



DANGER FORWARD



December 6, 2010 | Issue 45

By Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

WASIT PROVINCE, Iraq – Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment arrived Nov. 26 at Contingency Operating Site Delta in southeastern Iraq, to begin conducting missions in support of Operation New Dawn.

Soldiers of the Army's "Only Armored Cavalry Regiment," are deployed across southern Iraq conducting advise and assist missions with Iraqi Security Forces and are now joined by their fellow Soldiers of Fox Troop.

"Fox Troop is here to train and work alongside the Wasit Iraqi Police Forces and enable our Stability and Transition Teams," said Capt. Gerardo Menal, commander of Troop F, from San Antonio. "Past deployments were more of a kinetic fight."

When most of the regiment deployed to Iraq in August, Fox Troop was assigned to rear detachment duties at Fort Hood, Texas. The troop was brought forward to provide more support to 2nd Squadron's mission in Wasit Province. Once given the order, Fox Troop gathered its Soldiers and equipment, and after only hours in an airplane, the unit had arrived, ready to get started.

Early the next day, Soldiers began unpacking all the equipment they had brought on the flight. A wide range of tactical vehicles and other equipment had to be inspected and signed over to Fox

See **RIFLES**, page 10



Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

Soldiers of Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment "Brave Rifles", conduct inventories on Contingency Operating Site Delta, Nov. 27, 2010. The Soldiers of Fox Troop arrived Friday in support of Operation New Dawn. The troop will advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces around the province.



A true story - p. 6



Air support on the ground - p. 8



Something old and new - p. 11



Photo by Sgt. Thomas Day

Extra efforts to speed troops home for holidays

By Lt. Col. C. L. Morelle-Oliveira
Army News Service

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Extra measures are being taken by the 1st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) and others this month to ensure troops get home for the holidays without delays and they will have the highest priority for flight seating.

During December, two aircraft are slated to leave Kuwait every day to bring troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan for Rest and Recuperation (R&R) leave.

“One flies to Atlanta and one to Dallas to speed you home,” said Lt. Col. John Aarsen, chief, Reception, Staging, Onward Integration Division, 3rd Personnel Center.

Aarsen also said the center processes 100 percent of homeward-bound passengers within 24 hours of arrival in Kuwait.

Anytime during their transit, travelers can speak with a staff member at the Theater Gateway or view the R&R timetable file by logging on to R&R Travel Policies and Procedures via Army Knowledge Online. The site requires a Department of Defense Common Access Card.

The Air Force Central Command Passenger Reservation system is also available online at Airlift Passenger Reservation System for up-to-date flight information.

“There’s an urban myth out there, that troops have to leave days in advance so they won’t ‘miss’ their R&R connections at the Gateway,” said, Col. Gordon Roberts, 1st TSC chief of staff, forward. “It’s just that, a myth. Soldiers and leaders need to synchronize the desired dates with the flights available.” ■

In this file photo, a Personnel Services Battalion Soldier collects identification cards from Soldiers headed out on leave. The 1st Theater Sustainment Command announced that military personnel on R&R for the holidays from Afghanistan and Iraq will have the highest priority for seating on daily flights from Kuwait to Atlanta and Dallas.

 Commanding General  Major General Vincent K. Brooks	 Command Sergeant Major Command Sergeant Major Jim Champagne	<h2 style="margin: 0;">DANGER FORWARD</h2>
PAO 1st Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Sophie Gainey Command Info OIC: Capt. Brian Melanephy Command Info NCOIC: 1st Sgt. Charles Owens Email: MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil Phone: (Iraqna) (0790)-194-2865 (770)-263-9379.	Danger Forward Print NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Nathan Smith Editor/Layout: Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro Staff Writers: Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello, Staff Sgt. Cody Harding, Sgt. Jason Kemp, Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla, Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, Spc. Eve Ililau	Contributing Units  3rd ACR  3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.  305th MPAD 

SAFETY NEW YEAR

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

The 1st Infantry Division has almost completed its one year deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. You are to be commended for all you've accomplished this past year and for your daily efforts to save lives through accident prevention.

While you might expect that our extended operations are stretching and stressing our forces, creating an environment conducive to increased accidental losses, that is not what we, the USD-S Safety Division see. In theater, we see numerous successes as leaders exert 24/7 use of overt command and control of Soldiers' lives.

However, when these Soldiers return to home station and the reins loosen and oversight decreases, we see off-duty accidents outpacing on-duty losses. This should not happen since the standards never changed. The beginning of a new year presents units with the possibility to set goals and objectives. For 2011, let us set goals that give us a unique opportunity to build on the successes of the previous year, raising the bar of excellence to rates unsurpassed in any in our last decade.

To accomplish this, the Division Safety Office (DSO)

recommends the following goals:

- Embrace safety as a way of life.
- Create a positive safety climate and culture within every organization, keeping Soldiers, civilians and Families a part of that formation.
- Reach out to Families and include them as part of the solution.
- Enable Soldiers and Leaders to assess their personal and subordinates' risky behavior, preventing the next accident.
- Get involved, stay engaged and make a positive difference. Families undoubtedly have a direct impact on Soldiers. The Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Casey, reiterated the importance of Families, emphasizing that much of a Soldier's strength comes from their Family.

The DSO commends each of you as we continue taking steps toward decreasing accidental losses. We wish you and your Families a happy and safe 2011 and ask that you continue making the Big Red One safe and strong. Safety First. ■

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

December 6, 1990 – A second contingent of Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division depart Fort Riley for Saudi Arabia as part of the military build-up before Operation Desert Storm.



Operation Iraqi Freedom History

December 9, 2008 – National Public Radio reports that Federal prosecutors have charged five employees of a private security company of manslaughter after they allegedly fired into a crowded Baghdad intersection in 2007.



3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment History

December 11, 2007 – The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment assumes responsibilities for operations in northern Iraq from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Marez. It would mark the official beginning of the Regiment's third rotation in Iraq.

A Tradition of Excellence



Photo illustration by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general for the United States Division-South and the 1st Infantry Division presented the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club medallion to Sgt. Ian Dupont, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a targeting analyst with the 1st Inf. Div. Staff Sgt. William Laster and Sgt. Nathan Overturf, both with the 1st Inf. Div. were also inducted into the SAMC.

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

BASRA, Iraq—Three 1st Infantry Division Soldiers in Basra were inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club (SAMC), Nov. 26, for exemplifying leadership traits above and beyond the call of duty that were characteristic of WWII hero Sgt. Audie Leon Murphy.

Staff Sgt. William Laster, Sgt. Ian Dupont and Sgt. Nathan Overturf became three of the newest SAMC members.

Master Sgt. John Taylor, the headquarters commandant for the 1st Inf. Div. and a former SAMC president considers its members a group of elite noncommissioned officers.

“The basis of the SAMC is to recognize outstanding NCOs, based on their leadership and professional abilities,” said the native of Hamilton, Texas.

Taylor said prestige and honor is tied with becoming a member and wearing the SAMC medallion.

“Just to wear one, to obtain one is an honor in itself,” Taylor said. “It represents the level of excellence you have achieved.”

Dupont, a targeting analyst, said that being inducted while on deployment added

an important element to the honors.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dupont said junior enlisted Soldiers could distinguish themselves through hard work and become a member themselves.

“Anybody who wants to learn, better themselves,” said Dupont, “better their Army career, SAMC is a wonderful opportunity. The effort you put in will determine the rewards you will reap.”

Overturf, an infantryman, said he realized the challenges of becoming a member of the club, and attributes his success to the division leadership.

“I failed the first time,” said Overturf, a native of Stockton, Ca. “The 1st Infantry Division has taught me a lot, which I didn’t learn in my previous unit.”

Dupont credited his success to Master Sgt. Scott Bosse and Laster.

“Without those two individuals, I probably wouldn’t be inducted today.”

A native of Jeffrey, N.H., Bosse said he nominated Dupont for his professional qualities and dedication to his Soldiers.

“He is a very hard working, young NCO who cares about the development of his Soldiers and always looks out for their well being,” said Bosse. “He has actively involved himself in the community.

Those qualities are what every member of the club should strive to uphold, Bosse said.

Overturf said Murphy’s role in WWII is an inspiration.

“His achievements on the battlefield,” said Overturf, “to never quit, to demonstrate tenacity in the face of danger. Always keep driving on to the objective, that’s what Audie Murphy means to me.”

Murphy, a Medal of Honor recipient for ‘conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty,’ is one of the most highly-decorated Soldiers in the history of the Army.

Champagne said the selection process of who represents the SAMC is taken very seriously and induction into the prestigious club, whose membership represents the top 1 percent of NCOs, comes with responsibilities.

“It’s not stopping here tonight,” said division command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. James Champagne. “It’s not just about wearing the medallion, not just about an ARCOM (Army Commendation Medal) or the accolades. It’s all about how they contribute to their communities. It’s about how they give back to Soldiers within their unit.” ■

Communication Soldiers take broadband to a whole new level

By Capt. Scott Carmichael

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

BASRA, Iraq — The communication and signal Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, are responsible for an extensive network spread across five joint security stations in the Basra province. Their most important job is to plan and manage the battalion's communication systems to ensure mission success with minimal interference.

Five Soldiers make up the battalion headquarters communications section that oversees network support for multiple companies. These Soldiers provide voice and data communications for over 1,000 soldiers.

“Our main priority is to always ensure that the network is efficient and reliable, and that the commander is able to have command and control of the battlefield at all times,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Toole, of Colorado Springs, Colo., communications section noncommissioned officer in charge.

The headquarters communication section, commonly referred to as S6, consists of an officer in charge, a non-commissioned officer in charge, a multi-channel transmission systems operator and maintainer and two information systems operators.

“Our Soldiers consistently demonstrate their unique skills in all aspects of information security and tactical communications in support of combat operations in Basra Province,” said Toole.

These Soldiers, although few in number, are very detail oriented and fully understand the responsibility they carry. Their knowledge and experience is critical to every mission within the battalion.

“Our Soldiers' tactical and technical expertise lead directly to the successful execution of combat operations of the war fighter,” said Toole.

Because of the vital service the S6 section provides, Soldiers of 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., can focus primarily on planning and executing missions.

“We all play a vital part in keeping up the network,” said Spc. Michael Hoops, of Phoenix, Ariz., an information systems operator. “When we're all doing our part and working together, that's how we're successful.” ■

Sgt. Jeremy Childers, of Warrior, Ala., assigned to HHC, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., works on the battalion's satellite trailer which provides data and voice communications for the battalion.



Photo by Capt. Scott Carmichael

Soldier meets favorite fiction writer in Iraq

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

BASRA, Iraq – A Soldier in southern Iraq got the chance to meet his favorite author courtesy of a USO authors tour billed as “Operation Thriller.”

Staff Sgt. David Thomas, a native of Evergreen, Co., and a chaplain assistant noncommissioned officer with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division grew up reading the works of David Morrell. Morrell has penned many best-selling books, including “First Blood,” the novel that inspired the Rambo movies.

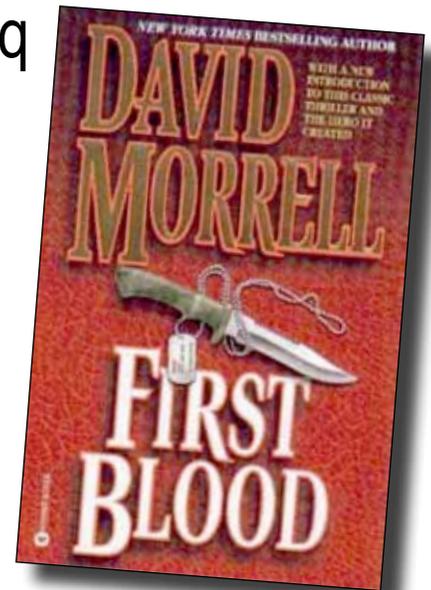
“My father was a big fan of his and he got me started reading Morrell’s books,” Thomas said. “I’ve read almost everything

he’s written.”

When Thomas heard Morrell would be visiting Basra along with four other novelists (Andy Harp, Steve Berry, Douglas Preston, and James Rollins) as part of Operation Thriller, he got permission to fly the 100 miles from Camp Adder to Basra and meet him in person.

“I haven’t been this excited about anything in a long time,” Thomas said. “He’s the pinnacle of everything I really like. I’ve met several writers, but he’s the one that I’ve never been able to meet and the one I’ve wanted to meet the most.”

Morrell said he was surprised by Thomas, who has been exchanging emails with him since 2003 during the Soldier’s first deployment to Iraq.



“I was stunned when he said he was the person,” Morrell said. “The story is an interesting one. He had gotten in touch with me during the early years of this war.”

“When I was here in 2003, I emailed him, asking if he would sign my books if I’d sent them,” Thomas said. “He wouldn’t.”

“About a month or so later I received ten of his favorite books he had written, autographed to me,” Thomas said.

Morrell said he rarely mails books to fans, but something in Thomas’s e-mail made him do so.

“I think it was ten books I sent,” said Morrell, “which in itself was very unusual. I remember vividly going down the post office and sending it to him.”

On his sixth deployment, and his fourth away from his wife, Thomas said it was the best thing that has happened during his current tour.

For Morrell, going on the USO-sponsored tour is a chance to give back to a segment of the population he has always admired and perhaps gain some inspiration for a future novel.

Morrell cited retired Army Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, whose book ‘On Killing’ has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, as the source of his personal motto.

“He says, ‘surround yourself with people of quality and substance,’” Morrell said. “That’s the way I feel about the United States military. They have a degree of selfless commitment, responsibility and professionalism, a stable structure I find admirable.”

“There is something powerful about people who are willing to sacrifice themselves for others, it’s rare.” ■



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

In a case of a real Soldier meeting the creator of one of the best known fictional soldiers, Staff Sgt. David Thomas, a native of Evergreen, Co., and a chaplain assistant noncommissioned officer in charge for the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division meets his favorite author, David Morrell, author of First Blood, a novel that inspired the blockbuster series of Rambo movies.

All Natural

8 Iron Brigade Soldiers become American citizens

By Spc. Khori Johnson
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD – The 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division recently welcomed eight of its Soldiers as U.S. citizens during a ceremony held at the al-Faw Palace in Baghdad on Veterans Day.

The Soldiers taking the Oath of Allegiance include Pfc. Yiraldy Aloma, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Special Troops Battalion; Spc. Dwayne Khan, Forward Support Company, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Regiment; Sgt. Jorge Monjaras, Company B, 1st Bn., 8th Infantry Regiment; Spc. Clayton Porter-Aldridge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg.; Spc. Kerrie Simon, HHC, 3rd STB; Spc. Kenneth Soriano, HHC, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg.; Spc. Alexandr Tomracey, Company E, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Reg.; and Spc. Yuxin Xiao, Troop B, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment.

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, U.S. Forces Iraq, spoke briefly to the large audience about the diverse backgrounds

"I wanted to do it so that I could have the same benefits as everyone else. Now I can vote... and get other rights as an American."

-Pfc. Yiraldy Aloma

of the Soldiers and congratulated them on completing their naturalization process.

"My favorite part of the ceremony, definitely, was getting to shake the general's hand," said Spc. Yuxin Xiao, a supply specialist from Beijing. "It was an honor."

Choosing to become naturalized is an important personal choice that is as unique as the backgrounds of each of the Iron Brigade's eight new citizens.

"I wanted to do it so that I could have the same benefits as everyone else," said Aloma, who is originally from Panama City. "Now I can vote, come and go to Panama as I please and get other rights as an American."

Some Soldiers chose to become U.S. citizens in order to enhance their military careers.

According to Simmons, becoming an American citizen enables her to get a higher security clearance, which makes her eligibility for a greater number of duty assignments and stations. She said that becoming naturalized compliments her desire to stay in the Army.

"I think I look good in green," she said. ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Yarnall

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey, 4th Inf. Div. and 8 Soldiers of the 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., stand proudly after the Soldiers' naturalization ceremony held at the in al-Faw Palace in Baghdad.

Airmen help cavalry engineer success



Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrea Romero, Lead Assistant Engineer of the Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Facility Engineer Team, 467th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineering Emergency Force, surveys a point near a concrete barrier on COS Kalsu Nov. 24. The COS Kalsu FET provides light engineering services for master planning and construction. The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment works with the FET in planning its projects.

By Garrett Ralston
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

BABIL PROVINCE, Iraq – As the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment advises and assists Iraqi Security Forces, they are getting valuable assistance themselves in the form of engineering support from the United States Air Force.

An Air Force Facility Engineer Team (FET) operates at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, home of the 3rd ACR's headquarters in southern Iraq, and works closely with the regiment on projects that will have a positive effect on the future of the camp, the Iraqi Security Forces and residents in the local area.

“We provide installation engineering and light vertical and horizontal troop labor,” said Lt. Col. Laura Johnson, squadron commander of the 467th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineering Emergency Force and native of Duluth, Minn. “Our Facility Engineer Teams use their technical expertise to execute master planning and surveying.”

In August, the FET succeeded in extending the Unmanned Aircraft System runway on Kalsu to allow for larger aircraft to take off and land.

“We extended the runway so that multiple UAS models could utilize it,” said Johnson. “The project was completed in only 36 days to meet the reduction of forces deadline. The Kalsu FET provided all of the surveying and construction.”

The FET is currently working with the 3rd ACR on a plan that will move members of the Iraqi Army onto Kalsu. The project, when complete, will put the IA and U.S. forces closer to each other, allowing for greater cohesion and ease of joint missions.

“We are surveying the area that the ISF will eventually be housed,” said Tech. Sgt. Andrea Romero, Lead Engineer Assistant with the Kalsu FET, originally from Las Vegas. “We have to account for the total space, to include force protection measures as well as living and working space.”

The Kalsu FET's efforts extend beyond the camp's gates. The engineers are working with the 3rd ACR on a mission plan that will breathe new life into a courthouse in the city of Hillah.

“We are surveying and making plans for this courthouse,” said Johnson. “It



Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrea Romero, Lead Assistant Engineer and Sen. Airman Cory Montgomery, Assistant Engineer, both of the Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Facility Engineer Team, 467th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineering Emergency Force, prepare survey equipment on COS Kalsu Nov. 24. The two are surveying land that will be used as living and working space for Iraqi Army Soldiers. The FET performs an array of survey and master planning duties alongside Army engineers on Kalsu.

will get needed refurbishing and then be turned back over to the Iraqis who will use it.”

The courthouse in Hillah will serve as a hall of justice where Iraqis will be able to exercise rule of law.

“I take my job very personally,” said Romero. “I know that I've contributed to Iraqi sustainment and their ability to stand on their own. I can leave here knowing I made a difference for the Iraqi people.” ■

50,000

There are 50,000 troops from the U.S. currently deployed to Iraq. They all have a story to tell. This is one of them...



Photo by Sgt. Jason Kemp

Sgt. Maj. Wade Wells, the senior noncommissioned officer of the 1st Infantry Division's Effects Cell, is a Soldier of Native American descent serving as a senior leader in southern Iraq.

Growing up in the capital of the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Okla., Wade Wells couldn't escape the influences of his heritage.

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – In the schools where he studied the likes of Native American athletes Jim Thorpe and Billy Mills and great Cherokee leaders such as Wilma Mankiller, the first female leader of the Cherokee Nation, most of his classmates were of Cherokee descent.

Despite that, Wells, now the sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division Effects Cell currently deployed to southern Iraq, said he never took that much of an interest in learning about the robust history of his culture, something that has changed as he got older.

"It was not important to me growing up. It really has struck an interest with me later in my life," he said. "I have actually started reading it, studying up on the Native American history, and exactly where the different tribes came from and what they went through."

"Of course, you've got Little Big Horn, and being in the military, we study some of the Native American wars that we went through and battles that happened in history."

Wells isn't the only one taking more of an interest in Native American history, over the past month at least, as Americans celebrated Native American Heritage Month in November.

Although Wells has taken an increased interest in his Cherokee heritage, he says an unfortunate aspect of his upbringing contributed more to his desire to succeed. Wells, now one of the most senior enlisted Soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division, said his success comes partly from the common socioeconomic status of his people.

"Where I grew up, it's not uncommon for many Native American Families to live a little bit below the poverty level, so it always makes you strive for more," he said. "That's not Native American, that's any human being - you always want more than you came up with."

Wells, who is not on the rolls of the Cherokee Nation himself but his children and father are, said he is glad he and his children have started learning more about their past.

"I think it's important you know where you came from and where you're going as well," Wells said. "Sometimes where you came from will help you get to where you're going." ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

Pfc. Kao Lee of St. Paul, and Pfc. John Webb of Mead, OK, both cavalry scouts from Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, inventory optical equipment on Contingency Operating Site Delta, Nov. 27. Soldiers of Troop F recently joined the regiment in support of Operation New Dawn.

RIFLES, from front page

Troop from those already on COS Delta.

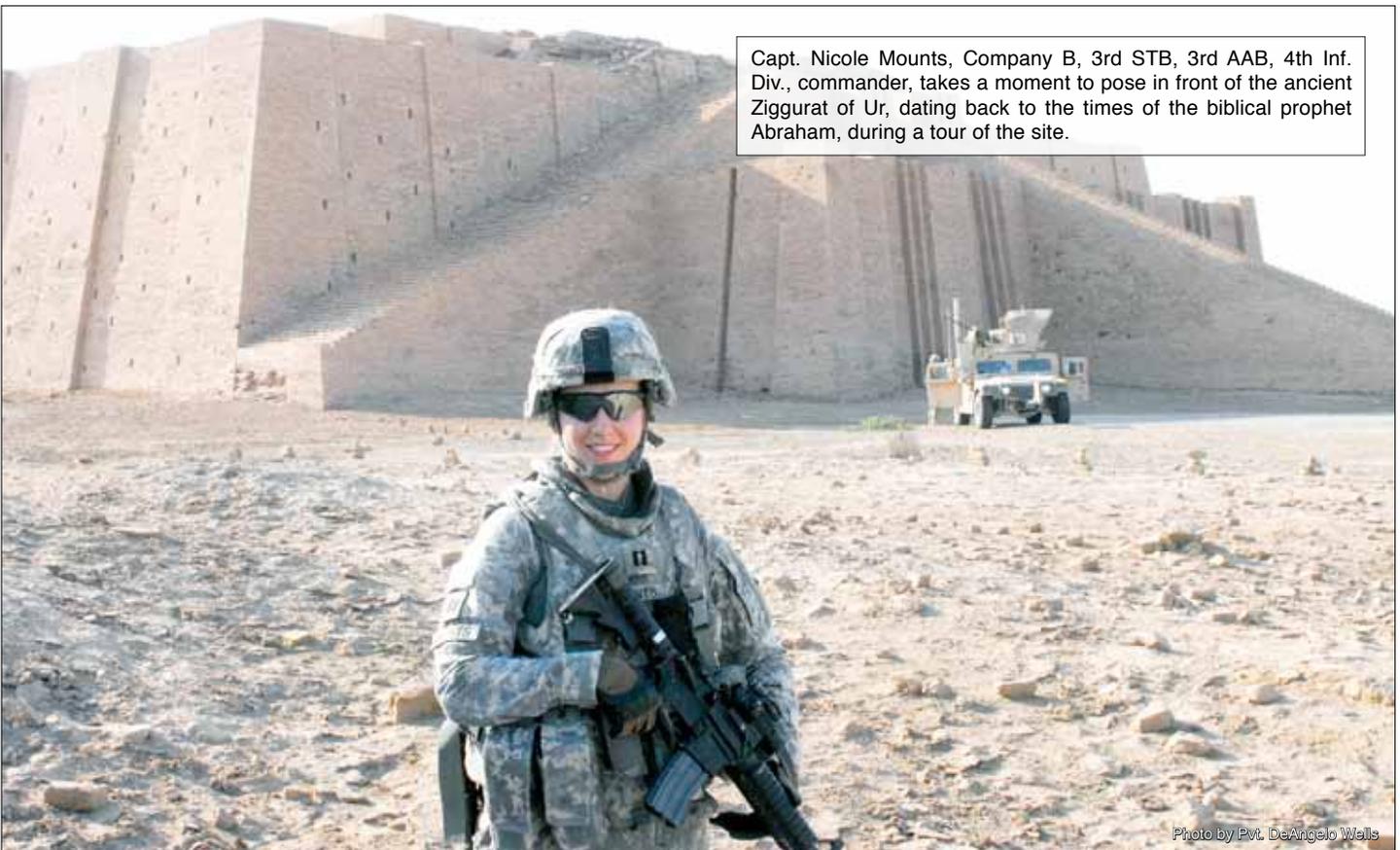
“We have a lot of preparation and setup to do right now,” said Pfc. Zephaniah Martinez, a cavalry scout from Topeka, KS, deployed for the first time. “I like it so far, and I am proud to be here with Fox Troop.”

Some members of Fox Troop have seen the regiment, and even the troop itself, come full circle in the last seven years. Fox Troop has been at the center of combat operations in Iraq for years and now takes on this new mission with the same professionalism and dedication.

“This is my fourth deployment with Fox Troop to Iraq,” said 1st Sgt. Gary Villalobos, first sergeant of Fox Troop originally from Santa Maria, CA. “We’re here now in a strictly support role. Before we leave, we have to ensure the Iraqis have a good hold on things.”

Despite having only been in Iraq for 24 hours, the Soldiers of Fox Troop were motivated and getting into the swing of a new mission in a new environment.

“Fox Troop will assist Iraqi Security Forces so that they can operate on their own,” said Menal. “There will be an Iraqi presence attached to everything we do.” ■



Capt. Nicole Mounts, Company B, 3rd STB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., commander, takes a moment to pose in front of the ancient Ziggurat of Ur, dating back to the times of the biblical prophet Abraham, during a tour of the site.

Photo by Pvt. DeAngelo Walls

Bridging the gap of tradition between old and new

Newest Iraqi Army Division Builds Partnership with the Oldest US Army Brigade

By Spc. Kandi Huggins
1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – The 12th Iraqi Army Division, under the command of staff Brig. Gen. Sameer Abdul Kareen, hosted a partnership luncheon with the “Devil” Brigade, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., at the 12th Iraqi Army Division Headquarters on Nov. 22.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for the two units to strengthen the relationship built between the 12th IA Div. and its partner American unit.

From a historical perspective, the units’ partnership is somewhat ironic.

The 12th IA Div. is the newest division in the Iraqi army; while the Devil Brigade is the oldest continually active unit in the U.S. Army.

Col. Eric Welsh, commander, 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div., concluded the luncheon by presenting Sameer and his staff with brigade coins.

Welsh used the opportunity as a chance to explain the history of the Army’s oldest brigade.

“While this is just a piece of metal that can be made by anyone, the significance of this coin is what is important,” said Welsh. “This signifies the Devil Brigade as being the Army’s oldest continually active unit — and a unit that has never retreated from any challenge in its long history.”

He explained the Devil Brigade earned its namesake in the trenches of World War I, when German soldiers witnessed the brigade’s continuous attacks despite being hit with poison gas, artillery and machinegun fire.

The Germans believed that only devils could survive in such an environment as the American soldiers continued to advance. Upon hearing this the 1st BCT, 1st Inf. Div. soon adopted the moniker for its own as a source of pride.

“Today,” said Welsh, “both Americans and Iraqis have endured sacrifices to uphold the freedoms we believe in, and I present this to you as a small token of the sacrifices your people have endured.”

“There is no mission too difficult, and



Photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins

Col. Eric Welsh, commander, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., presented staff Brig. Gen. Sameer Abdul Kareen, commander of the 12th Iraqi Army Division, with a “Devil” Brigade coin after a luncheon between the two staffs at the 12th IA Div. Headquarters, Kirkuk, Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins

Staff Brig. Gen. Sameer Abdul Kareen, left, hosts a luncheon for the command and staff of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, at the 12th Iraqi Army Division Headquarters, Kirkuk, Iraq. The luncheon provided an informal setting for the commanders and staffs to meet and discuss ways to continue the excellent relations and cooperation between the units.

there is no sacrifice too great,” concluded Welsh, referencing the motto of the 1st Inf. Div.

In addition to the luncheon providing a chance to talk about unit history, the event also gave both staffs the opportunity to meet each other and discuss ways to improve their respective units.

“I think this is a great opportunity to

meet in an informal setting and exchange ideas about how to be better staff officers,” said Maj. Danny Cazier, who advises the Iraqi public relations and information operations officers of the 12th IA Div.

“Sometimes the best ideas don’t get talked about inside an office,” he said. “Often it’s when we are sitting down at lunch or drinking chai.” ■



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

The sun rises above Camp Taji, Iraq, silhouetting the Army’s newest “eyes in the sky,” the MQ-1C Gray Eagle. The aircraft is being tested by QRC1-R1, a specially trained drone unit attached to the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

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.





Basra Betty says...



Dear "ORIITM,"

Hmmm, maybe I should give you Betty's Best Suck up award after that gushing compliment. With all those suggestions, you might end up being the DCSM's new number #1 super troop with a capital big red one!

Honestly, you may be the first reader to make me blush...a little.

Anyway, you've definitely made some very good suggestions here, although by now I'd hope you have already moved out of your CHU and are in your "assigned" and I stress "assigned" living quarters, sucking it up like the rest of us. You "CHU ninjas" who think you are stealthy and slipping in and out of unauthorized quarters, not a good idea. Do the right thing and set the right example.

To be honest, I'm enjoying my big

ol' slumber party, but alas I'm a social kind of gal and gosh darn it people like me....or not?

Anyway, as far as your other suggestions, it's common sense and common courtesy, which I'm aware is not always "standard issue," but let me give you a big screaming YES!

Please leave your sleeping quarters and work area in better condition than you received it! We are a higher caliber of Soldier in the 1st Infantry Division... and you want to know why? We don't settle for less...because here at the Big Red One...if you aren't First...you're last!

Until next time,

-Betty

Dear Betty,

I want to leave a favorable impression about the 1st Infantry Division. Would I be going overboard if I cleaned and painted my work area? Also, how about that I move out early from my CHU so that it can be readied for next unit? Lastly, what should I do with all the excess food. Should I get rid of it or just leave it for my predecessor to deal with.

Sincerely ORIITM
(Our Reputation Is Important To Me)

Rock and Roll Trivia

Thirty years ago this week was the beginning of LALZ - Life after Led Zeppelin. On December 4, 1980, Led Zeppelin officially announced they were breaking up. With over 114 million albums sold in the U.S. and U.K., Zeppelin is the second-best selling band of all time, behind The Beatles.

1) Led Zeppelin released eight studio albums during their existence. How many of them have been certified 10 x Platinum (10,000,000 copies sold)? Can you name them?

2) Guitarist Jimmy Page joined the Yardbirds in 1967, following in the footsteps of fellow guitar legends Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck. After the Yardbirds self-destructed, Page recruited John Paul Jones, Robert Plant and John Bonham to meet tour obligations as the "New Yardbirds." The name Led Zeppelin name came about when a famous drummer joked to them that their heavy blues style would go over with audiences like a "lead balloon." Who was that musician?

3) In the movie "Almost Famous," lead guitarist Russell Hammond yells "I am the Golden God!" This is a reference to Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant saying the same thing in 1975 on the balcony of what

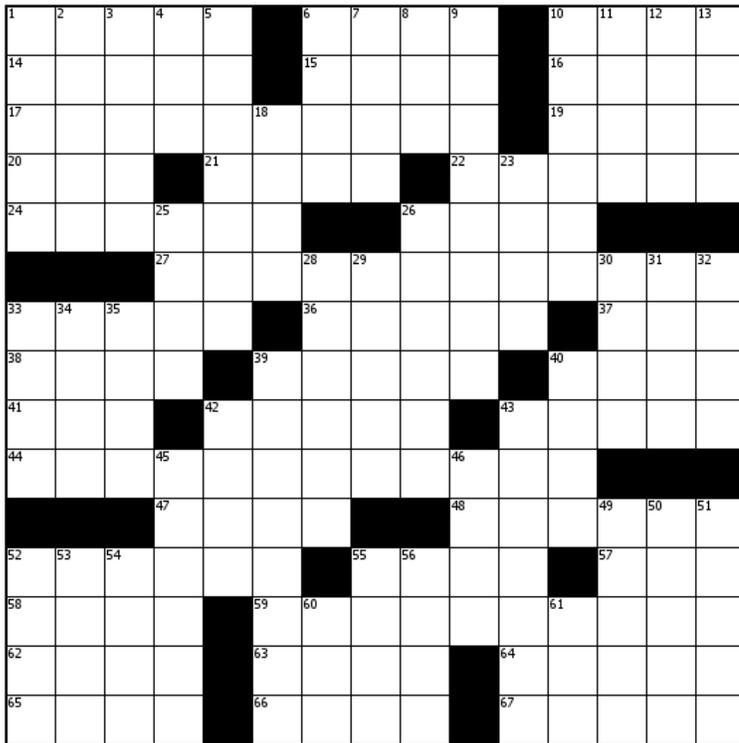
Sunset Strip hotel known for hosting much rock n' roll debauchery in the 1970s? (Bonus - what was the nickname rock stars gave the hotel?)

4) Drummer John Bonham is considered by many to be the greatest rock drummer who ever lived. What was Bonham's nickname?

5) Bassist John Paul Jones has stayed on the music scene since Led Zeppelin's breakup as an arranger and producer, but he didn't join another band until he teamed with the Foo Fighter's Dave Grohl and Queens of the Stone Age's Josh Homme to form what supergroup in 2009?

Answers to this week's trivia:

(1) Five - Led Zeppelin, Led Zeppelin II, Led Zeppelin IV, Houses of the Holy and Physical Graffiti
(2) The Who's Keith Moon (3) Continental Hyatt House aka "The Riot House" (4) Bonzo (5) Them Crooked Vultures



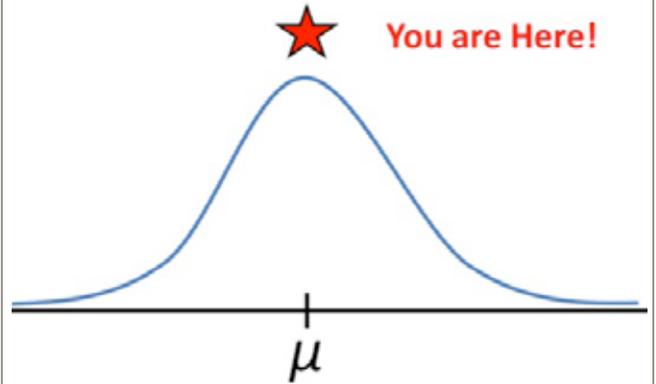
Across

1. Screenwriter's dream
6. Sound in body
10. Elite police team
14. Part of many action flicks
15. "Potpourri for 1000, ____"
16. Seedy place?
17. Go great guns!
19. You'll get credit for it
20. Before, of yore
21. Type of child
22. A prayer
24. Saratoga Springs, e.g.
26. Kaffiyeh wearer
27. Go great guns!
33. Doesn't just sniffle
36. Fiery fits
37. Steak partner
38. Some spread it on thick
39. Quoted as an authority
40. Earth mover
41. Work of Sappho, e.g.
42. Golf club head socket
43. Down the hatch
44. Go great guns!
47. Pretentiously cultured
48. On the up-and-up?
52. Amati of violin-making fame
55. God with a bow
57. "____, a deer ..."
58. It may be half or blue
59. Go great guns!
62. Head start, e.g.
63. Dash
64. "Cheers" character
65. It can be pressing
66. Cocoon covering
67. Palliates

Down

1. Earthy pigment
2. Powerful draft horse
3. Zoo necessities
4. Eruption particle
5. Sharp replies
6. Weather forecast, perhaps
7. Treaty brother
8. Wahine wear
9. Demanded a ransom, e.g.
10. Public secretary of old
11. Romances
12. First name in folk music
13. Suffix for four
18. Pot ingredient?
23. Some cheers
25. Nee Christiania?
26. Turner portrayer Bassett
28. Straight-laced and then some
29. Like some breakfast cereal
30. Ayn Rand character
31. Cream ingredient
32. No longer bursting at the seams?
33. Sound of thunder
34. Burghoff's co-star
35. Hebdomad
39. Small country houses
40. Remunerates
42. Fire antonym
43. Soap unit
45. Kind of income
46. Seniors' last dance?
49. Gray matter output
50. Herman's Hermit
51. Twins share them
52. Parishioner's word
53. Botanical joint
54. Chief magistrate of Venice
55. Etc. relative
56. Social standing
60. "Bingo ____ Yale" (Porter tune)
61. ____ Dolorosa

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



Hint: B+ Grade in your Math Class?

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

Solution for last week: Fox news

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SUDOKU

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

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

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/