

The North Star

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Fort Hood Soldiers uncase colors, assume authority

By Spc. Angel Washington,
4th AAB, 1st Cav.
Div., PAO

The 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, officially uncased its colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony, Oct. 18, in Ninewa province.

The ceremony officially recognized that the Fort Hood unit, also known as "Long Knife" brigade, will work directly with their Iraqi counterparts in support of Operation New Dawn. The Soldiers assumed authority for advising, assisting, and training Iraqi Security Forces in Ninewa province and Mosul from the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga.

"It (the transfer of au-



Photos by Spc. Angel Washington, 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., PAO

Colonel Brian Winski, commander of the 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. and Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Overstreet, senior enlisted advisor to the commander, uncase their colors during a TOA ceremony, Oct. 18.

thority) gives us a chance to thank the 'Spartan' brigade for the hard work done over the last year and a chance for

us to show our Iraqi counterparts that we're here to continue to assist them with their security and training," said Lt Col. Paul Reese, the 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., deputy commanding officer.

During Iraq's Parliamentary Elections in March, Mosul experienced the least attacks of any major city

in Iraq. The 2nd AAB, 3rd Inf. Div., also played an important role in improving Arab and Kurd negotiations through their work on the 12 tripartite checkpoints in Ninewa province. The Soldiers also displayed versatility while working with the

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U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers stand next to each other after a Transfer of Authority ceremony, Oct. 18. The 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., assumed authority from the 2nd AAB, 3rd Inf. Div., in support of Operation New Dawn.



Purple Heart ceremony honors three Hawaii Soldiers

By Spc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division

Three “Golden Dragon” Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, received a Purple Heart during a ceremony on Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Oct. 7.

The awardees were Capt. Brain P. Canny, a native of Springfield, Ill.; Spc. Robert C. Markwell, a native of Sandy Hock, Ky., and Spc. Nicholas McGehee, a native of Sanford, N.C. These Soldiers were honored during the ceremony in front of their fellow Soldiers and leadership by Task Force Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo.

Following the ceremony each of the Soldiers recognized expressed what an honor it was to receive the Purple Heart.

“It’s an honor to receive the award and be able to walk away from the cere-

Task Force Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, presents Spc. Robert C. Markwell, a native of Sandy Hock, Ky. with 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the Purple Heart during a ceremony on Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Oct. 7.



Photo by Spc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division

mony,” said Spc. McGehee, who was injured when an improvised explosive device hit his convoy. “I just hope anyone who receives this award is able to do the same.”

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander, Capt. Canny said, he is also honored to receive this award and that it sends an important message

to Soldiers and their Families.

“As combat operations in Iraq come to an end it is important for people to realize there are still times when Soldiers can be engaged in combat,” he said. “Although this isn’t our primary mission, every Soldier must be ready to engage the enemy if the situation presents itself.”

According to Maj. Gen. Cucolo, the Purple Heart’s

origins trace back to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. It was known as the Badge of Military Merit, given to the men who were wounded or killed in combat. It eventually became the Purple Heart, but its significance remained the same. The award features Washington’s silhouette and coat of arms in recognition of its history.

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Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team, to strengthen and rebuild the local government of the province.

During the ceremony the Spartan Commander, Col. Charles Sexton, welcomed the Long Knife brigade and wished them luck on their journey to helping Iraq achieve independence and the commander of the incoming 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., Col. Winski, thanked Spartan brigade Soldiers for their assistance during this transition phase.

Colonel Winski also spoke about what the unit is prepared to do as they settle

in to northern Iraq, giving their Iraqi counterparts all the help they need to be successful at securing Ninewa province once the mission of the Long Knife brigade has concluded.

“The focus of our effort is to advise, train, and assist Iraqi Security Forces marking what will amount to be the twilight of our efforts over the last seven years,” said Col. Brian Winski, commander of the 4th AAB.

In their role as an advise and assist brigade, Soldiers of the 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div, will conduct combined patrols, assist at checkpoints



Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Overstreet, senior enlisted advisor to the commander, of the 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., takes charge of the color guard during a Transfer of Authority ceremony, Oct. 18. Soldiers of the 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., assumed authority from the 2nd AAB, 3rd Inf. Div., in support of Operation New Dawn.

Staff weather office plays integral, joint force role predicting hazards

**By Spc. Thomas Bixler,
109th Mobile
Public Affairs Detachment**

Rain and thunderstorms don't prevent service members from completing missions. This is mainly because it never catches them off guard.

The Staff Weather Office in the Joint Operations Center of Contingency Operating Base Speicher is responsible for monitoring the weather reporting warnings of more than 50,000 square miles. They use data from state-side computers to help them accurately forecast weather days or weeks in advance.

The computer software reads the temperatures of clouds, some 39,000 feet above the earth. It also reads the altitudes of dust storms, allowing them to give open opportunities for

air craft to fly, during bad weather.

Technical Sergeant Eric Kelley, a Central Point, Ore., native, with the 3rd Weather Squadron at Fort Carson, Colo. said, "Aviation and weather are irrevocably interconnected." He went on to explain that the data SWO gathers aids in determining which aircraft, if any, can fly.

Having foresight into weather patterns can completely change an otherwise perfect battle plan. However, the SWO, run by four Airmen, at COB Speicher's JOC, are proud for the limited intelligence material they have access to.

"We can do this and the enemy can't", boasts Air Force Capt. Jamie Hansen, an Ellensburg, Wash., native, with the 3rd Weather Squadron out of Fort Riley, Kan. He also stated

how weather is an integral part of MET-TC (mission, enemy, time, terrain, civilians), which is an acronym used by the military to determine a battle plan.

As the military's posture in Iraq changes, however, so does their function. Combat troops are now in the business of advising and assisting, and the hands-on soldier is now an instructor. The same is true for the SWO. Pointing to a map, Capt. Hansen described how their data is collected from sensors placed throughout USDN, currently monitored by United States military. He said he has spent time in Baghdad training Iraqis to perform the weather technician function the SWO now serves. Captain Hansen also said when the final pullout happens that the U.S. will essentially rely on the Iraqis to supply them

with the weather data.

The SWO here on COB Speicher has more than a decade of combined experience.

Although this is TSgt Kelley's first deployment, he is no novice. Every SWO needs to complete the nine-month Initial Skills Course and must spend two years at a weather hub before being sent into any type of joint operations mission.

When asked what he hoped to get out of this deployment, he said, "I'm looking forward to coming [to Iraq] and getting into what we do as a military organization." He clarified, saying at a weather hub a service member doesn't really feel like they are performing a military function, and that he is looking forward to getting his opportunity to do his part here in Iraq.

Anticipate changes in weather!

As we move into the winter months anticipate the changes in weather and the impact it will have on operations in the field or in Garrison. Anticipate high winds and thunderstorms delivering high volumes of rain and lightning over short periods of time. Anticipate impacts on visibility for ground operations.

- Rehearse and validate Aerostat – RAID-A operating procedures for violent weather. Tie downs should be inspected for serviceability.
- Review history of flooding and develop response plans to standing water.
- Review patrol routes and main supply routes for history of washouts, fog, and keep window cleaning material onboard vehicles.
- Prepare to clean high foot traffic areas that become muddy or wet to reduce risk of slips trips or falls.



Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant First Class Adeo Davis, a Houston, Texas, native, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, capably serves as the battalion's plans noncommissioned officer in charge. Sergeant First Class Davis is essential to the battalion's success. His selection for the brigade's NCOIC for mobile redistribution property accountability team operations was for his take-charge attitude, dedication to mission accomplishment, and innate ability to create efficient systems. His leadership enabled the Ready First Brigade to turn in over 600 pieces of rolling stock and 5,000 pieces of non-rolling stock in a 90 day period. Sergeant First Class Davis is absolutely the subject matter expert on all property and supply accountability procedures. The battalion's supply rooms are recognized by the Inspector General as the best within the brigade and division, a direct reflection on his ability to mentor and train unit supply sergeants. Sergeant First Class Davis always accomplishes his assigned tasks, regardless of mission difficulty, and is most deserving of recognition as a Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist Matthew Broyles, a Peoria, Ariz., native, with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery is the battery's senior medic and an invaluable asset to the unit. His experience level and high degree of technical competency are unique for a Soldier of his rank. Mixed with previous combat experience, they make him the type of Soldier every commander wants in their unit. Specialist Broyles participates in nearly every combat mission the battery executes – he provides medical support to various elements when they conduct key leader engagements; patrols to deter indirect fire on U.S. bases; and other missions. In the true spirit of selfless service, he constantly coaches and mentors the battery's junior medics during his off duty time. He also works past normal duty hours to inspect and fill shortages in the unit's medical kits to ensure patrols are fully equipped to handle any situation. His hard work, subject matter expertise, and dedication to the mission makes him most deserving of selection for Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Cultural Corner

Traditional musical instruments: complex, and varied

By Florinda Lucero, Analyst, Human Terrain Analysis Team, COB Speicher

Musical instruments of the Arab world reflect the unity and diversity within the music itself. Certain types of instruments, including end-blown reed flutes, double-reeds, single-reeds, fiddles, plucked lutes and frame drums predominate. Yet, in each area, there may be a preference for particular instruments or instrument types. Moreover, details of construction and playing techniques are affected by local intonation and sound ideals, availability of construction materials, external musical influences, and the functions assigned to each

instrument.

In the area extending through the Levant and Iraq, folk musical instruments tend to exhibit common features and performance characteristics. The melody instruments generally demonstrate an affinity for accentuated motifs, elaborate and intricate ornamentation, and sound continuity. These instruments are most often played solo or with percussion instruments and accompany singing and dancing.

Probably the most important instrument employed throughout this region is the

Bedouin Rababah, Played with a horsehair bow, this instrument has a quadrilateral sound box covered with skin and a single string made from horsehair. Capable of a side range of dynamic accents and ornaments, this instrument is the essential melody instrument of the nomadic Bedouins. It is customarily played by the sha'ir, or poet-singer, to accompany heroic and love songs.

Another Bedouin instrument is the Mihbaj, a wood coffee-grinder consisting of approximately a foot-tall base and a two-foot pestle. The Mihbaj serves the double purpose of being a household item and, when an expert artist uses it, a per-

cussion instrument as well. It is also a symbol of affluence, social status, and the much-cherished Arab virtue, hospitality.

In the Levant and Iraq, double-reeds or oboe-type instruments are also played characteristically with a Tabl, a large double-sided drum. The Zamr, or the Zurna, usually accompanies folk dances and is typically used at outdoor festivities. One instrument played in both folk and urban contexts in this same region is a long-necked fretted lute with metal strings commonly called Buzuq, generally associated with itinerant Gypsies, the

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REGIONAL HEADLINES

Dallas bicyclists descend on City Hall to peddle their transportation views

www.dallasnews.com

DALLAS, Tx. -- Keith Rust was the first to arrive. Most of the others rolled up minutes later behind a police escort. And as cars, trucks and buses rumbled along nearby streets, the riders gathered in front of City Hall in another show of support for two-wheeled transportation.

About 100 cyclists participated Friday, Oct. 15, in the second annual Bike to City Hall event.

They rode in from Oak Cliff, East Dallas, the Cedars and Plano. They included City Council members Angela Hunt, Delia Jasso and Dave Neumann.

And standing beside their rides, they heard hopeful words about changes coming to the city's streets

and its transportation network.

"In the next five years, we're going to have one of the best bike systems in the country," Hunt told the crowd.

Suggested routes for a city bikeway system were available for viewing. Max Kalhammer, the city's bicycle coordinator, announced that the final public meeting on the city's 2011 bicycle plan will be Dec. 9 with a final draft expected in December. Final adoption of the plan is targeted for next spring.

Kalhammer also urged the riders Friday and others to participate in developing the city's bicycle system.

Jason Roberts, organizer of Bike Friendly Oak Cliff and Friday's ride, encouraged the crowd as well. "By making sure we're present, we're going to make major changes for the city," he said.

After the brief speeches, Neumann said bicycle transportation should be and will be part of development in the

city. "This isn't going away," he said. "As we build and remodel and retrofit, we need to be sensitive about it."

The day's turnout was about the same as last year's. But Roberts said the city's bicycling base is clearly building.

"We have the culture. We just need to foster it and let it thrive," he said. "Everyone says that Dallas is so auto-centric. But look what we did on a Friday morning. It's promising."

The bicycle love continues this weekend in Oak Cliff with the second Cyclesomatic.

The Bishop Arts District hosted a block party from 5 to 10 p.m., with a bike-in movie.

A group ride, On the Trail of Lee Harvey Oswald, left Dealey Plaza at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, with a party at Eno's Pizza Tavern, 407 N. Bishop Ave.

(For more information go to www.tooledesign.com/dallasbikeplan.)

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Buzuq has a carved sound-box and resembles the Turkish saz from which it appears to have been derived. Modern versions with mechanical pegs also exist.

In Levantine and Iraqi villages, certain wind instruments are inseparable from wedding songs and dances. One is the open-ended, end-blown reed flute that is

known as Minjayrah among the Lebanese and Shabbabah among the Palestinians. This flute type has a limited melodic range, but produces a distinctly ornate and breathy tone, often combined with the performer's intermittent humming. Unlike the urban nay, this flute is often played by shepherds.

Instruments of the Arab

world have been influenced by urbanization and Westernization. Folk instruments are becoming popular in the cities and are frequently modified to suit urban musical styles. Concurrently, urban instruments are being introduced into folk musical traditions. In the Arab world, Western instruments are prevalent and in some cases

are connected with new musical repertoire. Keyboard instruments are usually adjusted to produce some of the neutral intervals of Arab music. Viewed in their great variety, Arab musical instruments are a living testimony to Arab history, musical and visual aesthetics, and the social and cultural facets of a rich and complex society.

THE North Star

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