. Talk to your unit Master Resilience Trainer and get started! Comprehensive fitness will help you perform better, remain resilient, and grow stronger even in the face of adversity. That’s what being Army Strong is all about.

Five Dimensions of Strength

Physical

Performing and excelling in physical activities that require aerobic fitness, endurance, strength, healthy body composition and flexibility derived through exercise, nutrition and training.

Emotional

Approaching life’s challenges in a positive, optimistic way by demonstrating self-control, stamina and good character with your choices and actions.

Social

Developing and maintaining trusted, valued relationships and friendships that are personally fulfilling and foster good communication including a comfortable exchange of ideas, views, and experiences.

Family

Being part of a family unit that is safe, supportive and loving, and provides the resources needed for all members to live in a healthy and secure environment.

Spiritual

Strengthening a set of beliefs, principles or values that sustain a person beyond family, institutional, and societal sources of strength.

Source: Comprehensive Soldier Fitness web site - www.army.mil/csf



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

Safety starts with Leadership

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety



Soldiers who wear the chevron stripes of the noncommissioned officer on their chests represent a unique Army strength. Today's NCO is the front-line trainer and role model for our Soldiers and the motivating force for cutting accidental losses. The dedication of our NCOs is largely responsible for this past year's success in accident prevention.

"No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers."

An ammunition platoon received an order to quickly move to another position. In their haste, they decided to skip the safety briefing. The NCOs failed to brief the convoy route, catch-up speed, and hazards of night movement. They also failed to ensure their Soldiers were using seat belts. In the confusion brought on by the rushed departure, one vehicle's driver lost sight of the lead vehicle. His vehicle hit a guardrail and overturned, and three passengers suffered neck injuries. Is this an example of a leader of Soldiers?

"I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps..."

The speeding automobile ran off the road and slid sideways almost 200 feet. The car flipped twice and hit a tree, killing both occupants who weren't wearing their seat belts. The drunk driver was an off-duty NCO. Is this an example of bringing credit upon the NCO Corps?

"Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers."

As the number one cannoneer knelt in front of his howitzer's breech to close the firing lock, the howitzer fired, striking him in the face. Was competence the watchword of this gun chief?

"All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership."

As we came through the ranks, our NCOs taught us the meaning of discipline, leadership and standards. We must pass that knowledge along. Effective leaders identify hazards in night movements and take the proper steps to mitigate those hazards. Teaching and enforcing standards prevents young Soldiers from screwing up crew drills and injuring themselves or someone else. Disciplined Soldiers wear their seat belts. When was the last time you made an on-the-spot correction when a Soldier failed to wear his seat belt? Caring for Soldiers requires us to take the hard right over the easy wrong, especially once the duty day is over. Let's be role models for our young Soldiers. They're entitled to nothing less.

Is the NCO Creed our standard or just another nice thought? I prefer to think our NCOs take the creed seriously and possess a keen desire to make a positive contribution to their units and the entire Army. Every hour of every day, an NCO somewhere in the world enforces a standard, provides leadership, or instills discipline in a Soldier that might prevent a future accident. These NCOs exemplify our creed and keep our Soldiers safe. Let's all remember, when it comes to safety:

"I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget, that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!"

NCOs Lead the Way... Safely!

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

August 19, 1917 – Brig. Gen Robert Bullard takes command of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during World War I. Bullard would go on to command the entire 'Big Red One,' and during his tenure, he would oversee the Battle of Cantigny, the first American victory of WWI where the 28th Infantry Regiment earned its moniker, "Black Lions of Cantigny."

This week in OIF history

August 19, 2009 – The 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division defends Baghdad's Green Zone on a day that comes to be known as "Bloody Wednesday." The coordinated bombing of the finance ministry and the foreign ministry with rocket attacks in the Green Zone ultimately result in 101 dead and over 560 wounded.

This week in 3rd Infantry Division history

The 3rd Infantry Division Band was constituted August 20, 1943. The band would go on to participate in campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe during World War II.

Ramadan marks tradition, change

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

COB BASRA – Ramadan began this year on the evening of August 10 in Iraq and will conclude on September 9.

The holy month is the ninth month on the Islamic lunar calendar, and according to Muslim tradition, God gave the first revelations of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel, an event specifically celebrated on a holy night called Laylat al-Qadr – or the "Night of Decree or Measures."

Though not a native tradition, the U.S. Forces' observance of the event has become a norm. Leaders in United States Division-South, for example, have gained specific knowledge about Ramadan, and observe that such insight has led to a stronger partnership with Iraqi counterparts.

"As one of the five pillars of Islam, fasting – or *sawm* in Arabic – is a means of learning self-control and becomes a way for those practicing the Islamic faith to focus beyond the preoccupation of satisfying their bodily needs during daylight hours," said Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding officer for support.

1st Inf. Div. conducts operations within the nine provinces that make up United States Division-South and Dragon, as well as other senior leaders, will be meeting with various Iraqi leaders throughout the month to observe the holiday.

Fasting is the biggest aspect of Ramadan and very challenging, said retired



Photo by Spc. Katrina Faulkner-Brown
Eastern Baghdad citizens share an iftar meal, during which Muslims break their daily fasts in the holy month of Ramadan, in the Rusafa District of eastern Baghdad, Sept. 15, 2008. Retired Iraqi Army Staff Maj. Gen. Falah Hassan said Americans have come a long way in their understanding of the holy month since he began working with U.S. forces in 2002.

Iraqi Army Staff Maj. Gen. Falah Hassan. Its purpose is to practice a godly reliance and reflection on many spiritual values including patience and humility.

Each day during Ramadan, a Muslim will not eat from sun-up to sunset.

"Ramadan truly is a time dedicated to prayer, fasting and charity and to coming closer to Allah," he said.

Falah, who has worked with U.S. forces as a security advisor since 2002, is marking his eighth time celebrating with them.

During his first Ramadan in late November 2002, Falah would take his daily *iftar* in a makeshift chow-hall inside a hangar. When the time came, the evening meal contained pork which is forbidden to Muslims.

"They did not have any food that we could eat," he said.

Even during the interview, a coworker made an unintentional mistake.

See RAMADAN, page 5



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Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
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Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

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- 12th CAB
- 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
- 367th MPAD



New courthouse in Dhi Qar

By Capt. Tony Massari

3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

COB ADDER – The establishment of Rule of Law in Iraq has taken center stage throughout the nation as it sees a new dawn approaching for democracy.

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. is aiding this quest for justice by helping to increase the local government's rule-of-law capacity in Iraq's Dhi Qar Province.

In coordination with the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team, the Soldiers have been supervising the construction of a courthouse in Al Fajir that the Iraqi Government began in 2009 but could not complete the project due to a lack of funds.

The courthouse is intended to alleviate a backlog at other courts in the area. The Dhi Qar PRT turned to the U.S. Army, who funded the remainder of the construction under the Commander's Emergency Response Fund Program.

Over the last four months, troops have worked intensely to supervise the construction of the courthouse, and they saw their efforts pay off as the contractor placed the finishing touches on the building.

"The judges are ready and willing to accept the courthouse," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Sergeant, a platoon sergeant from Colorado Springs, Colo. "Currently, criminal trials are being held in a rundown

courtroom across town [that] has too many cases for them to handle."

The 3rd BCT supports local, PRT-sponsored courses in Nasiriyah. The training brings lawyers, judges and police officers together to discuss evidence collection, criminal investigation, weapons simulation training, codes of ethics, and proper evidence handling.

"They are helping bring Iraqis who work in the justice sector together at the Mittica Training Center. We recently had a seminar where judges helped police investigators learn how to successfully collect evidence and procedurally use that evidence in criminal prosecutions," said Maj. Dan McAuliffe, deputy brigade judge advocate and rule-of-law coordinator for Dhi Qar and Muthanna and a Denver native serving with the 1st Army Training Support Division-West.

In another course, members of the 3rd BCT taught Iraqi Security Force personnel the proper way to collect evidence from explosive devices.

"There are a lot of great things going on in Dhi Qar Province right now," said Sgt. William Nelson, armor crewman from Phoenix partnered with the Dhi Qar PRT. "It's a wonderful feeling to know that I'm involved in helping Iraq prepare for its future."

For more from 3rd BCT, visit www.facebook.com/3bct4id



Photo by Capt. Tony Massari

Soldiers from HHT, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. and Iraqi Police examine the newly constructed courthouse in Al Fajir.

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"The important thing [about fasting] is to be very honest to God and yourself," Falah said but was interrupted as a female coworker came by and greeted him with a hug.

"I am fasting," he protested, referring to his intent to abstain from physical contact with females.

Moments later, however, Falah said that despite the occasional occurrence he has seen a big shift in the curiosity and knowledge of U.S. personnel.

"Many people stop and ask 'Is a Muslim allowed to eat? To drink?'" he said. "This is good because it says they are willing to be educated and find out the challenges [of Ramadan]."

Some have even partaken in the fasting with him for a little while, Falah said.

Dragon said the holiday's place in the U.S. mission in Iraq is valuable in its unifying and spiritual qualities, especially as U.S. forces draw closer to departing the country.

"In my time here, I have come to appreciate it as a month of renewal and connection with Allah, much more than just a holiday period," he said, "It is a time when our Islamic brothers and sisters intensely worship, a time when they focus on purifying behavior, a time when they do good deeds."

Approximately 97 percent of Iraq's population is Muslim, and the holiday affords an opportunity for the people to come together despite any deep divisions within society, said Falah.

"Ramadan is a very good occasion to put Iraq into unity and to support the freedom [to celebrate it]," he said.

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A Memorable American Journey

By Sgt. David Dasilma
4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

COB ADDER – The scene took place in Baghdad on the Fourth of July. His temperature was high, his pulse was throbbing, and he felt faint.

“Something was filling up inside me,” said Pfc. Hyoung Oh. “I thought my heart was going to explode.”

The Soldier, a supply clerk in Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, an Incheon, South Korea, native, wondered how he had found himself in this position.

Oh knew he was going to become a citizen that day, but he had no idea the ceremony would be presided over by the United States Vice President.

“[VP Joe Biden] really surprised us. He made it a day I will never forget,” Oh said. “I was on cloud nine.”

The elation Oh felt at his naturalization ceremony was countered by the intense pressure he felt to get this once-in-a-lifetime event right. It was a simple process:

“I WAS ON
CLOUD NINE.”

Pfc. Hyoung Oh
Supply Clerk, 4th Sqdn. 10th Cav. Regt.

walk to the established mark, shake right, receive left, turn, smile, wait for the “click,” and repeat. This only appeared simple to those in attendance. The process of becoming an American had been anything but simple.

When Oh was a child living in Seoul, his parents decided to relocate to the United States. His uncle, already a U.S.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Deanda

Pfc. Hyoung Oh, supply specialist with HHT, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, takes a photo with Gen. Raymond Odierno, commanding general of USF-I, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and wife, Dr. Jill Biden, after taking the oath to be a U.S. citizen at Al Faw Palace July 4.

citizen, applied to sponsor the Oh family. Due to the huge backlog of cases and the immediacy of the Ohs situation, they took matters into their own hands. At 14 years old, the family attempted to illegally cross the border into the United States from Mexico, where his family had migrated. Oh and his mother were caught by San Diego border authorities, while his father and sister made it into the U.S.

“I remember my mother, sister and I climbing mountains with Mexicans for an entire day,” Oh said.

Oh and his mother found themselves at a San Diego police station to be investigated. Since laws were less stringent and the border situation less tense than today, Oh and his mother were released to their cousins, who took them to Los Angeles to link up with Oh’s father who had already arrived.

A few years after his entry into the United States, Oh received permanent

resident alien status and, after graduating from high school, went full-time into the Korean restaurant business. After ten years of serving bulgogi and kimchi, Oh decided he wanted to serve people in a different capacity. In 2009, Oh, who was then the restaurant manager, enlisted in the Army.

Several days prior to his current deployment to Iraq, Oh decided he wanted to serve a country he could call his own, rather than just a place he was living in. Upon making this decision, he took full advantage of a Fort Carson, Colo., Army Community Service program designed to assist Soldiers and Families with the immigration process.

Executive Order 13269 applications from active duty service members are expedited and Oh’s application took slightly over three months to be approved.

For more from 3rd BCT, visit
www.facebook.com/3bct4id

Constructing Fiddler's Green

By Sgt. David Dasilma
4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

COB ADDER – To the average cavalry trooper, “Fiddler’s Green” is a legendary afterlife of perpetual mirth, a fiddle that never stops playing, and dancers who never tire. Its origins are obscure, but some answers point to the Greek myth of Elysian Fields.

To Task Force Blackjack, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fiddler’s Green is no myth, and its origins are well known. Fiddler’s Green is a morale, welfare and recreation facility on Contingency Operating Base Adder where Soldiers go to play before retiring for the day.

The facility is the brainchild of Thornton, W.V., native, 1st Sgt. Timothy Bolyard, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. senior noncommissioned officer, and was built by Sgt. Guy Monighetti, assistant project manager of 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. and Suffield, Conn., native.

“I’ve heard great things from various people, mainly Soldiers, who enjoy the fact they don’t have to go clear across post to use an MWR. Soldiers can stop by before or after a mission and enjoy a few minutes of games,” Bolyard said.

At Fiddler’s Green, located in Camp Dracula, Soldiers relieve physical and mental stress by reading, working out,

Photo by Sgt. David Dasilma
Sgt. Guy Monighetti, a Suffield, Conn., native serving as the assistant project manager for 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., exhibits his master carpentry skills.



playing games, and watching movies. Outside, Soldiers can use an area designed for CrossFit workouts or get on the internet or phone.

“It’s a great place to get to know some of the guys. I get to hang out with them, work out, and chill,” said Pfc. Billy Ray Holder, Jr., a Centerville, Tenn., native serving with the TF Blackjack protective service detail.

Before Fiddler’s Green became a happy refuge for Soldiers, it was a repository for broken equipment and trash. Bolyard and Monighetti saw the building as an opportunity.

With some Soldiers’ help, the building was cleared out, painted, and ready for modification within a week. The job was too big for a single person so Monighetti used it as an opportunity to teach Soldiers some new skills.

“I taught the guys basic carpentry skills,” Monighetti said. “Stuff like how to use the tools safely, how to cut straight lines, and how to properly utilize a hammer.”

The construction and installation of equipment took one week to complete. The only things left were finding a power source and an original name.

The name came as naturally to the troopers as a mounted patrol. Monighetti and his trade-school apprentices created a sign for the doorway, in traditional red and white Cavalry fashion. When it came time to etch a name into the wood, Monighetti asked for suggestions.

“The guys started shouting out [some pretty choice titles] due to how hot it was that day and how much work the project was requiring. Some said it wasn’t quite hell, but close,” said Monighetti.

This description of that day’s circumstances is actually the exact description of “Fiddler’s Green” in the Cavalrymen’s Poem. Without hesitation, Monighetti declared, “Fiddler’s Green it is.”

Soldiers who choose to dismount at Fiddler’s Green discover that, while there are no fiddlers or dancers, they can have a good time in the facility.

“From a leadership perspective, I just want Soldiers to enjoy their time here the best they can. I think having an MWR [nearby] helps,” Bolyard said.

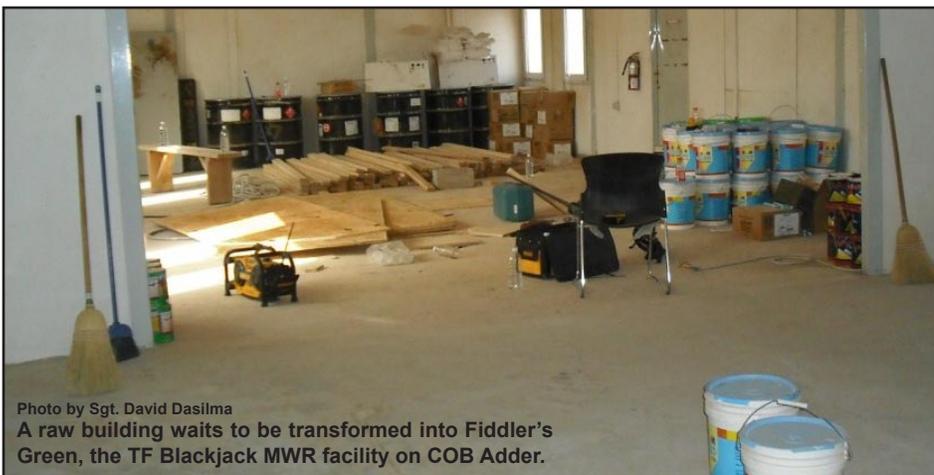


Photo by Sgt. David Dasilma
A raw building waits to be transformed into Fiddler’s Green, the TF Blackjack MWR facility on COB Adder.

For more from 3rd BCT, visit
www.facebook.com/3bct4id

Experience gained in Iraq will help North Dakota Aviation in the Future

By Sgt. 1st Class Derek Heck
C-2/285th Assault Helicopter Battalion

BASRA – While members of the North Dakota National Guard's Company C, 2/285th Assault Helicopter Battalion are deployed to Iraq, they are gaining valuable experiences that will last them a lifetime.

"Charlie Company has had one the most demanding flying mission in all of Iraq," said Capt. Doug Larson, unit commander.

Charlie Company has the Command Aviation Company mission, which handles almost all of the VIP missions south of Baghdad. The soldiers work hard to meet the mission and serve their customers, despite the challenges like the ever-changing itineraries, the extreme heat (more than 120 degrees for the past month), high humidity, extreme winds (sustained winds of 40 mph on various days) and long days.

"Charlie Company has been at full throttle since the beginning weeks of our deployment here in Iraq. All of our soldiers have been putting their best foot forward since day one," said 1st Sgt. Daniel Marquart, Charlie Company's senior enlisted member. "I could not be more proud of our soldiers and the tasks they are doing here."

The unit is frequently tasked directly at the division level and the division they answer to is the 1st Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Big Red One".

An air mission request officer, 1st Lt. Scott Dickmeyer, said, "Every single soldier plays an integral part in the success of the mission. The missions we are doing are high profile and with all the soldiers doing their best, we all win together."

The unit's most frequent and important mission is the transportation of the Big Red One's senior officers anywhere and everywhere in southern Iraq. Additionally, Charlie Company has been tasked with safely transporting officials such as the Deputy Secretary of State, commanding general of the Iraqi army, the sergeant



Photo by Sgt. Codie Suhr

Spc. Lucas Larson, Lamoure, N.D., pauses while trouble shooting the AN/APR-39 Radar Warning Receiver in the avionics compartment of a Black Hawk helicopter in Basra.

major of the Army, and numerous Moral, Welfare and Recreation stage acts including country music singer Kelly Pickler and the 1980s rockers band "Bad Company".

Members have also had the opportunity to fly and maintain both "A" and "L" model UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. N.D. Soldiers are familiar with the "A" model Black Hawk which is the model that can be seen flying all over the state. The UH-60 "L" model is a slightly more powerful, heavier lifting version of the Black Hawk. Along with flying dual model helicopters, the unit also conducts missions with multi-service organizations such as the U.S. Navy and the Iraqi army. These missions have included air assaults, air transport, Medical Evacuation backup, as well as assisting with Iraqi army training.

Charlie Company just reached the 4,300 flight hour mark in their deployment and they may reach 5,000 hours before the tour ends. In comparison, the unit is allocated just 1,000 flight hours per year in North Dakota to accomplish their weekend drills, annual training, maintenance, and AFTP's (Additional Flight Training Periods). The typical aviator averages 100-125 flight hours and the typical crew

chief averages 75-100 flight hours per year in North Dakota. On the average, the flight crews are getting 350-500 flight hours on this deployment. That equals roughly four years worth of experience for a typical pilot and roughly five years worth of experience for a crew chief when compared to home. The enlisted members have also gained many years worth of valuable maintenance experience.

"The experience gained here in Iraq will definitely improve the North Dakota Army National Guard aviation program," Larson added.

With the mission's high profile and demanding customers along with the heat and frequent bad weather, the soldiers of Charlie Company are getting the most out of every mission they fly. The crews will tell you the heat, dust, long hours, and demanding timelines will continually keep you at the top of your game. After all, Charlie Company admits to serving the best customers in Southern Iraq.

The 47 soldiers of Charlie Company mobilized in Oct. 2009 for their yearlong mission to Iraq.

For more from the ND National Guard, visit www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil

Soldiers return home to fulfill mission

By Sgt. Cody Harding
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – For the Soldiers of Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, the opinion on their return to the United States after seven months in Iraq is almost unanimous.

“Fabulous, fabulous, fabulous,” said 1st Lt. Trudy Powelson, a Seymour, Wis., native.

“Awesome,” said Staff Sgt. Melissa Applebee, an Abilene, Kan., resident.

“I can’t wait, because the first thing I’m going to do is grab my little girl and not let her go,” said Evelyn Hardy, a Los Angeles native.

“I’m pretty excited, looking forward to it,” said Sgt. Joshua Read, a Lincoln, Ill., native.

These Soldiers, part of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces from Iraq, were honored for their service during an awards ceremony Aug. 6. The Soldiers will be returning to Fort Riley, Kan., in the coming week having worked on COB Basra since the 1st Inf. Div. took control of United States Division-South in February.

The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, the 1st Inf. Div. commanding general. Before the



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the 1st Inf. Div. commanding general, addresses redeploying Soldiers at the COB Basra Town Hall Aug. 8.

awards were presented he commended the Soldiers for a job well done in Iraq, from organizing the unit to success in operations to helping the Iraqi forces secure the national elections last March.

“It’s no small challenge to get the unit from arrival, transition of authority to 30 days later, the historic elections,” Brooks said. “Maintaining a stable environment in southern Iraq, each one of you contributing in your own way, and every person’s contributions counted.”

Brooks, with Lt. Col. Mark Childs, the DHHB commander, and Sgt. Maj. Matthew Cloyd, the acting division command sergeant major, awarded 19 Bronze Stars and 66 Army Commendation medals to DHHB Soldiers.

First Sgt. Brian Safewright, the senior noncommissioned officer of Operations Company, DHHB, said the advise and assist mission continues, despite these Soldiers’ departure.

“I don’t see it changing a whole lot,” said Safewright, a Draper, Va., native. “We have to sit back and watch to see how the Iraqis deal with the change-over, see if they can take hold of the responsibility of leading their own country. We’ve just got to help them in any way we can.”

Brooks said even though the Soldiers’ mission in Iraq is complete, they have work ahead of them, starting with reintegration into Fort Riley.

“When you get back, take your time,” Brooks said. “Be patient with yourself, be patient with those around you and those that love you and those you care about, and get reconnected and reintegrated with that part of the world”

Safewright had one piece of advice for the redeploying troops.

“Stay out of trouble.”



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the 1st Inf. Div. commanding general, places the Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. Joshua Read, a fire support sergeant with the 1st Inf. Div., during an awards ceremony at the COB Basra Town Hall Aug. 8.

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Black Hawk Soldiers witness positive change in Iraq

By Spc. David Dyer

3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

COB DELTA – Members of the Command Security Detachment of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division operate as the eyes and ears of their commander on the battlefield.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Lord Wellington handpicked a special group of Soldiers who were expert marksmen and renowned warriors to serve as his personal bodyguards. These men were known as “chosen men.” The troopers who are a part of the Black Hawk Regiment’s detachment, known as CSD, are also chosen for their unique skills.

“CSD is a natural evolution of the command crews in order to perform missions in a (counterinsurgency) environment,” said Staff Sgt. Stephen Marvier, the 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt. noncommissioned officer in charge from San Luis Obispo, Calif. “I think that 10 years ago there was not a demand for CSD because commanders primarily stayed with the troops all of the time. Things were very linear. As we have adapted to a COIN environment, it became a necessity for commanders to get out in order to perform their jobs.”

Marvier said the need arose for a dedicated detachment to aid and secure leaders while they accomplished these tasks without interfering with line units’ missions. The CSD command crew structure has been augmented so they can operate independently, allowing the commander to function independently without drawing upon troop resources.

A CSD member, Sgt. David Smith of Houston said the detachment is a group of Soldiers that train in security operations to protect the chain of command, specifically the squadron commander. CSD Soldiers also have advanced training in private security operations.

“It is a big change from the line experience; we don’t get a lot of ‘hooah’ missions,” Smith said. “We are afforded a lot of opportunities to interact with our Iraqi counterparts. We get to set a good example and put a good face on what our nation



Photo by Spc. David Dyer

Sgt. Dannie Cox (left), Staff Sgt. Stephen Lee Hansen (bottom center), and Sgt. Ryan Tomich, members of the 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.’s command security detachment, pose for a photo with an Iraqi Army Soldier in Al Kut December 2009.

is doing here.”

Smith said working on the CSD has given him the opportunity to see the progress made by the U.S. and Iraqi forces.

“It is good to see the community change; I have seen a lot of the things that we taught the (Iraqi Security Forces) last deployment being put to use,” Smith said. “I see Iraqis in control of their streets and see the pride that they now take in rebuilding their communities. That is what has made being a member of CSD special for me.

“I have had a greater opportunity to see these sorts of things as a member of CSD as opposed to being in the line. Being a witness to these things has proven to be a solid learning experience for me.”

The advise and assist focus of the CSD members is evident at even the lowest levels.

“I am one of the newer additions to the CSD. When I first deployed, I thought that I was going to be shooting people,” said Johnstown, Pa., native Pfc. Tyrell Harris. “Now I understand that isn’t what this is all about. It is all about helping people. We are assisting (Iraqis) in their efforts to

stand alone as a people and a country.”

Pfc. Stephen Lee Hansen, the CSD team mechanic from Juneau, Alaska, said he appreciates the opportunities that come with being on the detachment.

“I feel like we have done some good things. I get to interact with a lot of Iraqis at the places we go while escorting the commander,” Hansen said. “I have had the opportunity to share in the food and the culture and got to know a lot of our counterparts as people. Seeing all of the kids come running out of nowhere to smiling and waving makes it clear to me that we are making a difference and the people support us.”

“We have worked really hard to give them a hand getting back on their feet and it makes me feel really good to see it working.”

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

Chinook crews take on Iraq's heavy work

Spc. Roland A Hale
1stCAB PAO

BAGHDAD – The 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, an all-in-one aviation unit from Fort Riley, Kans., deployed this March to Camp Taji, Iraq. The unit is one of the Army's last active-duty aviation battalions to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom and is playing a key-role in the reduction of U.S. forces this summer.

As the Army draws down in Iraq, nobody takes the brunt of the logistical monster more than this battalion's aviators.

Three hours before take-off July 7, one of the battalion's crews gathered to prepare their aircraft for a night of punishment. For many of the crew it was their seventh mission that week – in just four months their unit moved over one million pounds of cargo. On this mission they would contribute 17,000 pounds to that total.

Their ride is the Chinook, the Army's 13 ton, 3,750 horse power work-horse. It is the largest and fastest in the Army's arsenal and can carry 28,000 pounds of cargo, 33 troops or 24 medical litters. In addition to two pilots, the massive helicopter has a crew of three enlisted crew-chiefs, whose duties range from securing cargo to directing the pilots through precision maneuvers.

After a briefing and a check of the aircraft's systems, the crew set out for their first stop of the night. Under the cover of darkness, the crew took the bird to several stops around Baghdad, shuttling passengers and equipment between bases. The crew welcomed the cooled night air, as the aircraft often serves as an unintentional sauna during the mid-day Iraqi heat.

"Ninety-percent of the time we're like a bus flying around Baghdad," said Spc. Shad Cabe, a Chinook crew-chief on the flight, "but sometimes it can get exciting."

During the mission, the crew spotted two bursts of tracer fire and an explosive



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale
A Chinook crew chief sits on the ramp of his bird.

flash that no one could identify. The Soldiers remember a much more violent time in Iraq – when air assaults were nearly as common as supply runs and every "mission complete" felt like an answered prayer. But now, Cabe said, the Chinooks are making their living with heavy lifting.

The Chinook uses three hooks on its fuselage to carry cargo, or sling-loads. On this night, Cabe guided the pilots to a hover above a 17,000 pound armored-truck, which ground crews attached to two of the Chinook's hooks. Cabe then laid down to monitor the load through a hatch in the aircraft's floor. The Chinook flew naturally with the added weight, but when the load swayed beneath it, the oscillations felt like a tug-of-war between the aircraft's twin engines and the truck. The pilot's calculations indicated their load pushed the aircraft to within a thousand pounds of its maximum weight.

Also special to the mission was the presence of Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson, the senior noncommissioned officer of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. Even though his senior posi-

tion entails primarily administrative work, Thomson has crewed about a dozen missions this deployment, he said.

Thomson added that at a senior level it's easy to forget what the troops are doing daily. Crewing flights is the best way to keep in touch with their experiences and needs, he said. All but one of the crew onboard had flown with Thomson at least once before.

"With the responsible draw-down of forces in Iraq and a limited number of aviation assets available, these guys are flying day-in and day-out," said Thomson. "It's not how many times or how many missions they fly, but rather the contribution they're making by moving people around."

The missions will increase as the draw down progresses, meaning more long hours for crews like this. The Army is scheduled to reduce the number of troops serving in Iraq from 82,000 to 50,000 by Sept. 1. Their battalion alone moved 1,200 people that night.

For more from 1st CAB, visit www.facebook.com/demonbrigade

Fishermen up in arms against proposed Alaska Pebble Mine

By Kim Murphy
Los Angeles Times

DILLINGHAM, Alaska - It is an unfortunate coincidence of geography that this lush region of wild rivers, grassy tundra and windy sea is home to two competing treasures of almost unimaginable value: the world's largest sockeye salmon run, supporting a fishery worth \$440 million a year; and in the hills behind it, a massive deposit of copper, molybdenum and gold worth at least \$300 billion.

As Pebble Ltd. Partnership prepares to submit its permit application outlining what kind of mine it wants to build by late this year or early next, Bristol Bay fishermen are fighting a fierce advance assault, hoping to convince government decision-makers and the public that poisonous mine drainage and some of the world's last pristine salmon streams are a combination too risky to contemplate.

"The location could not possibly be worse on the face of the Earth," said former state Senate President Rick Halford, a Republican from the Bristol Bay region. "This is a place of incredible value. It's going to be probably the biggest environmental resource fight of our lifetime."

Last week, Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa Jackson met with dozens of mine opponents at Dillingham High School, where tribal leaders and commercial fishermen began a push to have the EPA wield its veto authority.

For many fishermen here, it is inconceivable that an industrial-scale mine that could produce 8 billion tons of waste is being contemplated in an area home to rare, healthy runs of all five species of salmon. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar earlier this year called the area "simply too special to drill" and placed it off-limits to offshore oil and gas development.

"It is a national treasure that we must protect," Salazar said.

Construction of the mine would bring an unprecedented level of industrial development to a region known until now for its majestic solitude. It would require an 86-mile road and miles of pipelines straddling salmon streams, a deepwater port in Cook Inlet, a power plant capable of generating up to 300 megawatts of electricity and 200 miles of power transmission lines.

Pebble Ltd. Partnership has withdrawn the 2006 permit applications that originally outlined the project and company officials say they no longer know the scope of what they will propose.

"One of our core operating principles is to be able to demonstrate coexistence with the fishery. It's not going to be one industry at the expense of another," said Mike Heatwole, spokesman for the partnership, a 50-50 venture between London-based global mining company Anglo American and Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. of Canada.

The state Legislature has appropriated \$750,000 for a full scientific review of the project's potential impacts on Bristol Bay, with a series of independent science panels scheduled to begin public meetings in December.

But at last week's meeting with the EPA, many local residents said they fear the meetings are aimed at railroading approval for the mine.

It would lie near the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak rivers and just north of the 1,000-square-mile Lake Iliamna, nursery of many of the sockeye salmon.

Here in Dillingham and other communities along the bay, many fishermen fear that even a small amount of toxic copper sulfide generated when copper is mined - leached through the porous rock or leaked from a broken pipe - could be fatal to the fish that are their livelihood.

"Every other mine of this size, this type, near water, has contaminated the water. There is not one example they can give us

of something this size and this type that hasn't," said Lindsey Bloom, 30, a commercial salmon fisherwoman from Juneau.

"I don't have problems with mining in Alaska in general," said Katherine Carscalen, a third-generation fisherman from Dillingham. "But Pebble isn't really something you can compare to the rest. It's unbelievably huge. All the rest of the mines in Alaska could fit inside Pebble."

Though polls show 80 percent of Bristol Bay residents opposed to the mine, many residents of the native Alaskan villages closest to the Pebble site, on the shores of Lake Iliamna, have broken ranks with the fishing towns along Bristol Bay and elected to remain neutral until mine operators conduct their studies and make a specific proposal.

They admit they are lured by the promise of 1,000 skilled, high-wage jobs over the 30-year life of the mine, 2,000 additional jobs during construction, and hundreds of millions of dollars in annual operating expenditures.

"Commercial fishing isn't sustaining and supporting our communities. We're basically dying up here," said Lisa Reimers, chief executive of the Iliamna Development Corp., a native-owned venture at Iliamna which has already won some work during Pebble's exploratory operations.

The village lies just 15 miles from the mine site, and Reimers said she and other village leaders conducted their own research, which convinced them that healthy fisheries and mining can coexist.

"We're not pro-Pebble. We're neutral. We're trying to be open-minded about everything in our economy and figure out how our young people are going to support themselves," Reimers said. "Of course we care about the environment. This is our home."

Alaska is the hometown of Pfc. Stephen Lee Hansen, who is featured in the story on p. 11.

Morale Call



Dear Basra Betty,

I have this roommate and she is such a nice girl. Almost too nice, and that makes it very hard for me to say things to her that could hurt her feelings. My problem is this...she has this really big rug in our room, and lately it seems to give an odor off that some might say "smells like fritos." I have asked her if she has taken it outside to feebreeze it or to air it out and she said no. I suggested that she do that, hinting at the fact that it stinks, but doing it politely. She said

she would, and now then I walk in the room it smells like perfume and fritos. I honestly believe that it is coming down to the point where it is the rug that goes or me. How do I handle this so that she does not get embarrassed and I do not hurt her feelings, but can enjoy the air in my room?
—Signed, Choking in my Chu

Dear Choking,

When reading this several images come to mind. First, in my head I keep hearing in my best Homer Simpson impression the words "mmmmm Fritos" and seeing the drool out of the corner of Homer's mouth. But I am seriously trying to shake that thought so that I can answer your question, so here goes.

Honestly, I realize when you have a roommate there will always be things that irritate you about the other person. Even the best of friends can find it difficult at times to live together, I mean let's face it, the best of relationships don't always survive the "moving in together" phase.

But when I read this the first thing that came to my mind, well after the Homer Simpson reference, was that it is a shame that two adult women are not able to communicate better. Is it really that big of a deal for you to say that the smell is bothering you? You keep saying you don't want to embarrass her or hurt her feelings. I mean geez? We're in a combat zone here dealing with a lot more stressful situations than a stinking carpet...I'd think you two gals could learn to not sweat the small stuff.

Now, I'm not saying that horrid aroma of all that salty, crunchy, toasted corn chip goodness should be yours to just deal with, but what I am saying is that you two Soldiers should be adult enough to address these types of issues. I mean how are you supposed to handle REAL combat, tactical, work related issues if you can't communicate about a rug? One piece of advice I learned on my last deployment. Don't try to adapt your environment to you when you're deployed, try and adapt yourself to the environment. Just food for thought.

Basra Betty

ROCK AND ROLL TRIVIA

THE METAL

This week's trivia is as epic as the genre it's about – Heavy Metal. Some musical styles come and go, but Heavy Metal has had rock fans banging their heads for over 40 years.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

- 1) Deep Purple wrote what classic after witnessing the Montreaux Casino catch fire by Lake Geneva? (If you own a guitar, you've probably played the riff to this one.)
- 2) Blue Cheer's cover of what Eddie Cochran classic is often referred to as the first true heavy metal song?
- 3) What band drew lyrical inspiration from JRR Tolkien on the songs "Misty Mountain Hop" and "Battle of Evermore"?
- 4) Robert Downey, Jr., was just five years old when Black Sabbath released this song about what vengeful person with "heavy boots of lead."

5) This Boston band packed arenas in the mid-1970s touring in support of albums such as Get Your Wings and Toys In The Attic.

BOS RENAISSANCE

- 6) The Scorpions sing about what metropolis on "The Zoo"?
- 7) This band may sing "Breaking the Law," but an Arizona jury ruled their music was not responsible for the suicides of two troubled teens.
- 8) After fronting Rainbow and Black Sabbath, what diminutive singer went on to solo success in the 1980s and was featured in the Tenacious D film "The Pick of Destiny"?

9) Named after a torture device, this British metal band is known for thoughtful lyrics, imaginative album covers, and precise (and fast) playing.

10) What Metallica song is based on a Hemingway novel?

HAIR METAL

- 11) "Talk Dirty to Me" was the first hit for what 'toxic' band?
- 12) Guns n' Roses was formed by former members of Hollywood Rose and this band that scored

a minor hit with "The Ballad of Jayne."

13) After kicking around for 11 years, Kix took advantage of the hair metal craze and finally scored big with what 1989 power ballad?

14) On MTV's "Beavis and Butthead," creator Mike Judge helped signal the death knell for hair metal by drawing what group's concert shirt on uber-dork Stuart. (Bonus – what bands are featured on Beavis and Butthead's shirts?)

15) This band was on top of the world in 1989 with their cover of Ian Hunter's "Once Bitten, Twice Shy." Fourteen years later they were center stage in one of rock's greatest tragedies when 100 fans were killed during a blaze at a nightclub in Rhode Island.

Close Your Eyes,, (14) Minger (12) Cless MWhite Bell Doinz (11) Poison (13) LA Guns (13) „Don't James Dio (8) Iron Maiden (10) „For Whom the Bells Toll (9) New York City (11) Judas Priest (8) Ronnie Blues,, (3) Led Zebbelin (4) „Iron Man,, (2) Aerosol- (1) „Smoke on the Water,, (5) „Summertime Answers to this week's trivia:

To be continued next week...

**USD - South
1st Infantry Division
Yearbook Photos**

The Yearbook is on its way, and the USD-S PAO is offering you the chance to decide what you want to see.

- *Send in your own photos. Requirements are complete army uniform, no hats/sunglasses.
- *If you don't have a camera, arrange for a photo shoot with Public Affairs. All you need is a time and a place.
- *If you are a DHHB Soldier serving in USD-S, photos are required.

If you have any other questions or comments, e-mail Sgt. Cody Harding on Outlook.

cody.harding@iraq.centcom.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: Paradox
Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

A look around USD-S



Photo by Warrant Officer Kais

Pfc. Drew Martin provides security along with his new partner during a combined Iraqi and U.S. operation to deliver food and supplies to Iraqi citizens in Basra Province.

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 nathaniel.smith5@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_003.html