

READY FIRST REPORT

READY FIRST



**September
2010**

**Ready First
honors
9/11, fallen
servicemem-
bers**

**1-30th Inf.
HA drops,
park
opening**

**Farewell to
TFM CSM,
CSM
Andrews**

**AF, Army
EOD train
IPCET**

**501st
Soldiers
named 'Hero
of North'**

READY 6

COL LARRY SWIFT

- READY FIRST COMMANDER -



*Published by the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division
Public Affairs Office*

Major Jim Bono - *Public Affairs Officer*
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Spc. Jessica Luhrs - *Public Affairs Journalist*

READY 7

CSM JAMES DANIELS

- READY FIRST COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR -



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**“A small show of
gratitude on our part for
the larger sacrifice the
Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen
and Marines made.”
-Col. Larry Swift**





Ready First Combat Team honors 9/11 victims, OIF fallen servicemembers

By Spc. Jessica Luhrs

A black wall made of 22 force protection barriers, spanning over 280 feet, with the names more than 4,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom in yellow writing was officially dedicated during a memorial dedication and remembrance ceremony on Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Sept. 11.

During the ceremony a moment of silence was observed in honor of over 3,000 citizens of the U.S. who lost their lives on 9/11 at the exact time of the attacks 9 years ago.

"Today, we honor the lives lost during a tragedy that paved the way for Americans to bond together in support of the greatest goal – freedom and democracy for all," said Col. Larry Swift, commander of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas, during the ceremony.

He continued in addition to remembering those who lost their lives on 9/11 we also are here to add 72 names to the OIF memorial wall.

"These 72 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, young and old, men and women, answered to the call of a noble mission; defending Iraqi citizens, and made the ultimate sacrifice," said Col. Swift.

"So today we will give them the honors that they earned, a small show of gratitude on our part for the larger sacrifice that they have made," he continued. "We will render those honors and remember them always."

The OIF Memorial Wall began as a joint project between the Army, Air Force and civilians on COS Warrior in 2009, as a way to remember servicemembers who gave their lives. Now that the U.S. Forces have officially entered into Operation New Dawn the Soldiers of 1/1 AATF ensured that the final 72 names were added to the memorial marking the end of OIF.

Staff Sergeant Ruben McDowell, the non-commissioned officer who oversaw the painting of the memorial wall, said it was an honor to be able to be a part of the memorial.

"These men and women made the ultimate sacrifice it was an honor to do something to remember them," said Staff Sgt. McDowell, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-1 AATF.

He added that this wall holds very special meaning to all servicemembers.

"There are not too many people here who do not know someone on that wall so it really hits home for all of us," he said.



Georgia Soldiers open children's park

By Spc. Jessica Luhrs

The children of Taba near Kirkuk, Iraq, no longer have to play in the streets thanks to local government officials, military leaders with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and the local Iraqi police, after they commemorated the grand opening of the Raheemawah Playground in Taba with a ceremonial ribbon cutting, Aug. 17.

The \$49,000 playground took less than a month to complete and is made up of three slides, a large play tower, monkey bars, a field for soccer and multiple picnic tables for more than 100 families who live in the area.

The idea for the playground originated from multiple meetings between local Iraqi security forces and Fort Stewart, Ga. Soldiers with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2-3rd Inf., according to Capt. John Cornthwaite, battalion engineer for 1/30th Inf., who coordinated the project with local contractors.

"We wanted to demonstrate our commitment to the citizens of Kirkuk and show them we do more than advise the police, what better way than to build a playground for the community," said the Savannah, Ga. native.

Captain Cornthwaite added 1-30th Inf.

and their Iraqi counterparts pushed for this project as a way to become a part of the community.

"Kirkuk's culture is very family-oriented, so by providing a venue where families can come together, allows them to embrace family-ties and associates us as an extended family," he said. The contractor for the project who goes by Rasansh added they are becoming a part of the community and making the community a better place.

"The playground is a place where children and adults can come together in hope for a better future; this playground may seem like something small but it will make a very big impact on the community," said Rasansh.



Soldiers deliver food, supplies during Ramadan

By Spc. Jessica Luhrs

During the Islamic month of fasting, known as Ramadan, participating Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from dawn until the sun sets, after the sun sets then they break their fast and eat large meals throughout the night with family. To assist Muslims, during Ramadan, Soldiers of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga. along with Iraqi police from 1st Battalion Emergency Services Unit, and local leadership, delivered food, water and school supplies to the village of Wahid Huzarian near Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 17.

To ensure the families who needed assistance the most received it the leadership of Delta Company and the ESU partnered with the village leadership to identify more than 100 families in need.

Second Lieutenant Justin K. Shaw, a platoon leader with Delta Company, oversaw the humanitarian aid mission and said he was impressed the most by his partner's actions and genuine interest in their community.

"The ESU proved their capabilities to the

leadership of Delta Company and the community with their organization and willingness to help," he said.

As soon as Delta Company and the ESU began passing out aid to the families the ESU immediately began helping anyone who was struggling to carry the 100-pounds of food and water, said 2nd Lt. Shaw, a native of Dothan, Ala.

A Delta Company platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Nick Flowers, who also oversaw the mission, agreed with 2nd Lt. Shaw and his platoon and they partners also build a lasting relationship with the community.

"By delivering food and supplies during the month of Ramadan we provided aid to the residents in need and fostered a relationship with the residents," said the Persion, Fla. native, Sgt. 1st Class Flowers.

In order to further build on their relationship with the residents of Wahid Huzarian Delta Company and the ESU has planned several more humanitarian aid drops for the community.





Ready First holds farewell ceremony for TFM CSM

By Spc. Jessica Luhrs

The leadership of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, "Ready First" 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas said farewell to the Task Force Marne Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews; during a ceremony held on Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Sept. 21.

Command Sergeant Major Andrews, who was recently selected as the 1st Army command sergeant major, has been the senior-enlisted non commissioned officer for 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. since March 8, 2007.

During the ceremony Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews, who entered the military in 1980, was described as a leader who made an impact on many Soldiers.

"Command Sergeant Major Andrews' career has been one of numerous accomplishments and selfless service to establishing a legacy that has undoubtedly impacted the lives of many Soldiers," said Sgt. Kevin McCulley, the narrator of the ceremony.

Also during the ceremony each of the Command Sergeants Major of Ready First approached the podium to speak about how Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews had made an impact on their career.

Command Sergeant Major Thomas Hitch, command sergeant major of 1st Battalion, 30th

Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., spoke about how he always took the time to teach every Soldier.

"Everywhere he goes he hands out information to every Soldier to add to their kit bag; many of the things he has taught me throughout the years I use today," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hitch, who has been mentored by Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews since he was a first sergeant.

Command Sergeant Major Dana Mason Jr., command sergeant major for 1-1 Special Troop Battalion, Ready First, added that not only is Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews a leader but he genuinely cares for the Soldiers he leads.

All of the Ready First Command Sergeants Major agreed each of them speaking about how Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews mentored and made an impact on them and on each of the Soldiers.

After each of the command sergeants major spoke about Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews and presented him with memoirs of Ready First, Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews took the floor and thanked each Soldier in the room for getting him to the level he is at.

"It is because of all of you I was selected, you guys have done a phenomenal job here in Kirkuk and it was a blessing to work with Ready First," he said.

Ready First Soldiers at Home



The Ready First Combat Team is looking for the best at home photos of your Ready First Soldiers.

Please send all photos to RFCT.PAO@gmail.com and the pictures submitted will be posted in an album on our Facebook page.

The top photo for each month will be featured in the Ready First Report.

Information required when you send in a photo:

Email: RFCT.PAO@gmail.com

Subject: Iron Soldiers at Home

Body includes:

First and Last Name of Soldier:

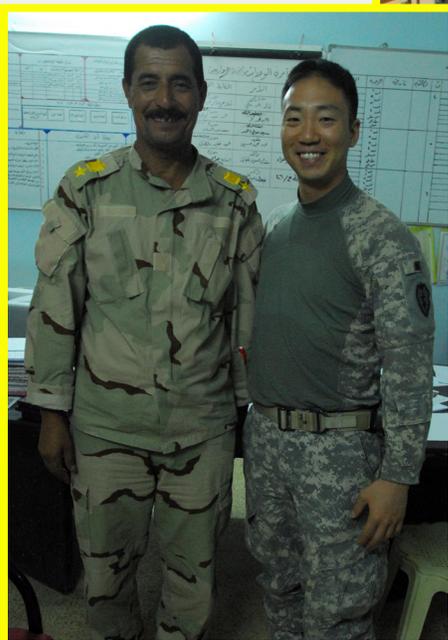
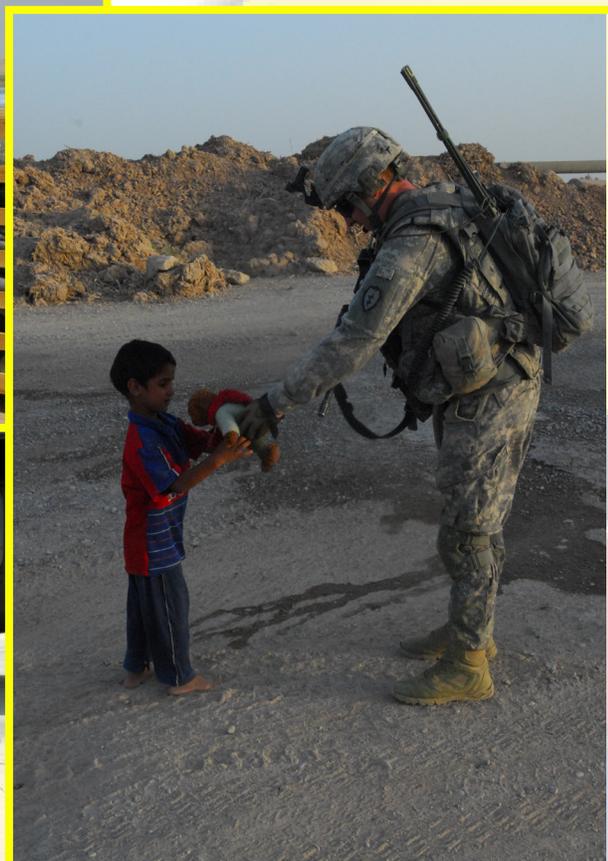
Rank:

Unit:

FIRST

Ready First!

Around the





Air Force, Army EOD train Iraqi CET to operate new equipment

By Spc. Jessica R. Luhrs

Each of the Iraqi policemen, with the Kirkuk Iraqi police Counter Explosives Team (IPCET), paid close attention to the two Airmen who stood in the front of the classroom showing them how to put together and operate an ANDROS robot which will ultimately save their lives and the lives of Iraqi civilians.

These ten IPCET are a part of a seven-day long familiarization training program, which began Aug. 25, and is facilitated by Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airmen, with the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and Soldiers with 38th Ordnance Company out of Fort Stewart, Ga., currently assigned to Task Force Troy-North, and deployed to Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq.

The purpose of the training is to assist the IPCET with operating new equipment and help them prepare to completely assume EOD duties after the withdrawal of U.S. Forces from Kirkuk. The new equipment is being provided by the Iraq Ministry of the Interior and includes multiple bomb

disposal suits, a disruptor, an exploder, X-Ray unit, bomb trailer and three Andros HD1 robots; the IPCET will receive the equipment during their training.

During the first part of the familiarization training, ANDROS robot operations, the IPCET excelled according to an EOD team leader with seven years of experience and three deployments.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason A. Luckenbach, an EOD team leader, said he was very impressed with the IPCET.

The level of knowledge the IPCET displayed today makes the EOD confident this area will be left in good hands, he explained.

He continued by saying he is confident the new equipment and training the IPCET is receiving will save many lives.

"These tools and this training will give the IPCET a capability to disarm IED's and do so safely; saving many lives," said Tech. Sgt. Luckenbach, a native of Alamogordo, N.M.



Around the



Battlefield



Congratulations to these Ready First Soldiers that were named Task Force Marne Hero of the North

The intent of the “Task Force Marne Hero of the North” is to share some of the stories of what we see our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Civilians do. Daily, Task Force Marne leaders select one individual from across the task force to be recognized by the entire organization because of their duties and actions, their particular military professional exemplified the best that the Armed Services has to offer.

Cpl. Rashaun Taylor
HHC, 501st BSB
Atlanta, Ga.

Sgt. Alethea Brock
C. Co., 501st BSB
Boulder, Colo.

