



DANGER FORWARD



November 8, 2010 | Issue 41

U.S. hands over real estate to Iraqi Forces

Joint Security Station Al Tib now the responsibility of Iraqi Security Forces



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Maj. Christopher Adams, a native of Dayton, Ohio, and advisor for the 2nd CDO, attached to the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division stability transition team, exchanges official documents with Iraqi Army Col. Imad Karem, battalion commander of the 2nd CDO. Nasir Zaid, aide to the Receivership Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, was also present to transfer the property from the U.S. to the Government of Iraq.

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

AL TIB, Iraq – Just a stone’s throw away from the Iranian border, United States Soldiers spent their final day at Joint Security Station Al Tib before pressing forward with their next mission.

After nearly two-and-a-half years of operations at the border, the U. S. officially transferred Al Tib, also known as Chalab, and all its properties to the Government of Iraq Oct. 28, enabling the Iraqi Security Forces to continue border protection for the Iraqi people.

Maj. Christopher Adams, a native of Dayton, Ohio, and an advisor for the 2nd Commando and Department of Border Enforcement, attached to the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, signed documents with Iraqi Army Col. Imad Karem, battalion commander for the 2nd CDO, and Nasir Zaid, aide to the Receivership Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister.

“The official transfer of the property will further the commandos training and enhance their resources,” Adams said, “continuing border protection of the Iraqi people.”

See **TRANSFER**, page 9



Riverines finish mission - p. 4



Ahead of the curve - p. 5



Find the NCO in 'Lost'? - p. 6

Danger Six sends

Each year we pay tribute to both our present and past veterans, including the hundreds of thousands who have worn the Big Red One patch.

From Cantigny to the beaches of Normandy, France; from the jungles of Vietnam to the rugged, bombed-out villages of the Balkans; and from the deserts and the streets of Iraq to the stark valleys and ridges of Afghanistan, the 1st Infantry Division has added to the distinguished rolls of American veterans.

Together, with our brothers and sisters from other "patches" of the Army, and joined with veterans of our Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, we have been privileged to add to a legacy of courage and service to our great Nation.

While many Americans will be honoring veterans with parades and observances, you will be honoring veterans in the most fitting way possible – by continuing the tradition of selfless service in a land far away from home where you carry freedom's flag. And, in doing so, you will also be remembered by your fellow citizens who gather this day to recognize your contributions as veterans.

Thanks, Veteran, for your service.

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

DANGER FORWARD

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TOXIC MIXTURE

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

A Soldier was detailed to clean the latrine and poured some ammonia into the bucket and began scrubbing the shower walls. But before long, the Soldier was feeling dizzy and his lungs were hurting. When he walked out of the latrine for some fresh air, another Soldier rushed over to see what was wrong. She was shocked when she found out what was done. The Soldier unwittingly concocted chloramine, or chlorine gas, a “witch’s brew” similar to the phosgene gas used to kill Soldiers in World War I. The Soldier almost gassed himself!

All it took was mixing a couple of household products with a lot of ignorance. Chemicals can be hazardous because of their toxicity, flammability, corrosiveness or how they react when combined with other substances. Toxic chemicals such as fungicides or insecticides can damage skin and other tissue and lead to serious injury or death.

At low temperatures, flammable substances including hair sprays, solvents, adhesives and paint thinners can spontaneously combust. Corrosive chemicals such as cleaners for ovens, drains and toilets and battery acid can damage your skin on contact.

Reactive substances including dishwashing detergent and pool chemicals typically contain chlorine.

When exposed to shock, pressure, temperature, air, water or other chemicals, they’ll polymerize vigorously (the process where one or more small molecules form larger molecules). That’s what happened when the Soldier mixed the bleach and ammonia.

Every day, we’re exposed to chemicals used for a variety of purposes in and around our CHUs and workplaces. For our vehicles, fuel-powered tools, and generators we store things such as diesel, gasoline, brake fluid, battery acid, lubricants and degreasers.

Protecting yourself from the hazards posed by these products is simple; it just takes a little time and attention.

First, thoroughly read product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to understand how to use them safely and what protective equipment might be required.

Second, inspect your work areas, storage closets and offices for proper storage conditions. Ensure substances that are dangerous when mixed aren’t stored side by side.

For more information on poison prevention, visit the AAPCC’s home page at <http://www.aapcc.org> and click on “Poison Prevention & Education.” ■

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

November 8, 1942 – The 1st Infantry Division sees its first combat of World War II when they assault Oran, Algeria, as part of Operation Torch. By May 1943, the division had already secured Tunisia and was setting its sights on Sicily.



Operation Iraqi Freedom History

November 8, 2004 – Operation Phantom Fury begins in Fallujah. Approximately 6,000 U.S., British, and Iraqi troops battle about 6,000 dug-in insurgents for control of the city, which had fallen completely under insurgent control. Of the 300,000 residents of the city, it is estimated 270,000 fled in anticipation of the fighting.



3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment History

November 3, 1943 – The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment is redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Cavalry Group, Mechanized and the 3rd and 43rd Reconnaissance Squadrons, Mechanized. The regiment would take the name it is known by today five years later on November 5, 1948.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding

Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for maneuver, speaks to the guests and sailors of Riverine Squadron One during the unit's end of mission ceremony Oct. 30. Navy Capt. Vincent Martinez, the commander of Task Force 56, far left, and Navy Cmdr. Craig Hill, the commander of the Riverine Squadron One, were both in attendance.

Ceremony marks end of riverine mission here

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

BASRA, Iraq – In 2005, Adm. Michael Mullen, the Chief of Naval Operations at the time, challenged the Navy to become more involved in the battle in Iraq. He said the Navy should take the fight from the carriers and battleships at sea to the waterways and ports inland to support the fight.

Less than a year later, Riverine Squadron One was formed and deployed to patrol the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq. Their mission, which included smuggling interdiction, counterinsurgency and the defense of trade routes, hearkened back to their missions in Vietnam, the last major conflict the Riverines took part in before they were disbanded.

So it was fitting that Riverine Squadron One was bidding farewell to Iraq during a ceremony in front of the unit's Basra headquarters Oct. 30. The ceremony marked the end of more than four years of service in Iraq as the unit returns to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Va.

Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, the 1st

Infantry Division deputy commanding general for maneuver for the 1st Infantry Division and United States Division – South, was invited as a guest speaker for the ceremony. Navy Capt. Vincent Martinez, the commander of Task Force 56, the riverines' parent unit, was also in attendance.

In his speech, Gibbs spoke about some of the criticism the riverine squadron faced from the Navy and Marine Corps at the beginning on their effectiveness.

"The riverine forces proved their skeptics wrong," Gibbs said. "By the end of their nine-month maiden deployment, they had captured more than 100 insurgents, discovered over 75 significant caches, and provided strong combat support from the water for marine operations."

During the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation New Dawn, the riverines trained the Iraqi Security Forces to take their place in protecting the waterways of Iraq. The unit was tasked to train the Iraqi Coastal Border Guard, which led to them training 11 different units from several service branches.

Navy Cmdr. Craig Hill, the commander

of Riverine Squadron One, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Bruce Diette, an intelligence operations chief in the squadron, cased the colors in front of their sailors, marking the end of their mission in Iraq.

Diette said the Iraqi Security Forces trained by the riverines are ready to take on the mission of defending their country, which made the riverine mission a success.

"The mission was very successful," said Diette, a Kiln, Miss., native. "We accomplished all of the tasks on time, and all the Iraqis that we have trained are ready to stand up and take that mission and support their goal."

Hill said the mission, though successful, had unique challenges from dealing with the language barrier to the level of water in the rivers during the summer.

"But they worked together and they overcame those challenges," said Hill, a Bowie, Md., native.

"I'm watching sailors who came out of the fleet, used to the grey hull, going out and succeeding at what some would consider the job of a ground-pounder," Hill said. "It's very, very rewarding." ■

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Veteran transporters see positive change on roads of Iraq

By Capt. Mark Nettles

1st Bn., 68th Armor Regt., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

BASRA, Iraq – Many things have changed in Iraq since the first American forces entered the country more than seven years ago. Those changes are especially welcome by the distribution platoon of Company F, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in Basra.

For many within the platoon, this is their third or fourth deployment. Collectively, they have driven tens of thousands of miles through some very hostile environments to deliver food, water, ammo, repair parts and equipment to the Soldiers of the brigade. Some have been driving the streets of Iraq since the very beginning.

In 2003, there were no such things as counter-IED systems, electronic warfare systems, armor kits or even a radio in every vehicle.

“No bells or whistles,” said 1st Lt. Mark Klenk, then a freshly graduated private first-class with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Back then, Klenk drove the streets of Fallujah in a fuel truck. “There wasn’t anything up-armored. We had sandbags on the floor and pieces of steel attached to the doors,” he said.

When Klenk, a native of North Hills, Pa., returned to Iraq in the spring of 2010, it was not the same Iraq he left behind seven years before. His distribution platoon was given mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles that could withstand massive explosions and weighed in excess of 40,000 pounds.

“That thing is huge, but you feel a lot safer in it,” Klenk said.

The increased safety has changed the way supplies are delivered in Iraq. Since April 2010, the distribution platoon of Co. F has conducted more than 100 combat logistic convoys, covering more than 2,300 miles within Basra Province. The platoon delivers much needed supplies to more than 500 Soldiers at four joint security stations.

“During my first tour, we got hit the most; two or three times a week,” said Spc. James Yount, a



Spc. Scott Harris, an American Canyon, Calif., native, and Spc. Christopher Cloud, a Farmington, N.M., native, both wheeled vehicle mechanics with Co. F, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Regt., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., prepare a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle for transport.

Photo by Capt. Mark Nettles

See **TRANSPORTATION**, page 9

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

BASRA, Iraq – A small-scale television ‘star,’ a professional freelance photographer and a civil affairs noncommissioned officer with United States Division-South, Staff Sgt. Tim Burton is a many-faceted individual.

Burton is a resident of Mililani, Hawaii, and a United States Army reservist with the 322nd Civil Affairs Battalion from Fort Shafter Flats, Hawaii attached to the 1st Infantry Division in Basra as the Commanders Emergency Response Program noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

The 37-year-old Burton, a freelance professional photographer who settled in Hawaii more than 20 years ago, appeared as an extra on the television show ‘Lost’ for the last three seasons.

The former air defense artillery Soldier and photojournalist said he never had any interest in pursuing acting and had just stumbled on the job as an extra for the show while doing some photography work for a modeling and acting agency.

“Everything has been a stepping stone,” Burton said, “by photographing celebrities for the mayor of Honolulu, it led to bigger assignments, eventually for an agency with a leading client such as ‘Lost.’”

“The casting director needed a photographer for a particular scene,” Burton said, “and since we already had

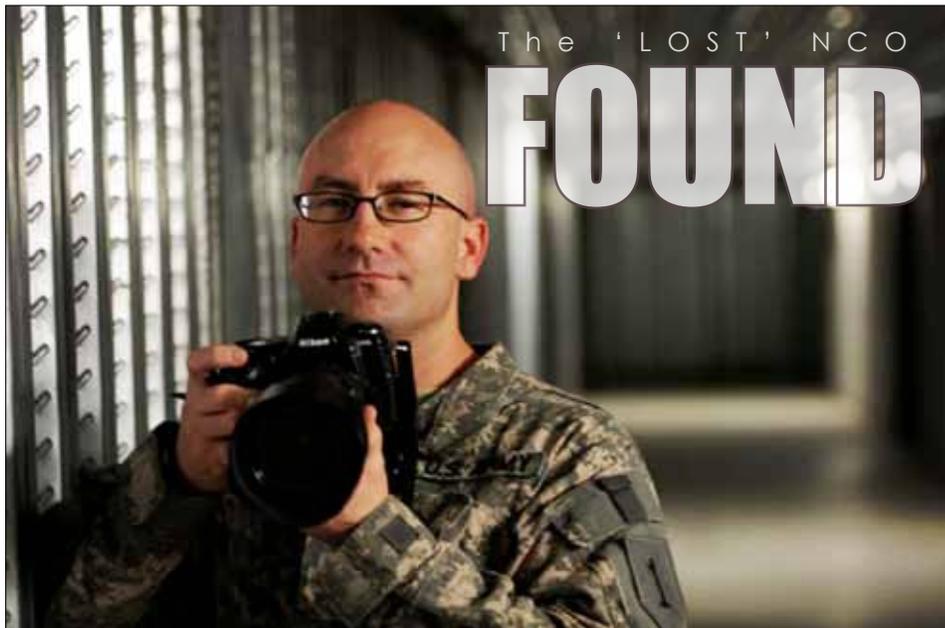


Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Staff Sgt. Tim Burton is a resident of Mililani, Hawaii, and a U.S. Army reservist with the 322nd Civil Affairs attached to the 1st Inf. Div. in Basra as the CERP NCOIC. Burton, a professional photographer as a civilian, landed a role as an extra on the popular television show ‘Lost’ for three seasons.

been working together, she called me up. I thought it would be fun and interesting. It’s been an adventure.”

As a professional photographer who spends most of his time behind the camera, at times photographing celebrities from the likes of Bob Hope, John Denver, Jackie Chan, and Jennifer Love Hewitt, Burton got a glimpse of what it’s like to be in front of the camera.

“I was quiet, just took directions, stayed out of trouble,” Burton said. “Many extras

chase acting as a career and are always trying to get camera time. I guess by doing the opposite, the director asked me to return for a second role on the same day. That’s rare.”

For Burton, some scenes have been more memorable than others while working on the show.

“I got to do a one-on-one role with Evangeline Lilly,” Burton said. “That’s when she introduced herself to me. In the morning I was a photographer with a beard, by the evening I was a clean-shaven-sheriff who handcuffed and walked her down the hallway of cells.”

“She’s awesome, very personable. It was a humbling experience.”

Surrounded by television stars, Burton discovered how simple and real the actors are.

“Among all the actors, I would have to say that Jorge Garcia was the most conversational,” Burton said. “I remember sitting with him, talking about what the snacks were and he asked how my day was going. He is in real life, as he is on camera, down-to-earth.”

As humble as they come, Burton also works as an official National Football League photographer and has travelled to approximately 20 different countries.

If his plate was not full enough, Burton chose to work part-time for Hawaiian Airlines, which complements his travel photography.



Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Tim Burton

A screenshot from the television show ‘Lost’ depicts Staff Sgt. Tim Burton, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier with the 322nd Civil Affairs Brigade, attached to the 1st Infantry Division in Basra as the CERP NCOIC, role plays as a sheriff. Burton appeared as an extra on the show for seasons four, five and six.

See **BURTON**, page 10

Following in her grandfather's footsteps



By Spc. Jerry Ellis

1st Bn., 8th Inf. Reg. 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

MAYSAN, Iraq – For many years, the United States Army has been a melting pot of Soldiers from different cultures, races and religions, all joining for reasons as different as their backgrounds.

For Pfc. Chelsea Draper, Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, joining the military followed in the footsteps of her grandfather.

The 3rd AAB is currently attached to the 1st Infantry Division as a part of United States Division-South.

A member of the Navajo tribe from Chinle, Ariz., Teddy Draper, Sr., served in the U.S. Marine Corps over 60 years ago, using the Navajo language, or Diné Ke'Ji, to transmit coded messages as a code talker.

Code talkers were the Native Americans who served in the Marines from World War I to Vietnam. Used to transmit coded messages over radio and telephone, the languages they spoke were unwritten and undecipherable by the enemy.

Draper grew up very close to her grandfather, hearing of his service as a code talker during World War II. Draper, Sr., retired as a sergeant major, having received a Purple Heart, the Congressional Gold Medal as a Code Talker and his own personal Congressional Silver Medal, among numerous other honors.

Draper said her grandfather is the reason she even thought about joining the Army.

“Even at a young age, I could see the pride my grandfather took in having served his country, and I also understood the sacrifices he made,” Draper said.

Draper has traveled a long way from the red-rocked mesas of Arizona to the sands of Iraq. Growing up on the reservation, she was raised within the native culture of her grandfather.

“I speak and write in our native Navajo language, in addition



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Chelsea Draper with her grandfather, Teddy Draper, Sr., in Chinle, Ariz.

to English, following in a tradition our clan has kept alive as part of their heritage, along with their religion, beliefs, legends and values,” Draper said.

When she was considering carrying on the tradition of military service, Draper’s grandfather didn’t coax her at all, but when she told him she had decided to join, she could see how proud he was of her.

“He gave me his full support, calling me ‘my Soldier,’” she said.

“I miss her and I worry about her,” Draper, Sr., said, “but America needs its defenders, and I support Chelsea.”

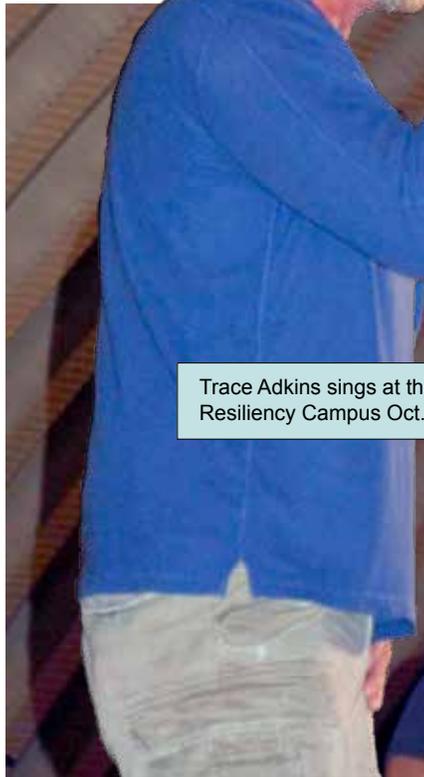
From the peaceful wind chimes of Chinle, Ariz., to the swirling heat of Maysan, Iraq, the connection between grandfather and granddaughter remains a strong and vital force in Draper’s life. ■



Pfc. Chelsea Draper, FSC, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., prepares to drive her military vehicle to its guard point protecting her base in Maysan.

Courtesy photo

Adkins comes to Iraq



Trace Adkins sings at the USD-S Resiliency Campus Oct. 31.

Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – A four-time Grammy Award nominee visited southern Iraq recently to play for what could arguably be his toughest crowd yet.

Trace Adkins, a country musician with nine albums that reached the top 10 on U.S. music charts, put on a show for United States Division-South troops in Basra Oct. 31.

In addition to top 10 hits such as “Chrome” and “Honky Tonk Badonkadonk,” Adkins played some new music off his most recent album, “Cowboy’s Back in Town.”

Spc. Tony Cates, an engineer assigned to the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters from Cherokee, Iowa, said he appreciated Adkins making the trip to Basra. “It was a fun concert,” Cates said. “I liked how he got up there, told a couple of jokes, and said, ‘Let’s roll.’”

“Trace Adkins is a real patriot. He really gives his support to Soldiers.”

Adkins has played on two USO tours and performed for almost 8,000 troops in the Middle East. He makes regular visits to Walter Reed Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center. In April 2009, he performed with the West Point Glee Club to raise awareness of the Wounded Warrior Project

Before the show, 17 Soldiers with Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division were re-enlisted by the USD-S commanding general, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks.

Spc. Justin Labaj, one of the re-enlistees and the unit armorer for Operations Company, DHHB from Utica, Mich., said re-enlisting is always special, but it was made more special with all the concertgoers in attendance.

“It was special not just the (commanding general) but having the concert at the same time right afterward, so it was like we were special to where we got to sit up front and we got to get pictures with Trace Adkins individually,” said Labaj, who re-enlisted for six years and current station stabilization at Fort Riley, Kan., the Big Red One’s home station. “It was a lot more special.”

Adkins is scheduled to play a welcome home concert for Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga., later this month. The 3rd HBCT is returning from a 12-month deployment to southern Iraq, during which time they fell under the operational control of United States Division-South and the 1st Infantry Division. ■



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of USD-S and the 1st Inf. Div., re-enlists 17 Soldiers assigned to DHHB, 1st Inf. Div. at the USD-S Resiliency Campus Oct. 31.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Kemp

TRANSFER, from front page

“They are taking on more responsibility,” said Capt. Dean Lyon, a native of Princeton, N.J., and the Troop A, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment commander.

“They are securing an entire (part of the) border,” Lyon said, “the whole northern province without direct U.S. involvement.”

The property, valued at approximately \$240,000 on physical assets alone, housed U.S. and Iraqi troops near what was once a thriving tribal farm community prior to the Iraq-Iran war.

“Our area of responsibility is roughly more than 100 linear kilometers,” Adams said, “north-to-south along the border between Iran and Iraq. Our primary mission was to interdict the threat of smuggling lethal aids, which may be manufactured across the border.”

Adams said the joint operation between the Soldiers and the commandos had grown into more than a training mission.

“The commandos have been known to be one of the elite units within the DBE,” Adams said, “and the Iraqi army leadership has a lot of experience, I’ve learned a lot from them. It’s been more than just a partnership; it’s been somewhat of a friendship as well.”

Adams said the transfer of so much responsibility is indicative of the Iraqi



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Nasir Zaid, aide to the Receivership Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, reviews the documents that will transfer Al Tib from the U.S. to the Government of Iraq.

Security Forces’ capabilities.

“It’s a success; they are prepared to take over,” Adams said.

The 2nd CDOs are trained as a quick reaction force and respond to border security matters and will continue working with the Department of Border Enforcement.

Lyon said being a part of the transition enables his troops in fulfilling Operation

New Dawn’s mission.

“Transferring the (security) of Iraq back to the ISF to secure their own borders, focus on threats outside their country and police... threats inside the border,” Lyon said, “I definitely believe we’re fulfilling the mission.”

“This is a big step forward for them overall. They are ready to take Al Tib.” ■

TRANSPORTATION, from page 5

motor transport operator from San Antonio.

Today, things are a lot quieter. The distribution platoon has delivered more than 80 vehicles on flatbed trailers and 1,700 tons of water, food, repair parts and equipment to various bases in southern Iraq. The convoys travel at slower speeds and every vehicle is equipped with a functioning electronic warfare system and air conditioning.

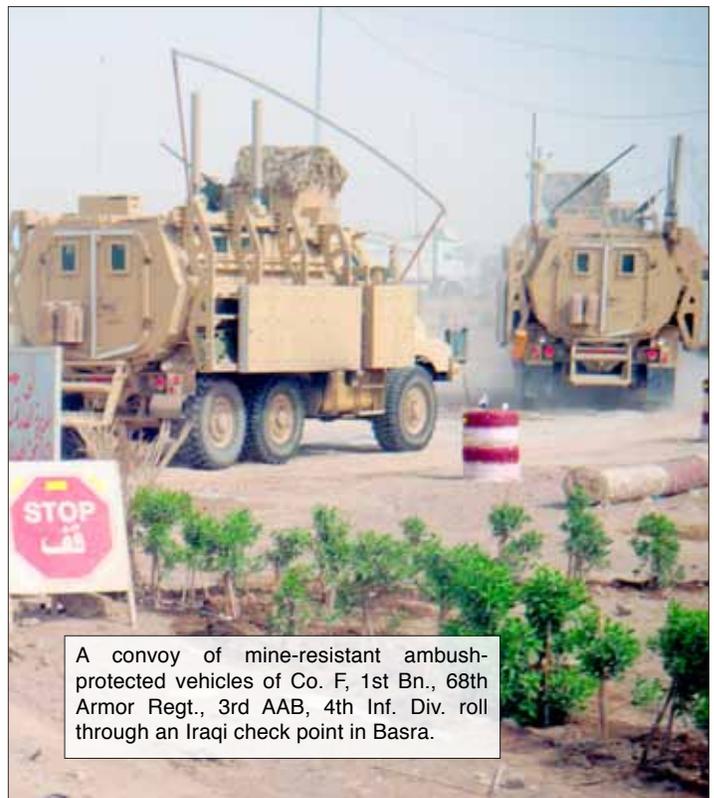
“It was great to get air conditioning,” said Sgt. Preston Williams, a water treatment specialist from Oklahoma City, Okla.

In the early days of the war, convoys seldom stopped and relied on speed to stay safe.

“We were ordered by our lieutenant not to stop the convoy for anything,” said Sgt. Kyle Watanabe, a motor transport operator from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The rules of the road have changed for convoys moving through Iraq. Under the current status of forces agreement, all U.S. convoys must be courteous and share the road with the Iraqi citizens. When traveling through towns or cities, U.S. convoys are required to be escorted by the Iraqi police or army.

On the battlefield, change is inevitable, but this time change is good for Co. F’s distribution platoon as it looks forward to wrapping up what will hopefully be its last deployment to Iraq. ■



A convoy of mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles of Co. F, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Regt., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. roll through an Iraqi check point in Basra.

Photo by Capt. Mark Nettles

“Since I love nature and travel photography, I thought it would be great,” Burton said, “to fly out there, shoot in someplace like San Francisco, then fly back for free.”

While on active duty, Burton was part of a team attempting to make it into the Guinness Book of World Records by executing push-ups for 24 hours.

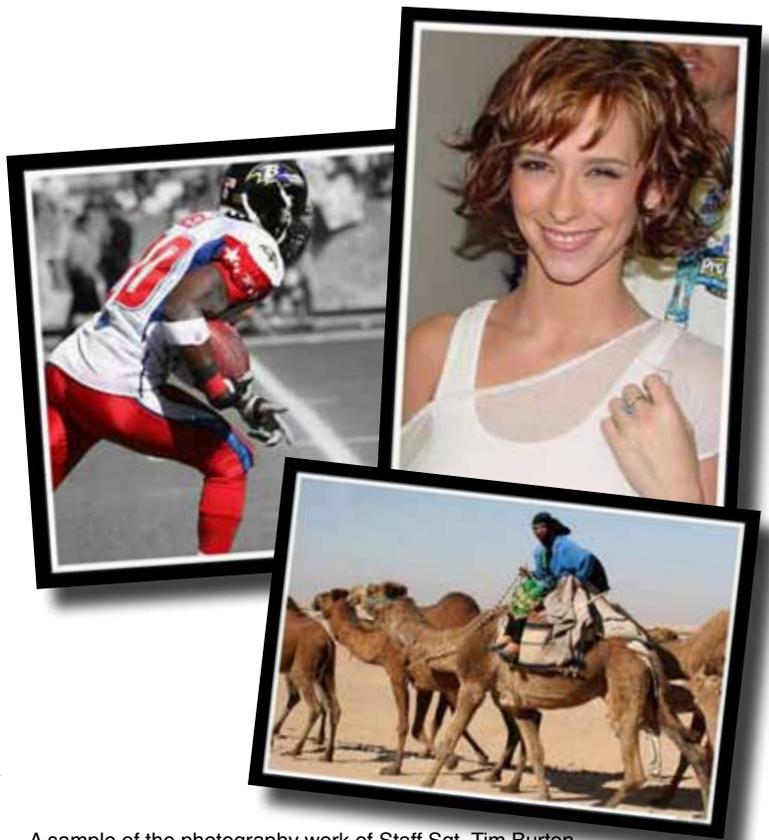
“We were on the news, published in ‘Muscle & Fitness’ magazine and got a great experience from the whole thing,” Burton said. “I can’t remember the exact number of push-ups I did, but it was shy of 10,000.”

For over a decade, he has captured images of celebrities, fashion shows, accepted magazine assignments, and shared his experience with the world through his eyes, but Burton proudly serves in the Army with 19 years under his belt, all a part of his dream.

His current assignment isn’t nearly as glamorous as hanging out on the set of “Lost,” but Burton considers it just as fulfilling. He spends at least 12 hours a day, seven days a week helping U.S. units in southern Iraq with the paperwork needed to complete essential construction and development projects for the Iraqi people.

“Being an extra on ‘Lost’ was just living another chapter of my life,” Burton said. “What I’m doing now, serving my country, being a photographer, traveling, living adventurously, has always been my purpose in life, second to Family.”

“Chasing my dreams, I love living life.” ■



A sample of the photography work of Staff Sgt. Tim Burton includes (above) celebrity photos, professional sports photography (bottom left), and photos that he has taken while deployed in Iraq (below).

got bro?
Pet Photo Contest

Got a four legged friend who's got BRO pride? A creative imagination? Then we're looking for YOU!

Go to the Big Red One Facebook page at www.facebook.com/1stinfantrydivision for more details.

So get out there and "BRO" up Fido and submit your entries today!

Big Red One



Our Facebook ‘fan favorite photo’ this week features a seasonal photo of Noelle Fallin with a pumpkin emblazoned with the Big Red One. More featured photos will follow in future issues of Danger Forward. Make sure to log in to our 1st Infantry Division Facebook page and ‘like’ us today!

Aviators share bird's-eye perspective on success



A Black Hawk crew chief serving in Iraq with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, leans out the side of his helicopter as it lands on Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov. 3. The eCAB, 1st Inf. Div., a large brigade from Fort Riley, Kan., is the Army's only aviation brigade deployed to Iraq to support Operation New Dawn.

By Spc. Roland Hale
1st ECAB PAO

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Lt. Col. Michael Bentley no longer cringes flying over Baghdad. In the "old days," the city was dangerous. But now the Army pilot looks down from his Black Hawk helicopter to see the lights of amusement parks and kids at swimming pools. After seven years of war in Iraq, Bentley sees success.

Bentley's unit, the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, held a ceremony on Joint Base Balad, Nov. 3, marking the end of their year-long tour in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Before leaving Iraq, the battalion's aviators shared encouraging words for the future of the country, referencing several indications of success they have seen from their bird's eye view.

The battalion deployed to Iraq last November from Katterbach, Germany. While the nature of Army aviation's mission has not changed since then (aviation units support ground forces, regardless of the nature of their mission), the Iraq they have been flying above has.

"What I've seen flying above Iraq shows me that the war hasn't been a waste of time," said Bentley. "Looking down at kids in paddle boats, families going around a Ferris wheel in Baghdad, that shows there's some normalcy starting to go back into the country."

"It makes me proud, that what we did here over these past years has meant something; that all the casualties that have occurred in Iraq have not been in vain."

Spc. Ryan Hadfield, a Black Hawk crew chief, started to see a change first hand this September with the start of Operation New Dawn.

"There's been a huge improvement over the last year," said Hadfield. "We started off our deployment doing air assaults, and then transitioned to a more peaceful role of moving people around the battlefield."

"It was go, go, go, picking up troops and taking them to the fight, and now it's a more routine state of support operations," said Hadfield.

Hadfield and many of the battalion's helicopter crews, worked up to the last minute of their unit's deployment, totaling over 16,000 hours of flight time. Replacing the battalion is the 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, a similar aviation battalion from California. The new battalion took the 3-158's place as part of the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the last aviation brigade to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom and the only aviation brigade supporting Operation New Dawn. ■

Photo by Spc. Roland Hale



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

Sgt. Derek Czerniak, a Soldier serving on Camp Taji, Iraq, with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, crawls under a barbed wire obstacle, Nov. 7, during Demon Fury, a competition designed to test the full spectrum of Soldiers' combat skills.

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.



The 235th Marine Corps Birthday
Celebration will be held November 10, 2010
COB Basra USO.



Basra Betty says...



Dear "Poncho,"

What a timely question to be asking, dear reader. For while most of the Big Red One arrived at the beginning of the year, right in the middle of Basra's rainy season, the Fighting First was not here for the beginning of it.

So why is it a timely question? According to data from BBC Weather, November traditionally marks the beginning of the wet season here.

How much precipitation can we expect? Not much, really.

The same data set reveals a staggering 36 mm (that's around 1.4 inches for us non-metric types) average precipitation for the month of November.

Not enough? On average, rainfall doesn't exceed that amount and January typically has the most rainy days per month with 5 days of drizzle.

What does that mean for us? It depends on your view of things. If you like mud and pools of

rainwater runoff collecting all over the COB, you're in luck.

If you dont, then too bad!

It doesn't take much to turn moon dust into mud.

As that Army saying goes,"if it aint rainin', it aint trainin'." True, this is not a training environment, but that's why we train in the rain.

So look on the bright side, Fort Riley Soldiers. Soon, worries of mud and 1.4 inches of rainfall a month and 80 degree high temperatures will be a long fading memory as we slog through a couple of inches of snow in sub-freezing temperatures.

Home sweet home!

All the best,

-Betty

Dear Betty,

I have a duffel bag full of wet weather gear that I am not even using. When does the rainy season start here anyway?

Signed,

Poncho

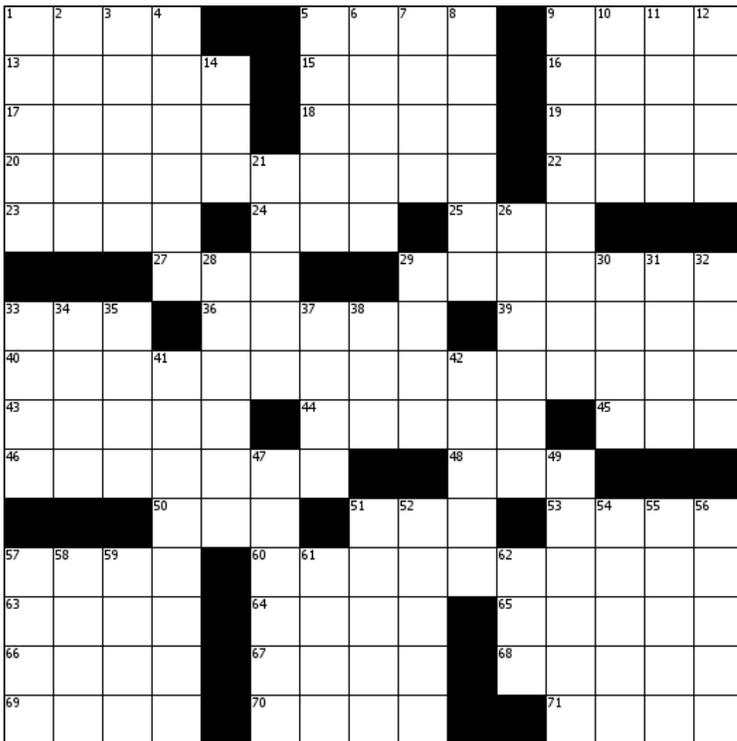
Rock and Roll Trivia

Country music is often seen as the most patriotic of American music genres, but a few rock stars have served their country as well. See if you can answer these questions about rock veterans.

- 1) Jimi Hendrix joined the Army in 1961 after a judge told him to "go to war or go to jail" (as the cadence goes.) Hendrix' records indicate that he was not a particularly 'hooah' Soldier, but he did meet his future Band of Gypsies bass player, Billy Cox, while serving in what illustrious division?
- 2) Elvis Presley was already a megastar when he was drafted, so he recorded a bunch of material to release while he was fulfilling his obligation with the 3rd Armored Division in Friedberg, Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1960 as a sergeant with the MOS 133.60, which was what?
- 3) Rock band The Presidents of the United States did a cover of Ian Hunter's "Cleveland Rocks" for the TV show of which United States Marine Corps veteran?
- 4) What Credence Clearwater Revival singer/songwriter wasn't a "Fortunate Son," but avoided serving in Vietnam by enlisting in the U.S. Army Reserve after receiving his draft notice?
- 5) If Shaggy's "Boombastic" is sung a bit like a cadence, it may be because he served as a field artilleryman in what war with what service?

Answers to this week's trivia:

- (1) 101st Airborne Division
- (2) NCO Armor Intelligence Specialist, aka Armor Scout
- (3) Drew Carey
- (4) John Fogerty
- (5) Shaggy served in Desert Storm with the United States Marine Corps



Across

1. Comes to a decision
5. Chicago terminus
10. Determines a sum
14. Pawn taker, perhaps
15. Chiromancers read them
16. Roman numerals for Henry
17. Was right on time
20. Net judge's cry, perhaps
21. Eagle by the sea
22. Eat away at the beach?
23. Sound from the meadow
24. They're found beside temples
26. Shrubs with lavender blooms
29. Lawnmower part
30. Sign at a broadcasting station
31. Make judgments
32. Doctor of sci-fi
35. 19th-century England
39. Nice hot time?
40. Garner
41. ___ prosequi (charges will be dropped)
42. Awakens
44. Burns with water
45. Soft, light and fluffy
48. Galactic bit
49. Kind of zoo exhibit
50. Cripple
51. ___ Palmas
54. Starting location
58. Peter Fonda title role
59. Song accompanied by an alpenhorn, perhaps
60. "Peyton Place" first name
61. Stack part
62. One cubic meter
63. Lacking in liveliness

Down

1. Like some vaccines
2. Hole in a sweater?
3. Legal wrongdoing
4. Enjoy Snowmass
5. "Jenufa" and "Alceste," e.g.
6. Common contraction
7. Balm ingredient, perhaps
8. Former White House initials.
9. Low or high tail
10. Not favoring
11. Mischievous pranks
12. Tube invented in 1904
13. Internet destinations
18. Zipper substitute
19. Beer foam
23. Can of worms, maybe
24. Geriatric orbiter of '98
25. Item with a gooseneck
26. Puppy follower?
27. "What's ___ for me?"
28. Brussels export
29. Chicago squad
31. Memoir of a sort
32. It goes with a way
33. Don't sell
34. English I readings
36. Cayuse checker
37. Put down stakes?
38. Niagara Falls sound
42. Ear bone
43. Morrison or Tennille
44. Archie Bunker command
45. Cuisine featuring dirty rice
46. Rudimentary seed
47. What X may mean
48. Less hazardous
50. It's the way it's done
51. One not to be believed
52. First name in a Tolstoy novel
53. Seize with a toothpick
55. Gov. Pataki's milieu
56. Came by
57. Word with hat or school

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



VVV

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

Solution for last week: Rodeo Clown

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

Sudoku

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

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

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/