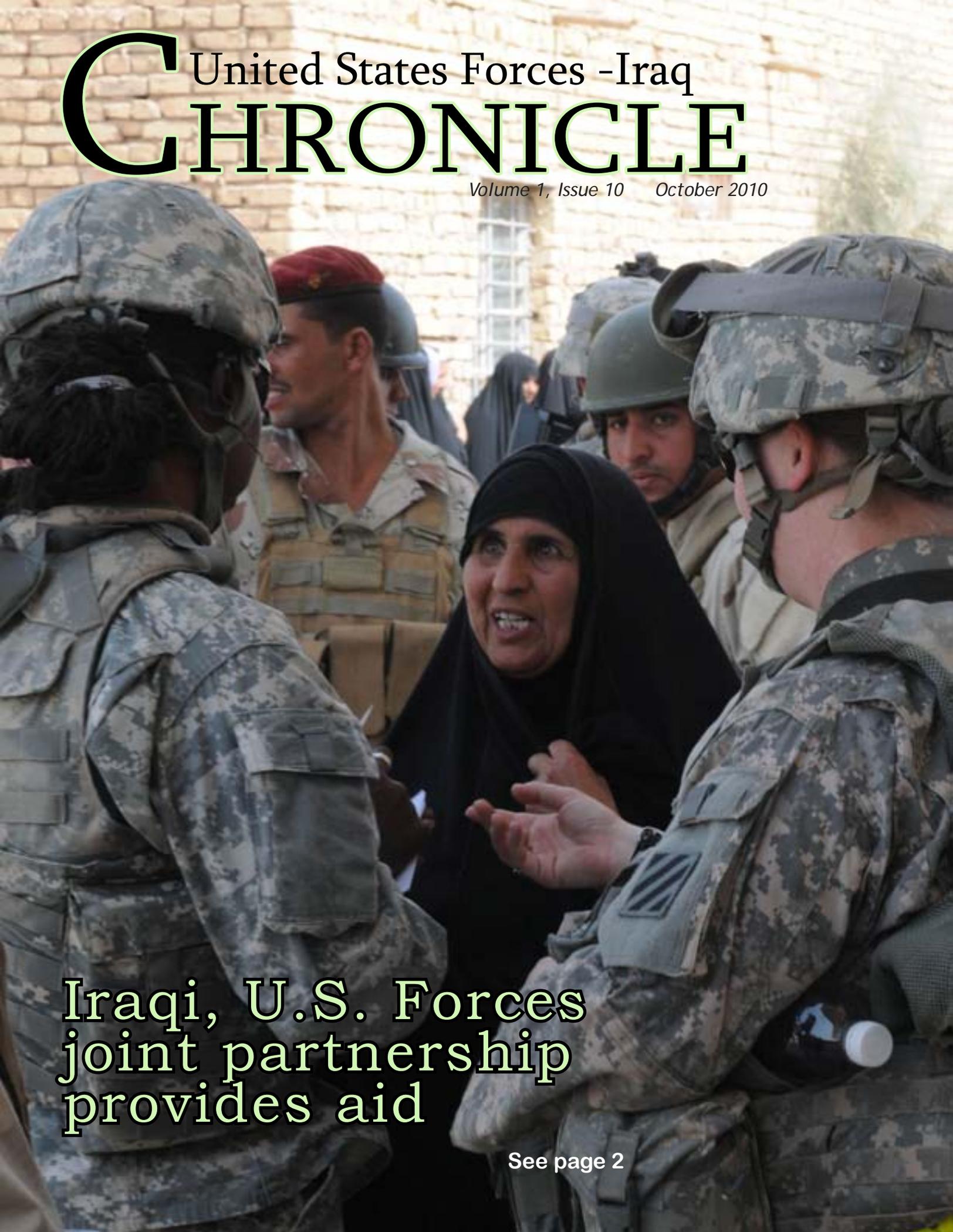


United States Forces -Iraq CHRONICLE

Volume 1, Issue 10 October 2010



Iraqi, U.S. Forces
joint partnership
provides aid

See page 2



An Iraqi woman talks with a translator about medical concerns before receiving treatment from U.S. and Iraqi medical personnel, Sept. 29, during Operation Raider Outreach, a joint humanitarian aid mission to Zambraniyah, Iraq, conducted by Iraqi Army Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 55th Brigade, 17th Iraq Army Division and 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division-Center.



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Iraqi Police learn EOD fundamentals



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HTAT-S uses social science to save lives

USF-I CHRONICLE

The Official Magazine of
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Capt. Duong Nguyen, brigade surgeon with 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division–Center, and a Woodbridge, Va., native, checks an Iraqi boy's heartbeat, Sept. 29, during a humanitarian aid outreach program in Zambraniyah, Iraq. Iraqi Security Forces partnered with U.S. Soldiers to conduct the Operation Raider Outreach mission.



U.S. Soldiers, ISF working together, providing aid

Story and photos by
Sgt. Kimberly Johnson
USD-C Public Affairs

As U.S. Forces have adopted the role of advising, training and assisting Iraqis, Iraqi Security Forces are taking the lead in securing their country and building relationships with its citizens.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division—Center, along with the ISF’s 3rd Battalion, 55th Brigade, 17th Iraq Army Division, conducted Operation Raider Outreach, Sept. 29, providing humanitarian aid to the people of Zambraniyah, Iraq.

“The Iraqi Security Forces and the local leaders from the Zambraniyah area coordinated the event due to the mutual trust they have established with each other and the local population,” said Capt. Irvin Nelms, commander of Company A, 2nd Bn. 7th Inf. Regt., and a Lake City, S.C., native. “The U.S. has done operations there before and these relationships are beneficial because as the U.S. draws down its presence in the months ahead, it gives (the

ISF) the framework to continue these operations and assist the local population.”

There were several focuses of the mission to Zambraniyah, said Lt. Col. Gregory Sierra, commander of 2nd Bn., 7th Inf. Regt., and a Toronto, Ohio, native.

Sierra said one purpose was to assist in reconnecting the ISF with the local population. In addition, as that is done, he said, the ISF can assess the security situation in the area. Another focus of the humanitarian mission is that it helps fulfill some small needs of the people.

“Operations like (Operation Raider Outreach) started in May,” Sierra said. “Since then, we are seeing an increase in the ability of the (ISF) to plan and resource the missions. Also, each time these programs are held, they get closer and closer to their people. That, over time, builds security.”

During the mission to Zambraniyah, medical care was administered, school supplies were distributed and boxes of food were

given to the families.

“The medical piece was important, because in order for the local nationals to develop a sense of pride in (the Iraqi Army), they need to feel like they are being supported and protected,” Nelms said. “The best way to do that is by giving them tangible items, something they can hold and see that somebody cares about them.”

There were more than 100 males, 100 females and 50 children treated by medical personnel during the mission, Nelms said.

“The Iraqi Army was in the lead on the treatment,” Nelms said. “The U.S. medics were just there to provide support.”

Some of the common medical trends observed were joint pain, muscular and skeletal issues from birth defects and geriatric complications, Nelms said.

Various medications were given to the locals such as anti-inflammatory medication, cough medicine, heartburn medication and vitamins.

As the outreach program was taking place, ISF and U.S. Soldiers worked



An Iraqi Army Soldier with 3rd Bn., 55th Bde., 17th IA Div., hands out food, Sept. 29 during Operation Raider Outreach, a joint U.S.-Iraqi humanitarian aid mission.



An Iraqi Army medic with 3rd Battalion, 55th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, checks the blood pressure of an Iraqi woman, Sept. 29, as Sgt. Ryan Lonergan, a combat medic with 2nd Bn., 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C and a Fort Walton Beach, Fla., native, observes during Operation Raider Outreach, a joint U.S.-Iraqi humanitarian aid mission in Zambraniyah, Iraq.

together to provide security.

“Our mission was to conduct the (humanitarian mission) with 3rd Bn., 55th Bde., 17th IA Div., to empower the ISF and the Government of Iraq and strengthen the ISF partnerships,” Nelms said.

According to a 2008 Multi National Forces – Iraq press release, al-Qaeda housed a torture prison in Zambraniyah that was later destroyed by U.S. forces.

“When I was here in 2006, the area was called the Sunni Triangle,” Nelms said. “It was pretty bad. Now, it’s relatively quiet. There aren’t too many incidents of sectarian violence. That’s due to the heightened sense of pride and awareness with the ISF and the (Iraqi Police) and the majority of the (Iraqi Army) in the area that do their patrols, making sure everything is safe. The ISF have really taken a significant interest in community uplifting in this area.”

Long-term security is a concern in the area, but a function of this

humanitarian mission was to mitigate any potential enduring threats, Sierra said.

“When outreach programs are conducted, they can be where the need is the greatest for the people, or where there are concerns with the threat situation,” Sierra said. “(The outreach programs) help connect the ISF with the people and help with the security.”

Sierra said when he arrived in theater, the ISF were in charge of security of the area and there is no doubt in his mind they have continued to become more capable during the past several months, providing security for Zambraniyah.

“By working with the ISF and just assisting them—letting them take the lead on everything—it really empowers the ISF and the Government of Iraq because the locals receive medicine from the forces they see every day protecting their security,” Nelms said. “It goes miles with the local populace.”



A local Iraqi woman carries a box of donated food, Sept. 29, as children wait in line for medical treatment in Zambraniyah, during Operation Raider Outreach.

Iraqi Police learn EOD fundamentals from USD-C Soldiers

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas
USD-C Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. James Shoemaker (foreground), with the 731st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division–Center, teaches Ramadi Iraqi Police EOD members counter-IED techniques, Sept. 19, at the Ramadi Training Center.

RAMADI, Iraq — A team of Soldiers with the 731st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, taught Iraqi Police officers counter-improvised explosive device techniques and procedures during a weeklong class, which began Sept. 19 at the Ramadi Training Center.

The class offered six recent Iraqi Counter Explosives Team course graduates a refresher course on EOD fundamentals, to include demolition procedures, how to protect buildings from blasts and fragmentation, and how to move objects with ropes.

“We’re going over the basics,” said Spc. Tyler Wend with the 731st EOD Co., and a Turlock, Calif., native.

“This is important because they need to be able to sustain their country on

their own and learn how to (counter IEDs) without us being there.”

The class, which began with instruction on how to properly tie knots, offered the Iraqi Police a condensed version of the U.S. Army EOD course. Training became more complex and comprehensive on the second day as the Iraqi team practiced countering simulated IEDs.

“This is a somewhat ‘down and dirty’ version of (the yearlong U.S. Army EOD class),” Wend said. “We’re teaching the same principles.”

The Ramadi EOD sergeant major said the class was challenging and allowed his team to make mistakes during training so that they do not make mistakes when they face real IEDs.

“We’ll learn from our mistakes and continue to train,” he said, as

he thanked the 731st EOD team for hosting the class. “We need this information. It’s very beneficial.”

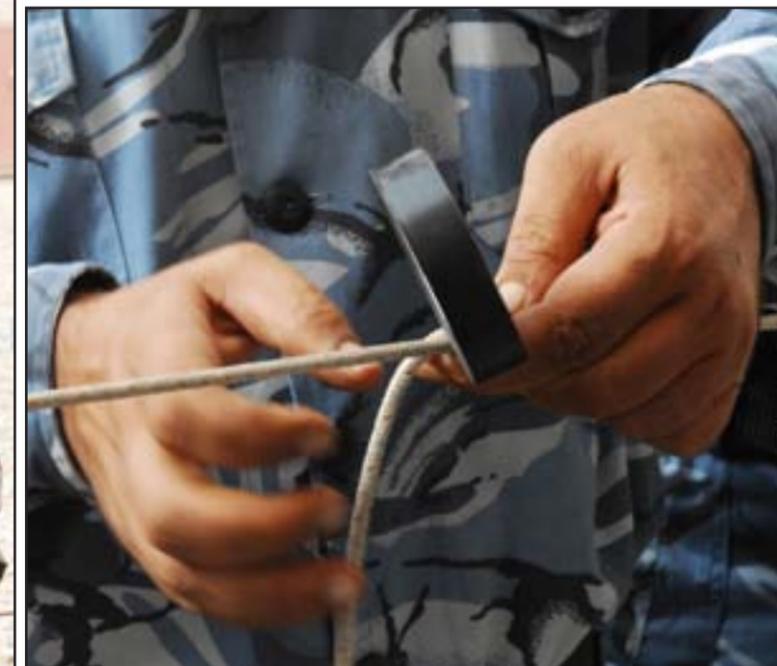
First Lt. Karl Wagner, a platoon leader with the 731st EOD Co., and a Hearne, Texas, native, said training was especially important to him on a personal level and that the Iraqi Police are members of the Army team.

“I feel that they are part of our EOD family,” he said. “They should have the same information (about countering IEDs) that we have so that whenever we leave (Iraq), they can still keep doing their job and keep this country safe. This course is designed to help them protect their lives in the future.”

Wend agreed, saying he hopes they use the training to protect civilians who can’t protect themselves from the threat IEDs.



Left: **Staff Sgt. James Shoemaker** with the 731st EOD Company, 4th AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C, teaches Ramadi Iraqi Police EOD members knot-tying techniques, Sept. 19, at the Ramadi Training Center.



An **Iraqi Police officer** practices explosive ordnance disposal techniques, Sept. 19, during an EOD refresher course at the Ramadi Training Center.



Spc. Simon Vogel with the 731st EOD Company, 4th AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C, teaches Ramadi Iraqi Police EOD members knot-tying techniques, Sept. 19, at the Ramadi Training Center.

IRAQI AIR FORCE ACADEMY OPENS ITS DOORS

Story by Tech. Sgt. Mike Edwards
321st AEW Public Affairs

TIKRIT AIR BASE, Iraq — The inaugural class of 157 Iraqi Air Force cadets began their journey to becoming officers as the newly-rebuilt at the Iraqi Air Force College opened for training in Tikrit, Sept. 1.

The opening of this institution is the latest accomplishment of the Iraqi Air Force as they work to achieve self-sustaining airpower capabilities.

“This truly is a historic day for the Iraqi Air Force,” said Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson, commander of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing and Director of Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Air Force. “This latest development represents yet another milestone for their program to develop Airmen.”

This new class’s arrival was marked by an Iraqi C-130 aircraft, flown by Iraqi pilots, picking up the students from New Al Muthana Air Base, Baghdad, and transporting them to Tikrit.

“From the beginning, this was designed to give the Iraqis ownership in moving and processing these cadets,” said Col. David Blanks, Commander of the 321st Expeditionary Mission Support and Advising Group. “In all, the Iraqis completed three sorties to move all 157 cadets to their new home, the Iraqi Air Force College. Our advisors were at the ready to assist where needed; and the whole operation went very smoothly. The Iraqis should be proud of this great accomplishment.”

The Air Force College mission is similar to that of the U.S. Air Force Academy in that it is designed to train, educate and commission both rated and non-rated officer candidates. Despite the historic occasion, this mission wasn’t filled with the pomp and ceremony one might expect - at least not from the cadets’ point of view.

From the moment they loaded onto the aircraft to the time they landed at Tikrit and began student processing, they were under the tutelage of senior Iraqi Air Force officers who began the training process immediately. Similar to what U.S. Air Force Academy cadets experience, these Iraqis had to hurry up and move to their appointed positions, start learning how to stand at attention, and were of course, mentored on customs and courtesies.

“When developing the Iraqi Air Force College they modeled our Air Force Academy in many ways,” said Hanson. “Academic rigor, discipline, and physical education mark the curriculum. Naturally, we worked side by side with our Iraqi counterparts to make adjustments to the model to fit their needs and requirements, but the education and training these cadets will receive is designed to be top notch. We have been advising and assisting the Iraqi Air Force as they’ve built this program, designed to develop their Airmen.”

Select cadets will go on to be pilots and others will learn various specialties such as logistics and maintenance; but all cadets will receive their Basic Officer Training and become commissioned officers in the Iraqi Air Force, said Hanson.

It was noteworthy that the Air Force College accepted its first class of cadets on the same day Operation New Dawn began. “The symbolism is striking,” he said. “Iraqi Airmen are an indispensable asset, and the future leaders

of the Iraqi Air Force stepped off their own aircraft today at Tikrit.”

“This was a proud moment for us all - the Iraqi Air Force, the U.S. Air Force advisors, and of course, the cadets,” Hanson said. “This is just another example of how the Iraqis are taking the lead in developing a credible Air Force. I look forward to class 76’s academic advancements, and ultimately their graduation ceremony.”



The **first class of students** began training at the newly-rebuilt Iraqi Air Force College in Tikrit, Sept. 1. The college opening is the latest milestone of the Iraqi Air Force as they work toward achieving self-sustaining airpower capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Cadets begin to board an Iraqi C-130, destined for the Iraqi Air Force College, at Tikrit Air Base. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Iraqi mechanics train with USD-C Soldiers

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas
USD-C Public Affairs



Spc. Henry Moss, an mechanic with Company B, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division–Center, discusses repair of a humvee engine with mechanics from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, Sept. 15, at Camp Habiniya, Iraq.



Spc. Edwin Perez, a mechanic with Company B, 703rd BSB, 4th AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C, teaches mechanics with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense about the humvee radiator, Sept. 15, at Camp Habiniya, Iraq.



Spc. Henry Moss (right), a mechanic with Company B, 703rd BSB, 4th AAB, 3rd ID, USD–C, and an Iraqi Army Soldier clean up after making repairs to an IA vehicle, Sept. 15, at Camp Habiniya, Iraq.



HABANIYA, Iraq — Mechanics with the 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, are helping to improve the readiness of Iraqi Security Forces by instructing vehicle maintenance classes at Iraqi Army Camp Habiniya.

These weekly classes are part of USD-C’s effort to help build ISF capabilities.

Spc. Henry Moss, a Greenville, S.C., native, and Spc. Edwin Perez, a Long Beach, Calif., native, both mechanics with the 703rd BSB, teach troubleshooting tactics to Iraqi mechanics responsible for maintaining all Iraqi Army vehicles in Anbar Province.

“Every time we come out here, we try to give them the best knowledge we have on the vehicle that they are

working on,” Moss said. “Normally, we try to teach classes that pertain to current issues they are having.”

Moss said he and Perez teach the values of preventive maintenance checks and services to the Iraqi mechanics and that a lack of proper PMCS is the most common reason for vehicle breakdowns.

Perez said vehicles here require extra attention because of the extreme heat.

Iraqi Army vehicles differ greatly from U.S. military vehicles, but the differences do not deter the 703rd BSB Soldiers from helping their counterparts, Perez said.

“We educate ourselves so that we can further educate them,” he said. “The good thing about mechanics is that it all pretty much works the same.”

Moss, who was deployed in 2007 to

Camp Ramadi, Iraq, said much has changed over the past three years.

“The (ISF) are progressing very well,” he said. “You can tell that this country is improving.”

Moss said he has noticed vast improvements among the Iraqi mechanics he has personally trained.

“When we first got here, they would just replace any problematic (vehicle component),” Moss said. “Now, they are actually troubleshooting the equipment instead of spending thousands of dollars on replacing it. Maintaining these skills is very important. If they don’t have these skills, then they cannot defend against the people who are trying to attack them.”

“We’re here making a difference,” Perez said. “It makes you feel good to be able to do something for their country.”



U.S. Sailors receive congratulatory hand shakes from U.S. Navy Rear Adm. David Simpson, deputy chief of staff, with Communication and Information, United States Forces-Iraq, during a pinning ceremony in Al Faw Palace, on Camp Victory, Sept. 16. During the ceremony, 18 U.S. Navy petty officers were promoted to chief petty officers. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Daneille Hendrix)

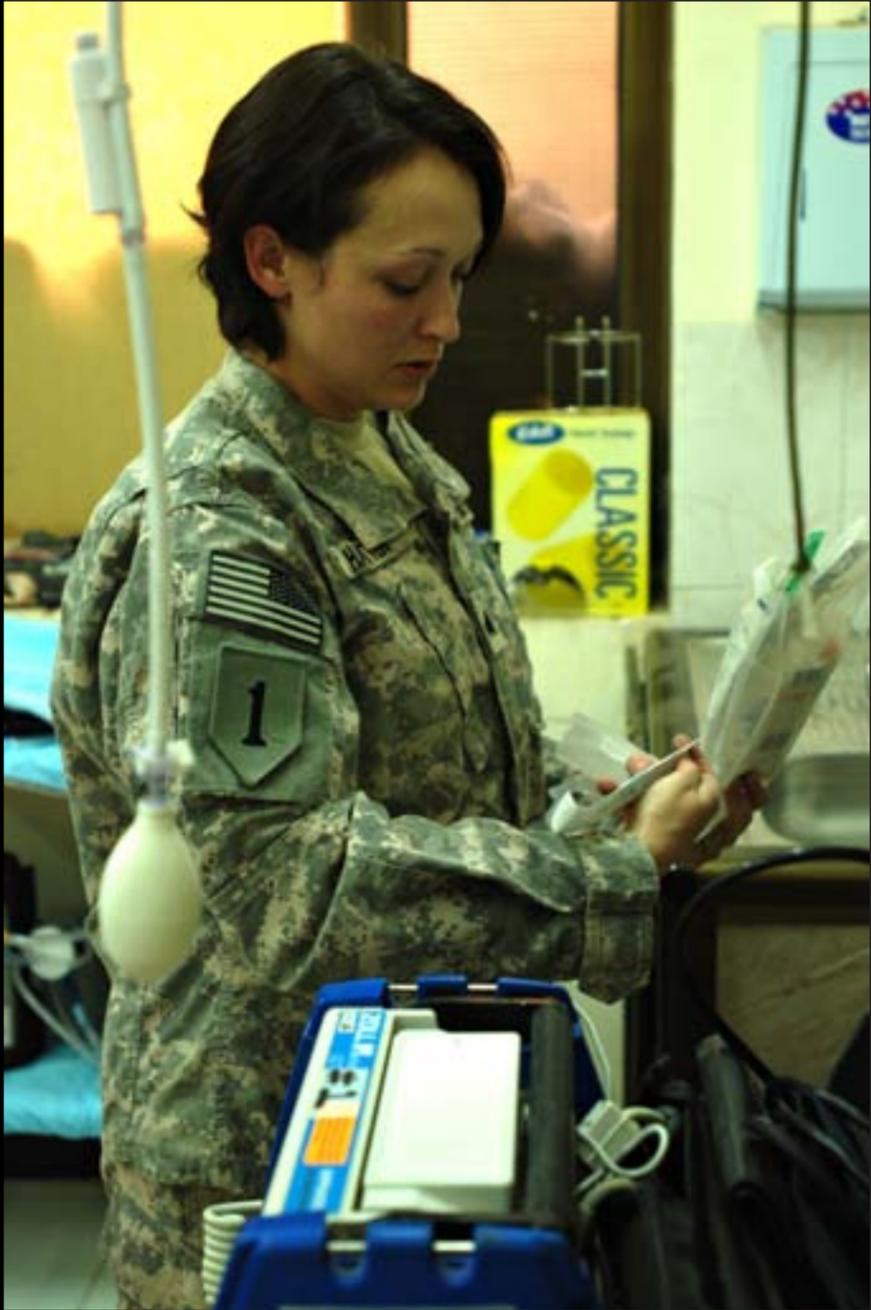


Louisiana Guardsmen, and Lafayette, La., residents, Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McFarlain, and Staff Sgt. Jarret Mouton, along with firefighters at a station on Camp Stryker, carefully fold an American flag after it was flown for nine minutes, 11 seconds on Sept. 11, the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. McFarlain and Mouton paused from their daily routine as they joined the firefighters at their station to honor fallen comrades. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tresa L. Allemang)

Below: **Lt. Col. Jonathan Leong** (left), a surgeon assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division-Center, treats women and children at a free clinic during an Iraqi Security Forces-led medical engagement, Sept. 7, in Karmah, Iraq, as **Spc. Latifa Gaisi**, with the 442nd Military Police Company, helps translate. U.S. forces partnered with the ISF to host the event. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas)



An **Iraqi soldier from 5th Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company** puts on a bomb suit at FOB Warhorse, Diyala province, Iraq, Aug. 16. U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians supervise Iraqi EOD members as they participate in different Improvised Explosive Device training scenarios. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brandon D. Bolick)



Sgt. Jessie Harter, working at the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division's consolidated level two clinic on Camp Taji, Iraq, prepares supplies in one of the clinic's trauma rooms. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Roland Hale, CAB, 1st Inf. Div. PAO)



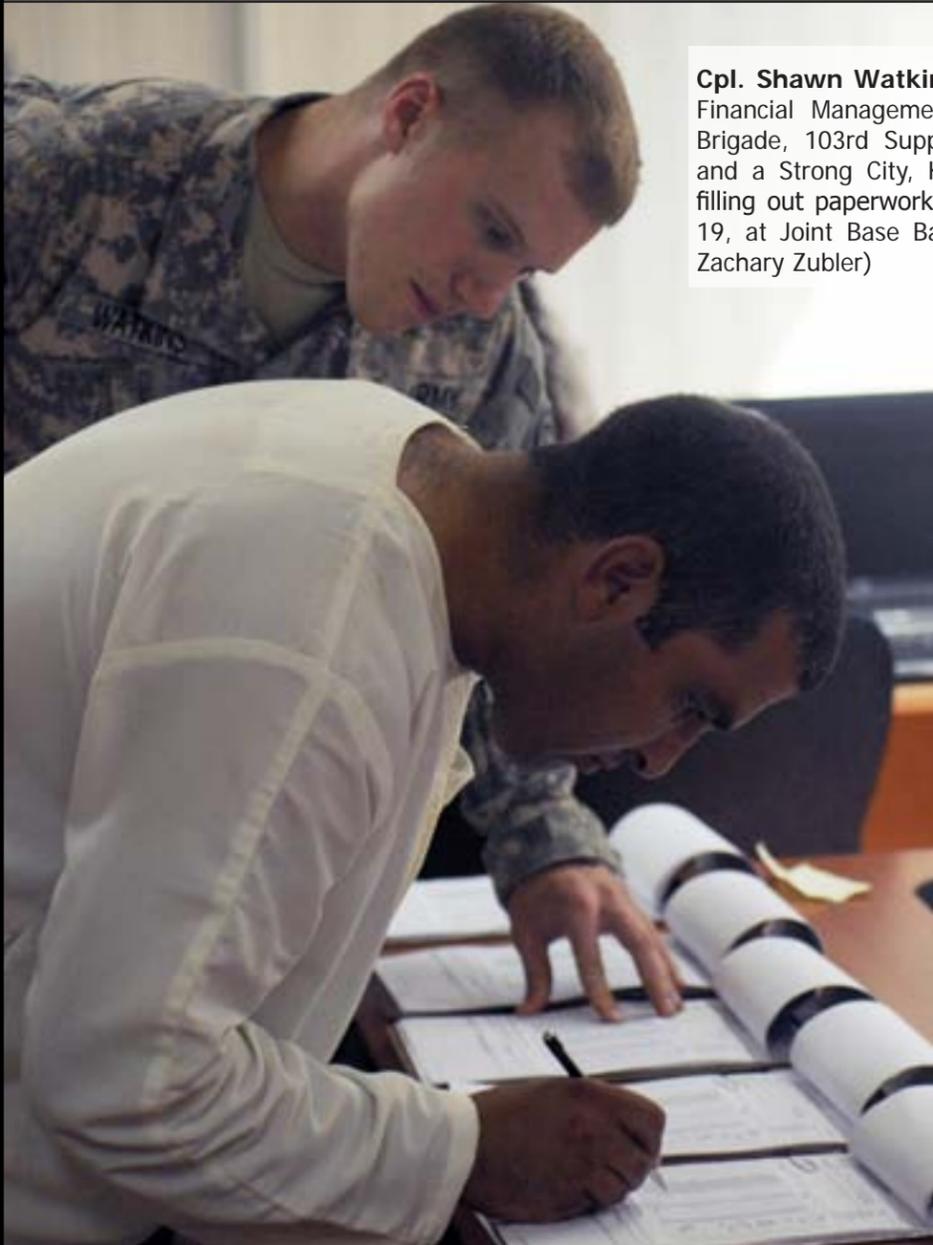
Below: Brig. Gen. Sami Se'ed Abdulnabi, the Iraqi Air Force Basra Air Base commander, speaks with Maj. Gen. Eddie Spurgin, commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division, during a pre-deployment site survey in Basra, Sept. 16. Spurgin's unit, part of the Texas National Guard, is scheduled to assume authority of U.S. Division-South when the 1st Infantry Division redeploys in January 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Eve Illiau)



Maj. Gen. Craig Franklin, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, receives the first piece of the Air Force birthday cake as the guest of honor from the youngest, Airman 1st Class Kierra Britton-Lacks, 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, and the "wisest," Col. David Snakenberg, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing director of staff, Sept. 18, at Joint Base Balad. More than 80 servicemembers came together to celebrate 63 years of the heritage and airpower of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matt Coleman-Foster)



Capt. Kyle Smith, optometrist for the 167th Medical Detachment, holds up a III Corps "Historical Half" medal. Smith, from Clearlake, Iowa, earned the medal and a t-shirt as one of the first 300 finishers of the a half marathon that took runners through Camps Victory and Liberty Sept 26. The run commemorated the 92nd anniversary of the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne Campaign in 1918, which was III Corps' first combat action. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey)



Cpl. Shawn Watkins, a disbursing certifier, 368th Financial Management Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Support Command (Expeditionary), and a Strong City, Kan., native, assists a claimant filling out paperwork for his lease repayment, Sept. 19, at Joint Base Balad. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Zachary Zubler)



Right: **Staff Sgt. Ronald Hammer**, a flute player for the 1st Armored Division Band, U.S. Division-Center, and a Johnstown, Pa., native, gives a saxophone to a member of the Iraqi prime minister's band, Sept. 16, in Baghdad. The donation of several new instruments from the U.S. band to the Iraqi band fosters a partnership through the universal language of music. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Daniel Eddy)



Pfc. Loran Rowell, a medic assigned to Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division-Center, teaches Iraqi Police officers how to apply a pressure dressing, Sept. 21, during a first-aid class at the Ramadi Training Center. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas)



Lower right: **Capt. Kelvin Robinson**, commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Division-Center, and a Bessemer, Ala., native, accepts a piece of candy from an Iraqi boy, Sept. 13, during mission to assist a U.S. Department of State team at a farm near Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mary S. Katzenberger)

Iraqi Sailors train at U.S. facility

Story by Marsha Sills
Reprinted with permission of
The Advocate

MORGAN CITY, La. — A 35-meter-long patrol boat cuts through the waters of the Khor Abdullah channel off the coast of Umm Qasr, Iraq.

An isolated thunderstorm darkens the horizon. The water grows choppy when the boat nears the storm clouds.

For now, the scene is just a simulated training exercise designed to acquaint Sailors in the Iraqi Navy with the equipment and technology on its new fleet of patrol boats manufactured by Swiftships Shipbuilders of Morgan City, La.

The shipyard, about 18 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, is also the headquarters for the Sailors' training.

Swiftships received an \$181 million contract from the U.S. Department of Defense's Foreign Military Sales for nine 35-meter (about 115 feet) patrol boats. The company also received a \$23 million contract to train the Iraqi Navy on the vessel.

So far, 47 sailors completed the 90-day training in July and 43 sailors will complete training in October.

The simulations have been very accurate, according to Iraqi Navy Lt. Al Jazaeri. He said it was an honor to be among the first trained "and to help the country [Iraq] get back on its feet again."

Umm Qasr, home port of the Iraqi Navy, is located in the southernmost part of Iraq, near the mouth of the Khawr az-Zubayr channel that leads to the Persian Gulf.

The port has become the operating base for the U.S. training and advisory missions to prepare the Iraqi Navy to assume full control of its waters by the end of 2011 as part of Operation New Dawn.

The Iraqi Navy provides protection for oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

The training mirrors the environment and scenarios the Sailors may encounter back home, explained Chris Myers, project manager with VSD, the Virginia Beach company subcontracted to provide the training.

The simulations, combined with classroom instruction on the vessel's systems, lead into a 32-hour training at-sea aboard the vessel on Louisiana waters.

"The goal is for them to walk on the boat and seamlessly



Members of the Iraqi Navy speak with media at Swiftships Shipyard in Morgan City, La. (Photo by Gavin Jackson)

take over the boat," Myers said.

Models of the patrol vessel's engine room, the communications stations, the mission control bridge, even gunnery stations are housed inside shipping containers.

During a training scenario, Sailors in a firearms simulator called a Virtual Interactive Combat Environment took fire from three speed boats attempting to take over an oil platform.

Simulated rapid fire from an M-240 Bravo 7.62 mm machine gun and .50-caliber and AK-47 machine guns filled the training room.

The program also provides on-screen feedback to the defending shooter that alerts the location and severity of injuries, such as "heavy head wound." Incoming and outgoing fire is also logged so that instructors can pinpoint improvement areas.

The equipment on the new boats is more advanced than the Iraqi Navy's fleet, said Al Oufi.

The first Swiftships patrol boat arrived in Umm Qasr in late September.

The company has a team in Iraq that will assist with the boat's reactivation, said David Freeman, program manager with Swiftships.

The company has an option to build six more boats as part of a \$75 million contract, he said.

Myers said the training simulators, housed in shipping containers, will also be shipped to Iraq. He added that it's possible that at least three more groups may be trained at the Louisiana site.

Army's Top NCO Visits Camp Victory

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs



Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston speaks with Soldiers and Airmen from Task Force 807th Medical Brigade, Sept. 26. Preston spoke to more than 100 service members during the visit to discuss the Army's mission throughout the world and the importance of comprehensive Soldier fitness.

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston visited Camp Victory Sept. 26 to speak with Soldiers and leaders from United States Forces-Iraq.

Preston toured several unit areas and spoke with Soldiers in a town-hall meeting about issues ranging from worldwide deployments to comprehensive Soldier fitness.

"Today we have approximately 231,000 Soldiers deployed throughout 80 countries around the world. Approximately 50 percent of these Soldiers are in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Horn of Africa," said Preston.

Army National Guard for their role in contingency operations around the world, and for the missions they are performing in the United States. Preston said about 62,000 Reservists and Guardsmen are serving on active duty in support of homeland security and Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

With so many Soldiers affected by the rigors of deployment, Preston stressed the importance of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program, adding that

emotional, social, spiritual and family dimensions of fitness are as important as physical fitness.

"You need a level of fitness far beyond passing the Army Physical Fitness Test to do your military occupational specialty, especially in a deployed environment," said Preston.

Following his remarks, Preston opened the floor to questions from Soldiers, who asked him about promotions, pay, and housing benefits.

Staff Sgt. Thuy-Linh Pollack, an intelligence sergeant with Company A, 368th Military Intelligence Battalion, said she appreciated the chance to meet the Army's top NCO and speak with him.

"I never expected to be able to speak with, let alone ask a question to the sergeant major of the Army," Pollack said. "As an Army Reservist, it's just not something you expect." Three young Soldiers likewise got something they did not expect when Preston not only attended their promotion ceremony, but put on their sergeant stripes and welcomed them into the NCO Corps.

One of the Soldiers, Sgt. Kasi K.

Miller, a supply clerk with the 199th Garrison Command, said being promoted by the highest ranking noncommissioned officer in the Army was a unique opportunity she was fortunate to experience.

Sergeant. Jessica Clements, a transportation specialist with the 199th Garrison Command, was also promoted by Preston.

"Being promoted by the Sergeant Major of the Army was definitely a surprise, privilege and an honor," she said

Other stops for Preston included a tour of Camp Victory's Freedom Rest to get a first-hand look at the facilities Soldiers in central Iraq can enjoy while on pass.

He also met with members of Task Force 807th Medical Brigade where he spoke to more than 100 Soldiers about the Army's mission.

Preston said one of his goals for this visit was to let the service members of Camp Victory and throughout Iraq know that he appreciates what they do, and that he is proud of what Soldiers have accomplished the past seven years here in Iraq.

U.S. MEDICS TRAIN IRAQIS IN MEDICAL EVACUATION

Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq – Troops from Georgia and Kansas joined forces last month to give medical evacuation training to 10 medics with the Iraqi Security Forces at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, near Kirkuk, Iraq.

The course was facilitated by medics with 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga.; flight medics with 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kan.; and Iraqi emergency medical technicians, who previously graduated from a five-week course.

The training began with litter construction; during which the experienced flight medics with 1st CAB gave the Iraqi medics tips to make the process faster and safer for the patient.

After mastering litter construction, the medics moved onto cold- and hot-load training.

“During this part of the training the Iraqi EMT’s first learned to load the patient without the rotor system running. Then, after we knew they were ready, we turned the rotor on and began hot-load training,” said Sgt. Matthew Giersdorf, a flight medic with Company C, 1st CAB.

He continued by saying the hot load is the most important part of the training.

“We have to make sure they are familiar with loading a patient onto a Black Hawk with the rotors running so we know they are prepared for a real-life emergency,” he said.

At the end of the training Sgt. Giersdorf, a native of Mooselake, Minn., said that he was very impressed by the Iraqi EMT’s willingness to learn.

“As soon as the class began they were very professional, worked hard and were ready to learn what we were teaching them,” he said.

Story and photos by
Pfc. Jessica Luhrs
USD-N Public Affairs



Iraqi emergency medical technicians practice loading a patient onto a litter on Contingency Operating Site Warrior in Kirkuk.

U.S. service members demonstrate the proper way to carry a patient on a litter during medical evacuation training with Iraqi EMTs on COS Warrior in Kirkuk.



A U.S. Army Black Hawk pilot prepares a simulated casualty in the back of his helicopter so Iraqi medics could train on unloading patients from a helicopter.

Social Science aids in saving lives in Iraq

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello
USD-S Public Affairs



Julianne Ivany, Human Terrain Analysis Team-South social scientist, and Farida Samano, women's initiatives military advisor, discusses the opportunities for women and young girls in Iraq during the team's area assessment, women's initiatives and education analysis mission, Sept. 18.

BASRA, Iraq – The Human Terrain Analysis Team-South assessed an area within the Basra province while conducting research in women's initiatives and education, Sept. 18.

Birthered from a larger organization called the Human Terrain System, HTAT-S has been stationed in Basra since 2008. The team's overall mission is to assist U. S. Division-South commanders by providing insight into the population and its culture in order to enhance operational effectiveness and reduce civilian and military conflict.

"We talk to the people in the community, the regular guy, the average Joe," said Dr. David Ronan, HTAT-S team leader and 32-year Army veteran.

"We try to keep our finger on the pulse of the population," said Julianne Ivany, HTAT-S' Social Scientist.

As HTAT-S visited the towns of Basra, they collected valuable data by asking simple questions such as, "What opportunities do women of Iraq have today?" and "How

do you think we can help bring better education to your area?"

"The division needs to know what people on the streets are thinking, feeling and doing," said Ivany. "It's fascinating to talk to local Iraqis; there is so much value in every person's story."

HTAT-S does a lot of research that most U.S. Army Soldiers aren't trained to do, said Lt. Col. Michael Parr, USD-S deputy effects coordinator. They facilitate ways to improve what is currently going on in Iraq and what we could do to help the people of Iraq.

For HTAT-S, it's not just about data collection, it's about making others understand the big picture; it's about getting to know new people and having moments where in the context of a relationship you can connect on a very human level, Ronan said.

"Team Effects couldn't do what we do and the division couldn't do what they do if it wasn't for their input and analysis," said Parr. "HTAT-S is a huge asset to our team."

IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF SERVICE MEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1 AND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

JOHN 15:13

September 7

Sgt. Philip C. Jenkins, 26
Pfc. James F. McClamrock, 22

September 15

Senior Airman James A. Hansen, 25

September 16

Sgt. John F. Burner III, 32

September 24

Pfc. Gebrah P. Noonan, 26
Spc. John Carrillo Jr., 20

September 27

Spc. Marc C. Whisenant, 23

Spc. Neil Weaver with Company D, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division-Center, and a Punxsutawney, Pa., native, walks a dirt road, Sept. 13, during the company's mission to support a U.S. Department of State visit to a farm near Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mary S. Katzenberger)

