



DANGER FORWARD



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Teams and missions evolve

By Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
367th MPAD, 3HBCT PAO

BABIL – The U.S. Army has seen significant technological, doctrinal and structural changes within the past decade.

The latest adaptation, turning brigade combat teams into advise and assist brigades, reflects tremendous developments in the Iraqi Security Forces and a major change in emphasis for U.S. Soldiers in Iraq.

The role of the AABs is much how it sounds: advising ISF locally and nationally, providing them a logistical safety net, and assisting with governmental and private initiatives through mentorship and funding.

This requires the AAB to work closely with Iraqi leadership and the U.S. State Department’s Provincial Reconstruction Teams.



Photo by Sgt. Sam Soza

An Iraqi man near a Karbala polling site displays his marked finger – a sign of having voted – during the Iraqi national elections March 7 while ISF stand guard in their humvee.

As the ISF have taken up the responsibility of securing their country, members of Stabilization Transition Teams have been assigned to work directly with ISF leadership at different levels, said Maj. Gary Bantad, the 3rd HBCT civil affairs officer, and a Virginia Beach, Va., native.

These specially-trained advisors are similar to the Military Transition and Border Transition Teams of the past but are organic to the brigades.

It may sound like a small change, but Capt. Michael Washburn, commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd HBCT, who worked as a member of a BTT in 2005, said the impact has been noticeable.

“What I experienced on the BT Team prior to it coming down to a brigade level was that, since we had no unit we really fell under, getting the materials, personnel and the support we needed to do our job effectively just wasn’t there,” said the Yorktown, Va., native.

“Now, you have a team or teams that can do direct coordination for support when it comes to equipment and personnel to get the job done,” he said.

In his current role advising the Iraqi Army’s 2nd Bn., 31st Bde., Washburn has a front-row seat to changes in the ISF.

“We’re doing a lot of joint patrols, to keep that partnership, but they’re doing a lot more patrols on their own, which is a sign of them being able to run their area of operation without [U.S.] support,” he said.

Capt. Matt Hunter, commander of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 69th Armor Regt., is on his third Iraq deployment.

“We’ve really been able to step back and allow the IA to take the lead,” he said. “From where they were in 2005 to where they are now is leaps and bounds ahead. Our ‘advise and assist’ is really just checking in with them and making sure that they have

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Danger Six sends

As this edition of Danger Forward is published, we are less than 48 hours from the completion of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Many of you have been a part of this operation since 2003, as I have. In this installment of Danger 6 Sends I want to let you know that each of you should feel immense satisfaction in the successful completion of this historic operation. This has been a significant test of U.S. resolve. The early victories that occurred in destroying the instruments of Saddam Hussein's regime were followed by many tough days. Battles and intense urban combat became part of the daily existence of an American warrior in Iraq. Death and injury became constant companions and the challenges appeared to be endless. Yet, through the courage and determination of you, your teammates, and those who came before you, the situation did turn and has been on an increasingly solid base of stability. Across the country the Iraqi Security Forces are providing for the security of their fellow citizens. They have taken our place – and their rightful place – in fulfilling that role. They should be the first source of our satisfaction.

The Iraqi Security Forces have demonstrated repeatedly, even within the last week, that they are capable of preserving order, defeating enemies, arresting criminals and violent extremists, and standing against the winds of influence that shift and blow so often in Iraq. They are proud and they are professional . . . and they admire and respect you for your professionalism and your discipline. You “rubbed off” on them and it shows! Because of the successes in security the government of Iraq has been through open and fair elections, and now is

poised to begin a new era of democratic government in their own design. That would not have been possible without you. This is your second reason to feel satisfaction.

Finally, you, and your Families, have shouldered the heavy and often deadly load our Nation asked of us. We did not know in 2003 that we would be at the end of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in 2010 – the history will be told of how that happened, but in any history there will be the unmistakable footprint of the American warrior who carried the day as the strength of our Nation and of Iraq. About these accomplishments, you have good reason to feel personally and professionally satisfied. **JOB WELL DONE! CONGRATULATIONS ON BRINGING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM TO A SUCCESSFUL CLOSE.**

Iraq is still dangerous and there are enemies who want a different Iraq than we, the United States, want to see. These are challenges to stability in Iraq and our continued presence as we begin OPERATION NEW DAWN remains the most visible demonstration of U.S. commitment to Iraq becoming a sovereign, stable, self-reliant nation. Your discipline in the days ahead, and your constant readiness to meet the challenges and hazards posed by the enemies of Iraq and the U.S. will be the key to success yet again. I am counting on you and I am proud of you. Give it your best, everyday and stay focused. Thanks for demonstrating everyday that there is:

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT, NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. DUTY FIRST!



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



 Commanding General  Major General Vincent K. Brooks	 Command Sergeant Major Command Sergeant Major Jim Champagne	<h1 style="margin: 0;">DANGER FORWARD</h1>
PAO 1st Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Sophie Gainey Command Info OIC: Capt. Brian Melanephy Command Info NCOIC: 1st Sgt. Charles Owens Email: MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil Phone: (Iraqna) (0790)-194-2865 (770)-263-9379.	Danger Forward Print NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Nathan Smith Editor/Layout: Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro Staff Writers: Sgt. Cody Harding, Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey, Sgt. Sam Soza, Sgt. Jason Kemp, Spc. Raymond Quintanilla, Spc. James Benjamin, Spc. Eve Ililau	Contributing Units  3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.  12th CAB  3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.  305th MPAD 

Building a positive safety culture

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

Building a positive safety culture within an organization is a challenge that blends mission accomplishment with minimizing risks. While those may seem like competing priorities in today's high operations tempo, they don't have to be.

Leaders are always responsible for checking safety, and the commander and command sergeant major's commitment to safety sets the tone for everything a unit's officers and noncommissioned officers do. The safety officer and NCO positions in a unit are also important and the people selected for these positions should be the best Soldiers in the unit. He or she should be empowered to develop new ideas and be fully supported by the commander when following or enforcing directives.

For a given task or mission, an overall composite risk management worksheet (changed frequently) should be completed, followed by a daily unit-led risk assessment signed by the commander, followed by a hasty risk assessment card filled out each morning by unit leaders. The hasty assessment should get the most attention. It's a five minute mental exercise that simply

asks, "What is the most dangerous thing I'm doing, and what have I done to mitigate it?" These assessment sheets can be laminated, reusable and, most importantly, dated.

Risk management tools provided by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center — including the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS), Risk Management Information System (RMIS) and Ground Risk Assessment Tool (GRAT) — can be used to reduce accidents as well.

The Commander Safety Course, Accident Avoidance Course, and the Additional Duty Safety Course are great training tools for all Soldiers in the unit. Conducting Safety Council meetings as a battle rhythm event is a great platform for the commander to meet with their unit's leaders and safety officer/NCOs, and discuss important safety issues affecting the unit. Any safety issues noted during the Safety Council can be used to develop training topics in planning the next quarterly safety training day.

Building a positive safety culture takes a little work, but with proper planning and training, it can become an effective safety and occupational health program, compliant with Army policy and program requirements. Most importantly it will build a strong safety culture into the unit's daily activities. ■

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

September 2, 2003 – The main body of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division deploys to Kuwait en route to Ramadi, Iraq. Over the course of their 12-month deployment, Soldiers of the 'Demon' Brigade killed 541 insurgents, wounded 101 more, and detained over 2,081 enemy fighters, including the capture of 18 High Value Targets and 20 foreign fighters. The brigade also formed and trained the 60th Iraqi National Guard Brigade and sponsored more than 23 million dollars in civil projects in Al Anbar Province.



Operation Iraqi Freedom History

September 5, 2002 – Coalition aircraft conduct a 100+ aircraft attack on the main air defense site in western Iraq under the guise of preventing attacks on Shias living in the region, but it was later revealed the bombings were to help allied special forces units move into and out of Iraq from Jordan in preparation for the 2003 invasion of Iraq. September would become the most active month for Coalition Forces' bombers in the months prior to the invasion with 54.6 tons of bombs dropped, as opposed to an average of seven to 14 tons between May and August 2002.



12th Combat Aviation Brigade History

August 31, 2000 – All 12th Combat Aviation Brigade units at Wiesbaden Army Airfield move to Giebelstadt Army Airfield in compliance with U.S. Army-Europe's Movement Directive 5-00. This brought to a close a 21-year tenure at the airfield that began in November 1979. During that time, the 12th CAB supported Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and supported peace-keeping operations in northern Iraq, Beirut, Albania, Hungary, Macedonia and Kosovo.

1st ECAB takes on Iraqi mission

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

COB ADDER – After playing a pivotal role in transitioning troops and equipment out of Iraq in preparation for Operation New Dawn, the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade said farewell in a Transfer of Authority ceremony with the 1st Infantry Division Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade at Memorial Hall, Aug. 25th.

The Task Force 12 ‘Griffins’ were responsible for air operations in United States Division–South, comprising nine provinces and a total area comparable to Washington state.

During their nine month tour in southern Iraq, they were instrumental in moving thousands of tons of equipment and personnel out of Iraq as part of the drawdown in U.S. forces.

Other highlights of the Griffins’ deployment included flying overwatch over polling sites during Iraq’s national elections in March, conducting air assault training with the Iraqi Army, and initiating an advise and assist partnership with the 70th Iraqi Air Force Squadron.

Retired Lt. Gen. John Cusick, former commander of U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command was present at the ceremony along with members of the Iraqi

Air Force, who thanked the Griffins for their aid and assistance in training and standing up the force at COB Adder.

Col. Robert Doerer, the 12th CAB commander, thanked the personnel in attendance for their support to his brigade. He noted the connections between the outgoing and incoming brigades, since many of the 12th CAB’s units used to be a part of the 1st Infantry Division’s Aviation Brigade when the ‘Big Red One’ was stationed in Germany.

“There are many great leaders in the organization,” Doerer said of the 1st ECAB, “but none finer than my good friend Frank Muth, the commander. Frank and I go back a ways, and I know he’s the right officer at the right time for the mission he’s assumed.”

The 1st Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade is one of the largest aviation brigades in U.S. Army history. Their mission comes during a shift in operations as the mission changes from combat operations led by U.S. Forces to advising and assisting their Iraqi counterparts.

The 1st ECAB’s presence in USD-S also marks the brigade’s command of the entire airspace in Iraq, having assumed control of USD-Central and USD-North already. The 2nd Squadron, 285th Assault Helicopter Battalion, one of the units attached to the 1st ECAB, assumed the role for air



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

▲ Col. Frank Muth, commander of the 1st ECAB, speaks during his unit’s transfer of authority ceremony with the 12th CAB at COB Adder’s Memorial Hall Aug. 25. The ‘Griffin’ Brigade is returning to Ansbach, Germany.

control at COB Adder, while the ECAB’s headquarters is stationed at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Col. Frank Muth, commander of the 1st ECAB, highlighted the unit’s importance as the 12th CAB colors were cased, marking the transfer of authority to the ‘Demon Brigade.’

“Today marks a historic day for Army Aviation,” Muth said. “Never, in our history, has there ever been an enhanced combat aviation brigade. The ECAB consists of 238 aircraft and 3,600 Soldiers flying full-spectrum aviation operations across an area as long as California and as wide as Texas.”

Muth said this daunting task will rely on all of his Soldiers down at the lowest levels.

“This will be accomplished by the privates, the sergeants, the warrants, the junior leaders; doing the right thing, making the decisions, instilling pride and enforcing standards and discipline,” Muth said. “With the largest Army Aviation formation in history conducting operations across a vast area, we must entrust our Soldiers and empower our leaders to make decisions, find deficiencies and develop systems that ensure mission accomplishment.” ■

▼ Col. Robert Doerer, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Treyfus Lee, commander and senior noncommissioned officer of the 12th CAB, case their unit’s colors at the transfer of authority ceremony for 12th CAB and the 1st ECAB on COB Adder Aug. 24. The 12th CAB controlled air space in USD-S during their deployment to Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding



"TALKIN' TRASH



Courtesy photo

The Contingency Operating Base Adder scrap yard is sorted into several clearly marked sections after 15 weeks of labor from U.S. Soldiers deployed to the base and two local contractors. What used to be 75 acres of uncontrolled dumping ground is now a functioning scrap separation and segregation area.

By Spc. James Benjamin
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA —The combined efforts of U.S. Soldiers and two local national contractors at Contingency Operating Base Adder led to the early completion of the scrap metal separation and segregation mission at COB Adder.

The mission, which took about 15 weeks to finish, required personnel on COB Adder to separate and segregate about 75 acres of scrap metal and other debris that had accumulated as far back as the Gulf War, said Maj. Tewanna Marks, United States Division-South engineer from Geneva, Ala.

"The original projection to clean up Adder was from February to July," Marks said. "We cleaned it up by May 25. So we took a little more than 60 days off the completion date."

Marks said the first time she visited the site, there were stacks of scrap metal piled more than 12 feet high.

During the initial phase of the project, she would check on the site a couple times a week to ensure the operation was going well.

As the project progressed, the personnel and the operation became more efficient, Marks said.

"Toward the end there was a two-week period where I did not go to Adder," Marks said. "When I returned after those two weeks, I was amazed to see that the area was flat desert."

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hellstrom, the engineer operations noncommissioned officer for the 1st Infantry Division and USD-S from Calumet City, Ill., said once the project got going, progress took place rapidly.

"When it started, the project moved a little slow," Hellstrom said. "About mid to the end of February is when the project really began to pick up."

The project was broken up into three phases, Hellstrom said. In the first phase, the team identified, sorted and segregated the different materials at the site. Next, the team removed all steel metal. Finally, the remaining debris was hauled off site to designated locations.

The project consisted of approximately 60 personnel working on a daily basis, Hellstrom said. The team was made up of U.S. Soldiers and contract workers from Al Zaidi Company and Rawa'a Company who worked from Monday to Friday.

"Toward the end of the project, Soldiers would come in on Saturdays and Sundays to accomplish the mission," Hellstrom said. "None of the Soldiers complained

one bit. They wanted to get it done."

At the end of the project, the team had removed approximately 333 tons of wood, 8,353 tons of trash and 11,088 tons of scrap metal according to a report given by the project leadership team.

Now, the 75 acres of scrap metal and debris are gone, Marks said. What remains is a scrap segregation and recycling center for Iraqis to use to employ locals and earn revenue, she said.

"Personnel on Adder can bring their scrap to the center and have it segregated, instead of just dumping it all together," Marks said. "It is a legitimate operation. It functions well."

With the guidance and support from the leadership team of USD-S, specifically Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, the mission was completed faster than expected, Marks said.

When the base is returned back to the Iraqis, this project will help ease the transition, Mark said

"It took teamwork from the division, the brigades, and all the personnel on COB Adder," Marks said.

"Environmentally it was an excellent task that we accomplished as well because you always want to leave something better than what you assumed it as." ■

Maysan truck lift hastens distribution of grain

By Pfc. Khori Johnson
3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

AMAHRA – The Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team and Soldiers of Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, which is attached to 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Maysan Central Wheat Granary to unveil a newly-built truck lift.

The hydraulic truck lift will be a valuable addition to the granary, which can hold more than 10,000 tons of grain. Before the lift was built, workers had to unload grain trucks using shovels; a task that took hours to complete.

With the addition of the truck lift, unloading grain will take a fraction of the time, said 2nd Lt. Boykin Lucas, a Camden, S.C., native serving as a platoon leader and project purchasing officer with Battery A, 3rd Bn., 29th FA Regt., 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The governor of Maysan, Muhammad Shi'a Sabar Hatim al Sudani, cut the ribbon to unveil the finished project, and the crowd on hand responded with applause and songs of celebration.

The project was a joint effort between the PRT, the Government of Iraq, and the 'Iron' Brigade. The PRT and the GoI acquired and installed the truck lift while 3rd BCT assisted with construction. ■



Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson

▲ Mark Kendrick (left), Iraq Provincial Action Officer, speaks with a group of Iraqi government officials after a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Maysan Central Wheat Granary.

▼ A newly-built truck lift, capable of holding more than 10,000 tons of grain, is demonstrated at the Maysan Central Wheat Granary. Before the lift was built, workers had to unload grain trucks using shovels, a task that could take hours to complete.

Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson





Courtesy photo

Chinook helicopters with the yet unnamed Co. B, 5th Bn., 159th Aviation Regt., out of Fort Eustis, Va., flew over Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., May 25, 2001, during funeral services for five members of a helicopter crew that died in Vietnam Oct. 28, 1968.

‘Freight Train’ bridges two generations of warfighters

By Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
TF 12 Public Affairs Office

COB ADDER – The image of massive locomotives is not a stretch to imagine in comparing them to the incredible flying machines known as Chinooks.

The CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter may look a bit strange and ungainly to those unfamiliar with aviation, but its true value is demonstrated by the Soldiers of Company B, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, appropriately named Task Force Freight Train.

This unit, which is scheduled to leave Iraq in late August, didn’t just gain their call sign from similarities to 19th Century trains; they have a much more unique story that goes as far back as Vietnam to the original Freight Trainers of the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company.

“In 1968, in Vietnam, over the Ninh Hoa Valley, Freight Train 053 was shot down with all 5 crew on October 20. They were declared MIA (missing in action), then KIA (killed in action), but were never recovered,” said Maj. Aaron Smith, commander of the current TF Freight Train and native of Mitchellville, Md.

Their Chinook helicopter was lost on a resupply mission to Buan Me Thout in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam according to an article published in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, May 25, 2001.

The aircraft had been carrying medical supplies, ammunition and other equipment. The airship’s commander had planned to

follow a valley road to the Vietnamese city where Americans were under siege.

The weather turned bad, and at 7 a.m., the crew radioed that it was over Ninh Hoa Valley and was proceeding to Ban Me Thout. It was their last radio transmission.

A search started, but halted eight days later.

In March 1994, the tail of the helicopter with an identifying aircraft number had been recovered, but through the years, most of the aircraft, which had burned on landing, had been scavenged or washed down the hillside. Excavation of the site did not start until a year later.

It wasn’t until 1996 that the first bit of the wrecked aircraft was discovered by two Vietnamese farmers, leading to an excavation and subsequent positive identification of the 5 crewmembers during the next five years.

Anthropologists and other experts worked for two weeks at the mountainous site sifting through the dirt.

Seventy possible bone fragments and five teeth were recovered, but it took six years and DNA technology for forensic experts at the Army Central Identification Laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii, to come up with a final answer.

It was not until sufficient refinement of DNA processing techniques occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000 that JTF personnel were able to identify the crew.

Although the aviation unit returned to the United States from

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Base security a team effort at COS Garryowen

By Capt. Bob Stone

3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

COS GARRYOWEN – Unlike many U.S. bases in Iraq, Contingency Operating Station Garryowen, the major U.S. installation in Maysan Province, is secured solely by U.S. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The installation houses Soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians engaged in advising and assisting the Iraqi security forces.

Each day, our Soldiers stand shifts 24 hours a day on operations around the COS. Many of these Soldiers are not infantrymen or tankers as one might expect. Cooks, mechanics, chemical specialists and Soldiers from every other military occupational specialty contribute to the security that allows 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., to conduct business on any given day.

The primary task to secure the COS has been assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. Each day, Soldiers are assembled from four other companies in the battalion to help complete this task.

Throughout the day, Soldiers search Iraqi citizens coming onto Garryowen to conduct business while others man machine guns in towers in the smothering Iraqi heat. The majority of the guards do not have an air conditioned space to work in.

This is not an easy job for the Soldiers, but they know the job cannot be taken lightly.

“They understand that guarding the COS is necessary, however, and they haven’t complained about it,” said 1st Lt. Nolan Johnson, a platoon leader with Company B, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. whose Soldiers spend one week working at the entry control point and the next advising

the Iraqi Police.

Many Soldiers have conducted additional training to prepare for this duty. Soldiers from the battalion’s forward support company go to the range several times to qualify with the M249 squad automatic weapon and the M240B medium machine gun, weapons they normally do not carry.

The infantrymen have also attended training on specialized equipment such as the vehicle x-ray machine that searches all civilian vehicles that enter Garryowen.

“Our mission is tough in a sense that we must provide men and women daily to secure the compound we live in, rather than have those personnel conduct their normal duties,” said Cpl. Kevin Maine, a Macon, Ga., native serving as a team leader with Company A, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

The 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. deployed with the 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. from Fort Carson, Colo., in June. ■

Spc. John Berry mans a machine gun in a tower while pulling security detail. COS Garryowen is the largest U.S. installation in Maysan Province, which shares its eastern border with Iran. The post is secured solely by U.S. Soldiers.

Photo by Pfc. Terry Ellison





Photo by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla

Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, promotes Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, the 1st Inf. Div. deputy chief of staff-effects coordinator, at the United States Division-South headquarters Aug. 24.

Big Red One officer soars through the ranks

By Spc. Raymond Quintanilla
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – Lt. Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, deputy chief of staff-effects coordinator for the 1st Infantry Division, was promoted to colonel at a ceremony at the United States Division-South headquarters on COB Basra, Aug. 24.

Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div., ceremoniously placed the eagle on Kauzlarich's chest while his Family in Fort Riley, Kan., looked on via a video teleconference with a standing room audience of witnesses.

The promotion was long overdue and well deserved, Brooks said.

"We pulled him back to be deputy chief of staff-effects because of the talent he

has," Brooks said. "His ability to bring together disparate parts of the staff and guide them in the way other divisions would have not been able to journey into yet. We were able to make this bold shift into a new direction because of Ralph and his talents and capabilities."

He has taken the journey thus far with a great Family supporting him, and the promotion reflects as much on them as it does Kauzlarich, Brooks said.

With multiple deployments already completed, Kauzlarich said the shared hardships between him and his Family have brought them closer together.

"The suffering that we share together has honestly made us stronger," Kauzlarich said. "You three are absolute champions," he said to his children.

Sgt. Maj. Wade Wells, the effects

sergeant major for the 1st Inf. Div., said Kauzlarich has demonstrated great leadership in the year they have worked together.

"He is very intelligent, and caring," Wells said. "I don't think you'll find a leader that cares more about his people than himself. He has a work ethic and drive like no other; he really does."

Kauzlarich, an infantry officer, is a 1988 West Point graduate who has served numerous tours of duty to include Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His previous commands include the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. at Fort Riley, which deployed to Iraq in 2007. Among his awards are three Bronze Star Medals. ■

EVOLVE, from front page

all the support they need to conduct the operations.”

“They’ve gotten that system down where they train their own and they’re very competent and independent, and they’ve got a lot more pride in themselves as an organization,” Hunter said. “As Iraqi Army units, they’re very proud of what they do.”

Col. Pete Jones, commander of 3rd HBCT, said the development of the ISF has been key to the transition.

“The Iraqi Security Forces have truly taken the lead, demonstrated by the national elections and religious holidays, and most recently Sha’baniya, where they provided security for over three million religious pilgrims to Karbala,” he said.

Training the ISF is not the entire picture. AABs assist Provincial Reconstruction Teams with their efforts to improve Iraq.

In the past, PRTs worked with U.S. Army civil affairs units and had little direct contact with brigades, said Bob Wong, the public diplomacy officer for the Babil PRT and a native of Eustis, Fla.

Wong works directly with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, which is responsible for operations in Babil and four neighboring provinces.

“The company commanders I’ve met, they’re intuitively people-persons,” Wong said. “They seem to understand, intuitively, what they’re trying to do, which is basically talk to the leadership, listen to the leadership.”

Lt. Col. Greg Politowicz, deputy team leader for the Babil PRT, has spent the past seven years in Army civil affairs and has previously deployed to Iraq in that capacity.

“They, in my opinion, put the good, smart people in there and trained them well, so that when I go out to any one of the different [Areas of Operation] within the brigade, within the battalion, I find that the captains, lieutenants, sergeants and so forth are working very well and smart,” said the Fayetteville, N.C., native. “They know what to do; they’ve been educated.”

“It’s civil affairs teams out there, except they happen to be called ‘companies’ and ‘AAB,’” he said.

Preparing combat arms Soldiers to operate in civil affairs started while 3rd HBCT was training for the deployment at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The training center mimicked Iraq as much as possible, down to the bases they lived in, said Bantad.

As part of the rotation, the brigade visited villages with simulated civilians, met with “provincial councils,” worked with U.S. State Department officers acting as a PRT, and simulated paying for and managing projects, he said.

The Iraqi people have confidence in Iraq’s future, said Tanya Thompson, team leader for the Human Terrain Assessment Team in Babil, which is responsible for gauging the public’s attitude on issues.

“The response was pretty unanimous that they feel that security has increased under the Advise and Assist Brigade, rather than under combat operations,” said the Saddle Brook, N.J., native. “All the way up and down, I think that the feeling is that they’re really ready to take over; they’re ready for us to go.” ■

FREIGHT TRAIN, from page 7

Vietnam in 1972, the men from the 243rd never forgot about their comrades. On July 23, the unit’s final mission was completed when the remains of their fellow Soldiers were repatriated and interned on U.S. soil.

Sixty-five former members of the 243rd, friends, and family members of the deceased were in attendance to pay their respects. Funeral services for the crew of Freight Train 053 took place at Arlington National Cemetery on May 24 and 25, 2001.

Immediately following the group service, a service was held for Henry Knight.

Graveside services included a “Missing Man” formation fly-

over by four CH-47D Chinook helicopters from the Army Reserve, located at Ft. Eustis, Va.

Smith said that many of the original members of the unit showed up for their departure ceremony, and it was then they were officially given the patch.

“We have a very close relationship with those folks,” Smith said, of the bond between his unit, and those who were the original ‘Ole Freight Trainers and their families. “Our unit spent two days with the families and prior members (of the unit), of which the captain at the time is now a retired one-star general and with the Oklahoma National Guard Bureau, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Pete Costilow. They all came down to Fort Belvoir to meet the crews. Those family members, grand kids and all those folks from the original unit spent the day with our folks at the aircraft. That started a bond that, to this day, we still keep in touch with many of the folks from the original Freight Trainers.”

It was through this bond the Freight Train call sign was passed from one generation to the next.

“In Jan. 2003, when B Company was given activation orders for Operation Enduring Freedom and subsequently Operation Iraqi Freedom, we still had no official call sign and name,” Smith said. “Since the original call sign was retired by DA (Department of the Army) in 1995, we asked if, because of our new relationship with them, they’d be willing for us to adopt the Freight Train call sign.

This was the first time the missing man formation had been accomplished by CH-47 helicopters over Arlington Cemetery.

Now, the 243rd rests atop their shoulders on the Chinook that connects the two units over decades of service. Even Costilow, who once commanded the mighty Freight Train, was present at the ceremony to pass this little piece of history on to new caretakers. ■



Courtesy photo

Chinook 053 that the current Freight Trainers flew for during 053’s crew’s funeral service in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., in 2001, conducting a sling load.

Spouses learn coping skills at 1st Resilient Spouse Academy

By Katherine Rosario
1st Inf. Div. Post

More than 20 spouses spent four days in an intensive resilience training program which gave them the tools and coaching needed to help Soldiers and Families handle the effects of deployments.

The Resilient Spouse Academy, which was open to all spouses, taught participants how to handle finances, domestic violence and someone considering suicide, through a variety of videos, guest speakers, breakout groups and role playing sessions.

“It’s the reality of the fight that we are currently in,” said Col. Kevin Brown, Fort Riley garrison commander, explaining resilience training is needed to help watch out for signs of Soldiers in stress.

“One of the reasons why we do this is our Soldiers come home from their battle and our spouses are the ones that have the first eyes on them. This is to help us help them,” said Patricia Verschage.

Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley deputy commanding general - rear, said he needed spouses to be “sensors for the Army.”

“In this Army, transition is more the norm than the exception. The challenge will be, as we identify more folks that have potential issues, we need to do the right thing – put our arms around those Soldiers and keep our promise and make sure that we’re taking care of them,” he said.

Guest speaker Darla Griffith spoke to the spouses about a time she used her Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training to identify a Soldier in need of help and used training to assist him.

“We aren’t experts – it just gives you a sensitivity as to where someone might be at, and when you are put in a situation to do

a suicide intervention, that workshop information is invaluable,” Griffith said.

Cherie Cain, mobilization and personal readiness branch manager for Army Community Service, said she hopes to see this class offered on a regular basis.

“To our knowledge this is the first one (Resilient Spouse Academy) that’s ever been done. We incorporate the ASIST training, financial readiness, master resilience training, substance abuse and domestic violence. A little bit of everything that Families deal with on a day-to-day basis to give them some tools to guide them in the right direction,” she said.

“Resiliency starts at home and in a networked community that cares. We want to make sure that the Resilient Spouse Academy is that place that it starts at. It’s the place that networks that really gets out there. It’s the sensors and that reaching out and touching somebody else to make it a bigger community, that we’re all one big Family to help each other out,” Cain said.

Dee Thurman, wife of Gen. James D. Thurman, commander U.S. Army Forces Command, visited the spouses at the academy during their breakout sessions Aug. 11.

“This is exactly what we need across the board, she said, adding it would be a hit at Fort Hood where spouses experience back-to-back deployments.

She has to hold back tears when she sees military spouses struggling, Thurman said.

“I know they’re having a tough time and shame on us for not being there sooner,” she said.

The academy has three more sessions Aug. 23 to 27, Sept. 13 to 17 and Oct. 18 to 22. For more information, call 785-239-9435. ■

Attendees of the Resilient Spouse Academy look on as Dee Thurman, wife of Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, speaks to them about the important role they play in their Soldiers’ lives.





Photo by Maj. Mark Martin

Sgt. Ben Elliott, a Blackhawk crew chief with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 285th Attack Helicopter Bn., watches out his gunner's door as his Tulsa, Okla., based National Guard crew flies over the Ziggurat at Ur on their way to land at Tallil Air Base, Dhi Qar Province, Iraq.

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

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

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Basra Betty says...



Dear Peeved,

Yes, I've also been in the same position of almost getting slammed by an NTV in too big of a rush to get to the DFAC before it closes, and yes, I agree (yep, I do that sometimes): something should be done.

At this time, the rules of the road on COB Basra are based on the honor (and maturity) system. We all know better than to zoom around a base with narrow roads and lots of pedestrian traffic, but as you pointed out, there are a lot of people that pay common sense no mind behind the wheel.

Something we all need to be more mindful of is the fact that we're not on American style roads here. There's lots of gravel, there are little to no shoulders in most places, and there are a lot of runners and walkers.

I know it would be a shame to be late for the Candlebox concert, but it's better to be late than to run over one of your battle buddies who is having to hoof it.

OR speaking of peeved, instead of disregarding them, since you're one of the lucky ones to have a ride, why not pull over and give the poor pedestrian a lift. It's awfully annoying to see so many people passing a sweaty Soldier on the verge of a stroke as they belt out the lyrics to "ridin' dirty" while in the air conditioned comfort of a NTV.

On some other bases, there is a military police presence that hands out tickets to reckless drivers. These tickets could result in a counseling from your commander or a fine similar to one in the United States.

I don't think anybody wants this, least of all our friends over in the division provost marshal office who are already working hard every day. So if everybody wants to prevent it, we should (alert: shameless rip off of a cheesy '90s public service announcement coming up) buckle up, slow down, and arrive alive.

Be Safe, Basra

-Betty

Dear Betty,

I am routinely 'buzzed' by fast-moving vehicles during both, my walks to work and my runs in the morning, by people who are flagrantly ignoring the speed limits and signage on COB Basra. When will someone get out there and enforce the rules of the road before a pedestrian is run over??

- Signed, Peeved Pedi

Rock and Roll Trivia

THE BEATLES vs. The Rolling Stones

Part I:

One of the great arguments of Rock n' Roll is who is better – The Beatles or The Stones? This quiz does not aim to settle the matter, but how well you answer these questions may determine which side you're on.

The Beatles are better because...

1) They're the best selling band of all time. It is estimated that The Beatles have sold about 1.3 billion records worldwide. What is the top selling Beatles studio album (not counting compilations)?

2) The Beatles inspired a comic tribute band, called the Rutles. What Monty Python veteran played Dirk McQuigley (modeled after Paul McCartney) in the Rutles 1978 film, *All You Need is Cash*?

3) The Beatles expanded rock n' roll through experimentation. The Beatles not only incorporated classical musicians into their songs, but experimented with exotic eastern sounds, such as George Harrison's use of what Indian string instrument?

4) The Beatles were more influential. Hundreds, if not thousands, of artists have recorded versions of Beatles songs. Everyone from Aerosmith to Stevie Wonder has made the charts with a Beatles tune, but only one performer has taken a Beatles cover to #1 in the US, with his rendition of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." Who?

5) The Beatles formed a real record label. Apple Records didn't last long, but it was more than a vanity label. Top acts on Apple besides The Beatles included Badfinger and what American singer-songwriter who became one of the best selling artists of the 1970s?

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



Hint: Fabio thinks it should be on your shopping list.

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

Solution for last week: Pikes Peak

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

For solutions to this week's puzzle and for more sudoku puzzles, visit:

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/

Sudoku

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