

# THE *Ivy* LEAF

UNITED STATES DIVISION - NORTH



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ESTABLISHED IN 1917 TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE



NOVEMBER 12, 2010

## The defining moment of a New Dawn *'Ready First' Combat Team transfers partnership to 'Devils'*

By Spc. Kandi Huggins  
1st AATF Public Affairs  
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq** – The color guard, comprised of Iraqi Army soldiers, Iraqi Police, Kurdish Peshmerga and American Soldiers, standing before an equally mixed audience of distinguished guests and military officials annotated the beginning of a mission and an ever-evolving partnership between Iraqi and U.S. forces.

Deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, Soldiers of the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., conducted a transfer of partnership ceremony with the “Ready First” Combat Team of the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division at COS Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq Nov. 7.

Col. Larry Swift and Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, command team of 1st AATF, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Div., from Fort Bliss, Texas, furled the Ready First colors ceremoniously marking the end of their 12-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and

Operation New Dawn.

Following Ready First’s lead, Col. Eric Welsh, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Jones, senior enlisted leader of 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div., unfurled the brigade colors, marking the official transfer of authority to the Soldiers of “Devil” Brigade, and the beginning of their mission to advise, train and assist Iraqi Security Forces in the northern province of Kirkuk.

“Great U.S. Army Soldiers can do anything and go anywhere,” said U.S. Division-North Commanding General Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, who served as the reviewing officer for the ceremony. “Col. Swift, you and your folks have done a phenomenal job that exceeded everyone’s expectations in what some could argue as being some of the most difficult problems that we have to deal with.”

Perkins, commander of Task Force Ironhorse and 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Carson, Colo., praised the work of both units and said the progress that has been made in Kirkuk is nothing short of phenomenal.

“Col. Welsh, as you and the



Photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Col. Eric Welsh and Command Sergeant Major John Jones, command team of the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., uncased the “Devil” Brigade colors during a transfer of partnership ceremony at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq Nov. 7. The uncasing marks the unit’s readiness to continue the mission of the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division, which redeployed after completing its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

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WARRIOR  
LONGKNIFE  
DEVIL  
FIT FOR ANY TEST  
IRONHORSE  
STEADFAST AND LOYAL

STEADFAST AND LOYAL  
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WARRIOR

**THE IVY LEAF**

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1st Advise and Assist Task Force  
1st Infantry Division

2nd Advise and Assist Brigade  
25th Infantry Division

4th Advise and Assist Brigade  
1st Cavalry Division

**TASK FORCE IRONHORSE**

Commanding General – Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins  
Command Sergeant Major – Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey

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FARMING TECHNIQUES

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*Ironhorse Soldiers commemorate Veteran’s Day in Iraq*



Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general of U.S. Division-North and 4th Infantry Division, places the Ivy Leaf Shoulder Sleeve Insignia on Spc. Joe Gehmie, motor transport specialist, assigned to Company D, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Inf. Div., U.S. Division-North, Nov. 11, during a combat patch ceremony for Soldiers deployed with Task Force Ironhorse in support of Operation New Dawn. The Soldiers of Task Force Ironhorse, 4th Inf. Div., from Fort Carson, Colo., arrived at COB Speicher in early October.

To the service members of Task Force Ironhorse,

On the 11th hour of the 11th day, of the 11th month of the year 1918, the Allied nations and Germany signed an armistice, ending “the war to end all wars.” An epic conflict that affected the lives of nearly 10 million people, World War I would have truly changed the course of history as we know it today, if not for the spirit and resolve of the American people. When millions faced vio-

lence and tyranny, Americans answered the call and stoked the light of liberty. Little did these Americans know that decades later their heroic deeds and selfless contributions would result in an annual observance honoring all who have served our nation.

This week, we celebrate Veterans Day, not only to honor the 115,000 American service members who lost their lives or the additional 200,000 more wounded in combat during

World War I, but to pay homage to the deeds and spirit of all those who took an oath to serve in our armed forces.

During this special day, we pay our undying respect to the veterans who have served our nation in times of peace and times of war, those men and women in uniform and their Families who have sacrificed and contributed so much for the preservation of the American way of life, our great nation and the defense of freedom around the world.

We take time to honor those who serve, our comrades to our left and right, as well as to pay tribute to all who have dedicated their lives to the defense of our great nation.

The words of our 34th Commander in Chief, President Dwight D. Eisenhower capture the meaning of this observance: “let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom....”

Like our veterans, today’s service member stands ready in peace and is prepared for war. Today, Task Force Ironhorse stands forward, answering our nation’s call at a critical

place and time – just like those who served so valiantly during World War I.

All of us are volunteers, some serving the first term of enlistment, others no stranger to deployments, hardship and sacrifice. Regardless if you have served six months, six years, or twenty six years, we are all members of an honored legion of remarkable individuals whose selfless service has secured freedom for America and millions of people around the world.

Your service today is significant to the people of Iraq. Working side-by-side with our Iraqi partners, your hard work and dedication will leave an enduring impression on the Iraqi people that will be felt for generations. Your enumerable contributions throughout the years have made freedom and democracy evolve from a dream to a reality.

While Veteran’s Day is formally observed in November, we have a duty and responsibility to always conduct ourselves in a manner that honors those who served before us and those who will follow.

Steadfast and Loyal!  
IRONHORSE 6.

# Task Force ODIN inducts new NCOs

By Sgt. Shawn Miller  
109th Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Nineteen Soldiers from Task Force ODIN joined the ranks of the Noncommissioned Officers Corps during a ceremony Nov. 8.

Senior NCOs from the Soldiers' respective units called out the names of the newly promoted sergeants, welcoming them into what is known as

“The Backbone of the Army.”

“The importance of the ceremony is to officially let the Soldiers realize that they have crossed the bridge between being a Soldier and being a non-commissioned officer,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Mickey Somers, the senior enlisted leader of Task Force ODIN.

Graduating from the junior enlisted ranks, the new sergeants are now the first line of leadership and mentors to young privates and specialists serving under their watch.

Command Sgt. Maj. Philip

Perrone, the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Battalion command sergeant major, and guest speaker at the ceremony, reminded the NCOs of the importance of respect, citing a passage written in their NCO guidebook by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell.

“Respect is not issued to you with a set of orders and a set of stripes,” Perrone read. “Respect is something earned by taking care of the Soldiers that you train, supervise and prepare for combat.”

Being inducted into the NCO

Corps struck a chord within one of the honorees.

“It really does make your heart jump when they emphasize that we are leaders and what the stripes on our chest mean,” said Sgt. Melissa Myers, an Army reservist with 378th Combat Service and Support Battalion, attached to Company B, Task Force ODIN.

It's important to know that difference that being an NCO makes, added Myers, a native of Lititz, Pa.

See ODIN, pg. 4



Photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

The color guard, led by Command Sergeant Major John Jones, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., stands at attention during the invocation beginning the transfer of partnership ceremony at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Iraq Nov. 7. The color guard, comprised of Iraqi Army soldiers, Iraqi Police, Kurdish Peshmerga and American Soldiers, represented the enduring partnership forged between the Iraqis and Americans.

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‘Devil’ Brigade come on board there is no better leader, nor team to follow in the footsteps of ‘Ready First.’

“You have the experience, the leadership, and the capability to not just solve the problem now, but to solve it in a way that

sets the foundation for your legacy that will live on for generations,” Perkins said.

Out of respect for their subordinate commanders and their brigades, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div., based at Fort Riley, Kan., and U.S. Division-South, and Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff, commanding general, U.S.

Division-Center and 1st Armored Div., joined Iraqi officials, military officers, and a wide range of local Iraqi leaders to show their commitment and support to the Soldiers of the two participating units and their mission.

“Today, I stand here representing the 6,000 Troops of the Ready First Combat Team from the nine battalions that served under this headquarters over the past year,” said Swift. “I would like to say thank you.”

As the Devil Brigade assumes its role in support of Operation New Dawn, it will focus on supporting the ISF as they enforce the Iraqi Rule of Law and governing capability, said Welsh.

“With the shadows of Operation Iraqi Freedom to our back, we stand ready to forge ahead with Operation New Dawn, and welcome an era in Iraqi history that will endure in the free world,” he said. “To our Iraqi partners, we will move forward to maintain this lasting bond that we have worked so hard to build ... it is my true belief that we will not only complete this mission, but our partnership will stand the test of time.”

“Soldiers of the Devil Brigade,” said the task force commander, “you will leave a legacy here ... and I know you are prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. And to our Iraqi partners, we look forward to helping you achieve peace and prosperity.”



# Rough Riders roll into tactical vehicle training with Iraqi Army soldiers

By 2nd Lt. Lesley Holley  
27th Brigade Support Bn.  
4th AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq — Troops assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, began training soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division on high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle electrical system maintenance at Al Kisik, Iraq, Oct. 25.

The “Rough Rider” mechanics, who deployed to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn, taught a three-day maintenance class to 13 Iraqi soldiers.

The hands-on training focused on starting and charging the tactical vehicle systems.

“They asked a lot of questions and picked our brain for knowledge,” said Staff Sgt. James Handley, an all wheel

mechanic, and native of Phoenix, assigned to Company B, 27th BSB, 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. “The IA were very eager throughout the training. It was a pleasant experience.”

During the training, the U.S. Soldiers showcased their expertise in mechanical skills as well as the importance of safety and the proper procedures for trouble shooting their equipment.

The Iraqi soldiers learned vehicle maintenance skills and gained knowledge essential to the overall operational level of the 3rd IA Div.’s vehicles.

“The maintenance training provided the opportunity for U.S. forces to strengthen partnership efforts with their 3rd Iraqi Army counterparts,” said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Vanzandt, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the logistical transition assistance team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Charles Vanzandt, 4th AAB

Sgt. Jeffrey McDonald, an all-wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Company B, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, instructs Iraqi Army soldiers on how to operate a high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle’s electrical system during a three-day training exercise with Iraqi soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division in Al Kisik, Iraq, Oct. 25, 2010. The training gave the transportation units of the 3rd IA Div. a foundation on which to build an effective maintenance program.

“The Iraqi Army is very eager to learn and receptive to us training them,” said Vanzandt, a native of Lockney, Texas. “They stayed motivated while learning from us.”

With the help of Soldiers

from the 27th BSB, transportation units of the 3rd IA Div. now have a foundation to begin a new process on maintaining vehicles for the overall readiness of their mission.

## Continued from ODIN, pg. 3

“It does ignite a sense of pride in the corps and being a noncommissioned officer,” she remarked.

Somers said his goal was to instill pride in the NCOs under his command, noting that he was never formally inducted after his promotion to the NCO Corps.

He added making time to conduct the ceremonies and recognize the achievements of the Soldiers is crucial.

“It makes me feel more like a part of something,” said Sgt. Scott Durbrow an Atlanta, Ga. native assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 21st Cavalry Brigade, Task Force ODIN.

It is a good feeling to be able to better take care of subordinates and give them better advice, stated Durbrow, who will now look over several Soldiers in his unit.

“It’s a good tradition,” he said of the ceremony. “You feel the change of responsibility that you have.”

The 19 newly initiated sergeants now return to their units with new duties and responsibilities and a future of leadership.

“Their career is only limited by their own desires and commitment,” said Somers, who asked the Soldiers to pass on the induction tradition.

Perrone offered the group a bit of professional development, leaving them with advice garnered from his 31 years as an NCO.

“Take care of your Soldiers,” said the Omaha, Neb.-native. “Stay physically and mentally fit; but most of all do what is right, do the best you can, treat others as you like to be treated, and you will be successful.”

Task Force ODIN, an acronym for Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize, deployed in summer 2010 in support of Operation New Dawn and provides counter-improvised explosive device and air surveillance support.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD

Command Sgt. Maj. Mickey Somers, senior enlisted leader of Task Force ODIN, left, inducts Sgt. Arturo Rodriguez, Troop A, Task Force ODIN, into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Nov. 8, 2010. Nineteen ODIN sergeants were inducted during the ceremony.

# 'Long Knives' advise IP at training academy

1st Cavalry Division

By Spc. Terence Ewings  
4th AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq** — Soldiers from Task Force Shield, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, visited the Mosul Police Services Academy to assess Iraqi Police instructors providing training to new recruits during the first week of November.

The academy is currently training approximately 800 new recruits, who are expected to graduate in early December. After completing the course, the newly trained policemen will be assigned to a district within the Ninewa province.

The Iraqi Police instructors at the academy were trained by U.S. Soldiers and civilian police advisors deployed to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn.

“Our troops are here to as-

sist the Iraqi Police in teaching their recruits,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Henderson, Stability Team Transition Chief of Task Force Shield. “We observe and advise the IPs when they need it.”

While the IP instructors are solely responsible for leading the classroom instruction, the Soldiers and advisors of Task Force Shield observe the classes and provide support to the instructors if needed, said Henderson, a native of Newburg, N.Y.

Lt. Col. Daham Hamed Basam, the Iraqi Police training commander for Mosul, said he believes that maintaining the school without the presence of U.S. troops will be challenging, but is also an attainable and realistic goal.

The basic training course includes cultural awareness, weapons training and self-defense classes, he said. The academy also offers different



Photos by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N  
**An Iraqi Police instructor, trained by U.S. Soldiers and civilian police advisors, teaches rifle marksmanship techniques to IP recruits during their four-week basic recruit training course at the Mosul Police Services Academy, Nov. 4.**

advanced courses for experienced IPs to learn and teach additional skills to their fellow policemen.

The Soldiers and advisors of Task Force Shield will continue to train, assist and mentor the cadre at the academy

throughout their deployment to northern Iraq, advising their Iraqi partners and observing the newly trained IPs as they protect and serve the people of Mosul and the Ninewa province, said Henderson.



**An Iraqi Police instructor, trained by U.S. Soldiers and civilian police advisors, teaches IP recruits blocking and punching maneuvers during a self-defense class, part of a four-week basic recruit training course at the Mosul Police Services Academy Nov. 4. Soldiers from Task Force Shield, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, attached to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn, assessed and mentored IP instructors as they trained a new class of recruits.**

# PRT, Iraqi scholars teach farming techniques

By Spc. David Strayer  
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Members of the Salah Ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team, in partnership with 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and Iraqi scholars, worked to educate local Iraqi farmers and provide micro-grants to stimulate local economic growth during a meeting at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Nov. 8.

“The whole purpose of the PRT is to work with local farmers in the agricultural area of the Jalaan Desert to equip them with the education and financial means to enable them to have both immediate and long term success,” said 1st Lt. David Tyson of Company B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Reg., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div.

Scholars from the University of Tikrit, specialized in veterinary medicine, and Hussein Iswead Ali, director general of the Agriculture Extension Center of Tikrit, were invited to the meeting to provide local Iraqi farmers with the knowledge needed to sustain long-term success in husbandry and the raising of crops.

The PRT in collaboration with 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Reg., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div. provided grants to the farmers to stimulate local economic growth.

Tyson, a Savannah Ga. native, said the grants directly improve the quality of life for the farmer and by stimulating the local economy indirectly improve the quality of



Local farmers and Iraqi scholars listen to Hussein Iswead Ali, director general of the Agricultural Extension Center in Tikrit, during a farming seminar held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher Nov. 8, 2010. The Provincial Reconstruction Team hosted the event in cooperation with Iraqi scholars and 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.



Photos by Spc. Coltin Heller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

Hussein Iswead Ali, the Director General of the Agricultural Extension Center in Tikrit, advises sheiks from the city of Ador to build the local economy by using their agricultural resources during a farming seminar at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Nov. 8, 2010. The event, hosted by the Salah Ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team and 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Division-North provided local farmers with grants for farming and techniques on how to effectively utilize resources.

living for the entire area.

“It is all about helping to improve the quality of life,” said Tyson. “Some of the best ways to accomplish this are through education and stimulating those who provide life-sustaining services such as agriculture and husbandry, and watch the effects trickle down through the local economies.”

In the past, micro-grants were often handed out to recipients who lacked the knowledge to use the funds effectively.

To solve the situation, U.S. forces have taken a step back, giving Iraqi experts the driver’s seat.

Tyson said the 1st Bn. 27th Inf. Reg. and PRT coordinated the event and provided the grants but let Iraqis take the lead in showing the farmers the most efficient ways to use their funds.

“We are simply here to facilitate a platform for the Iraqi experts to educate the farmers,” said 1st Lt. James Booth, Company B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Reg., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div.

Booth, who hails from Bucksport, Maine, went on to add that it is important to better educate the locals rather than just hand out grants.

He said it is one thing to have financial

means, and another thing completely to have knowledge to effectively utilize them.

Professor Ziyad Tariq al Doori, the assistant dean of administration at the University of Tikrit Veterinary College, spoke at the event.

Tariq said his primary goal was to make a presentation to the local Iraqi farmers about the importance of good husbandry, and how to take a proactive stance on fighting disease within flocks to minimize needless loss of livestock.

“We really want to guide farmers in economic ways and proper management of livestock,” Tariq said.

Tariq added that there is much more to husbandry than just putting up fences and filling feed buckets.

He said farmers need to learn about the different diseases that livestock can be subject to, learning how to prevent sickness and death, and as a result, more efficiently manage their herds.

“Once we are able to improve the quality of life and education on a very small, localized level, we will begin to see a correlation with the quality of life and economy in more widespread areas being improved,” said Tyson.

# Long Knife Soldiers build morale, gain knowledge during SFI class

1st Cavalry Division

By Pfc. Angel Washington  
4th AAB Public Affairs  
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Soldiers assigned to the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, participated in a Spiritual Fitness Initiative class Nov. 5.

The newly developed program allows chaplains and Soldiers to interact amongst each other while gaining information about spirituality and learning about trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, coping skills and ways to keep their body operating at its best level.

“SFI is an innovation to the Army’s approach to combat operation stress,” said Rev. Dr. Chrys Parker, a chaplain with Spiritual Fitness Ministries. “It emphasizes the approach to stress through spirituality, mental wellness and physical wellness while providing Soldiers the tools to pursue these things,” said Parker, a resident of San Antonio, Texas.

Following the Nov. 5th shooting at Fort Hood, Parker and her colleagues were invited to the post to provide resiliency training to Soldiers. After seeing the impact on Soldiers, III Corps Chaplain Col. Michael Lembke invited Parker and her colleagues to Iraq to see if they would be interested in providing long-term training on everyday life events.

During the 16-hour class, Soldiers learned about the different types of PTSD behaviors and how sleep, nutrition, hydration and physical fitness can affect a person’s mental state.

“The most important thing about SFI is that it is designed to create relationships and

spread knowledge and understanding but do so in a community,” said Parker.

Soldiers who took part in the class role played various scenarios, which allowed them to put themselves in other people’s situations.

“SFI gives us knowledge to understand and know the difference between someone going through PTSD and depression,” said Sgt. Nancy Garcia, a fire control repairer assigned to Company A, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th AAB.

“I think this class should be mandatory,” said Garcia, a native of Eagle Pass, Texas. “It helps make positive meanings out of negative experiences, and it will help a lot of Soldiers come out and seek help. The class is a good type of seed that needs to be spread throughout.”

Soldiers with different life experiences said they saw the

class as an aid to certain problems.

One Soldier, who recently lost his mother, came to the class not knowing what to expect, said he left feeling better and looking forward to finally getting a good night’s rest.

“It was really great to be a part of the class,” said Spc. Gregory Perkins, a communications specialist assigned to Company A, 27th BSB.

“I was able to sit down and open up, because I felt comfortable the first day. The atmosphere was great and for the first time in two weeks, I was actually able to sleep,” said the native of Moreno Valley, Calif.

“The purpose of the class was to kick off the initiative—train chaplains and begin training Soldiers while we’re here,” said Maj. Mike Patterson, chaplain, 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

“The class is important because we have a mission to accomplish. Soldiers take care of their marksmanship, physical health, military schooling, but often times they don’t take care of the individual Soldier,” said the native of Vero Beach, Fla.

Now that the brigade’s chaplains have gone through the class, “Long Knife” Soldiers of the 4th AAB will have the chance to take part in the new, unit chaplain led initiative designed to improve the Soldiers’ spiritual wellness.

“Hopefully a large percentage of Soldiers will be trained in SFI before our redeployment,” said Patterson. “The more Soldiers we get trained and get to understand stress and the possibility of PTSD, the more it will help the Army as a whole—including retention and the overall Soldier.”



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N  
Rev. Dr. Chrys Parker, a chaplain with Spiritual Fitness Ministries, speaks with Soldiers assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, during a Spiritual Fitness Initiative class Nov. 5. The newly developed program allows chaplains and Soldiers to interact while gaining information about spirituality and learning about trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, coping skills and ways to keep their body operating at its best level.

★★★★ LIVING THE DREAM ★★★★★

## Trace Adkins entertains COB Speicher

By Sgt. Shawn Miller  
109th MPAD  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Rain and blowing dust could not drive country music fans away as hundreds gathered to see Trace Adkins perform during a United Service Organizations concert at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Nov. 1.

Adkins spent the day meeting with servicemembers signing autographs and posing for photos before taking the stage to sing past hits and a selection of songs from his new album, “Cowboy’s Back in Town.”

This USO tour through Iraq and Kuwait marked the third trip to the Middle East for Adkins, who said he felt humbled by the response from the Soldiers, who are deployed to

U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn.

“I support the Soldiers, period. I will always be ‘Steadfast and Loyal’ for you,” stated Adkins, echoing the 4th Infantry Division’s motto to the Soldiers of Task Force Ironhorse.

For one Soldier, the USO concerts provided a welcomed break from the daily grind of life in Iraq.

“It provides a stress free atmosphere and kind of helps you get away from everything that you’ve been doing,” said Pfc. Aimee Bendle, a multi-transmissions systems operator and maintainer from Alexandria Bay, N.Y., assigned to Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Inf. Div. USD-N.

The concerts help keep morale high and offer a sense of normalcy, explained Bendle, who calls Alexandria Bay, N.Y. home.

**Troops, Department of Defense personnel and contractors crowd the stage to watch country music star Trace Adkins perform during a United Service Organizations concert for Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Nov. 1, 2010. “Someday I’ll be able to look at my grandkids, and I will say ‘I didn’t have a hand, personally, in shaping history; but I shook the hands of the people that did,’” Adkins said to the Soldiers deployed to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn.**



Once the country performer took to the stage, the Iraqi desert winds ushered in gusts of cold air mixed with a little flying sand. As the wind and dust picked up, the cheers from the audience grew louder.

Adkins, kept the mood light by joking with the Soldiers about the weather and keeping the songs coming.

“So it’s raining in the desert right now? That’s cool,” said Adkins, with an ironic laugh,

setting up for another song.

The country music superstar ended the night on a more humble note expressing his gratitude for the troops’ service. There was also no need to thank him for making the visit, he explained.

“Someday I’ll be able to look at my grandkids, and I will say, ‘I didn’t have a hand, personally, in shaping history; but I shook the hands of the people that did,’” Adkins said.



Photos by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

**Country music star Trace Adkins performs a song for servicemembers at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, during a United Service Organizations concert, Nov. 1, 2010. Despite inclement weather Adkins kept the mood light, joking with the audience. “So it’s raining in the desert right now? That’s cool,” he said with a laugh and started the next set.**

★★★★★ LIVING THE DREAM ★★★★★



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

John W. Williams, Jr., center, laughs with his son, Sgt. John Williams III of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, along with country music star Trace Adkins at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Nov. 1, 2010. Williams III, who is stationed at Contingency Operating Base Marez, surprised his father, Adkins' band manager, as Trace and his band made a stop at COB Speicher during a United Service Organizations tour.

## USO concert reunites Soldier's Family

By Sgt. Shawn Miller  
109th MPAD  
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – For most parents with sons and daughters on deployment, phone calls and emails are the closest they get to experiencing life deployed with their Soldier.

For Sgt. John Williams III, an infantryman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, a United Service Organizations concert has brought him together with his father, John Williams, Jr., for a remarkable second time Nov. 1.

“Not everyone gets to see their Family while they are de-

ployed,” said Williams III. “It’s a special thing.”

Two years ago, Williams met his father, band manager for country star Trace Adkins, during a USO tour through Afghanistan.

When he found out that his father would be making a tour through Iraq, Williams started planning how to get to Contingency Operating Base Speicher from his base at Contingency Operating Site Cruz Morris.

“My chain of command was very supportive, and then I started working details on surprising my dad,” he said.

As the band and crew stepped off the plane, Williams walked toward his unsuspecting father, giving him the surprise he had hoped for.

“This is just a thrill that is hard to describe,” exclaimed the elder Williams. “These long deployments are hard on everyone, and just to get to see him here is unbelievable.”

In the music industry since the 1970s, Williams has toured the world, including several USO stops to deployment zones in support of the military. Being able to see the Soldiers, including his son, in their element is a unique opportunity, he said.

“I admire his choices and admire what he does,” he remarked. “Last time we ran into each other was in Afghanistan. You think you know how these guys are living over here, but until you see it with your own eyes and see how these men and women are living over

here, it is hard to comprehend.”

Williams III, who is expecting his first child soon, said that a few years down the road he hopes to be able to see his child doing what he or she loves to do in life, much the same as his father is seeing him now.

“I feel so lucky to have seen him twice since I’ve been deployed,” Williams said of his father.

An opportunity not afforded to most parents, Williams spent the day experiencing deployment life with his son firsthand.

That night, Williams, Jr., and the rest of the band crew helped Trace Adkins put on a memorable show, bringing a little of that happiness to the rest of the Soldiers waiting to see home again.

## FAMILY FOCUS

★★★★★ FT CARSON, COLORADO ★★★★★



# 'Fit for Any Test' Families walk to Iraq

By Spc. Shameka Edwards  
4th Infantry Division Public  
Affairs Office

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Families of Soldiers assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, Special Troops Battalion, came together at the Garden of the Gods Nov. 6 to “Walk to Iraq.”

The Walk to Iraq program allows Family members to walk the distance to Iraq from Fort Carson, Colo. and back.

“It is a really healthy way to show the community and our Soldiers how much we are behind them,” said Amber Cromack, Division Special Troops Battalion Family Readiness Group leader, and wife of Capt. Robert Cromack, Headquarters Support Company, DSTB. “In two months, we are a little over 5,300 miles. I am impressed.”

“All of us come out wearing our t-shirts and we are this giant hoard of spouses. When



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Shameka Edwards, 4th Inf. Div. Rear-Attachment PAO

Rosalie Mattingly, Company C Family Readiness Group leader, and wife of 1st Lt. Ronald Mattingly, Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, keeps her sons on the path during the DSTB Family Readiness Group Walk to Iraq at the Garden of the Gods Nov. 6. Mattingly’s twin sons, Alexander, left, and Anthony celebrated their birthday Saturday as they participated in the walk and enjoyed the sunny fall day. Also pictured is Mattingly’s son, Michael Snyder III, far left.

people see us, they ask what it’s all about and it gives us the opportunity to tell them about our Soldiers down range,” she added. “It’s a great way to sup-

port them.”

The FRG events also provide the spouses time for camaraderie with other spouses of deployed Soldiers, people who can relate to each other through common experiences, said Cromack.

Rosalie Mattingly, wife of 1st Lt. Ronald Mattingly, Company C, DSTB, 4th Inf. Div., who volunteers as the company’s Family Readiness leader said, “We are walking to show my husband and his company support.

“I am the Family Readiness Leader for ‘Charlie’ Company and I am trying to get others to come out and support.”

“We appreciate every one of you guys, and all the work that has been done to get everybody out here,” said Maj. Matthew Cashdollar, DSTB Rear Detachment commander.

“I hope everyone enjoys themselves today. We will con-

tinue this; the next one will be in December, the first Saturday and every month at 1 o’clock,” said Cashdollar.

To date, the DSTB Families have walked 5,357.82 miles.



Family members and friends of deployed Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division Soldiers, put on their walking shoes for a Walk to Iraq event patrolling Garden of the Gods to show their support for their deployed Soldiers Nov. 6. Since beginning the Walk to Iraq in late September, the DSTB FRG has covered more than 5,357.82 miles.



Family members of Soldiers assigned to the Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, take part in a Walk to Iraq at the Garden of the Gods Nov. 6. The walk is the Families’ way to support the Soldiers while they are deployed and a time for all to get to know one another.

# Hey Doc: 'Save the *beef jerky* for yourself'

By Capt. Nathan Teague  
Preventative Medicine Officer  
U.S. Division-North  
Division Surgeon's Office

Joe said, "Hey Doc! Question for you. There is a cute little cat living under my Containerized Housing Unit. The poor thing looks a little scrawny. I know you are not a veterinarian, but would you happen to know if cats can digest beef jerky?"

I do not know whether cats can digest beef jerky. I do know, however, that feeding feral animals or giving them shelter is a very poor idea and

violates General Order Number 1A, Paragraph K, "Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal."

Feral animals, such as wild dogs, cats, etc., carry a host of diseases and pose real and serious threats to our Soldiers and to our best friends, our military working dogs.

The most serious threat feral animals pose to Soldiers is rabies. Rabies is a viral infection that attacks the nervous system. It is 100 percent fatal once symptoms begin. Rabies is contracted via the bite, or ex-

posure to saliva of dogs, cats, fox, coyotes, and other infected animals. Last year, 77 animal bites among U.S. Soldiers were reported, and 26 percent of 19 tested feral animals contained the rabies virus.

Post-exposure prophylaxis is available, but cannot be relied upon as a primary prevention strategy since it is not guaranteed to prevent disease.

In most cases, you cannot tell by looking at a wild animal whether it is carrying a disease. The best thing to do is to leave the feral animals alone and notify preventative medicine

personnel of their existence, so they can be humanely taken care of.

If, by accident, you are bit, scratched, spit on, etc., by a wild animal, then report immediately to the nearest medical treatment facility for treatment. Your chances of surviving these kinds of exposures to rabid animals depend on immediate medical intervention.

So, be sure to comply with General Order Number One. Do not be that guy. Save the beef jerky your momma sent you for yourself and your human buddies.

## CULTURAL CORNER: 'Fall in love with the moon'

By Florinda Lucero  
Human Terrain Analysis  
Team, USD-N

In virtually every culture and part of the world, people have created phrases that are a short hand for a larger meaning. These proverbs, sayings, clichés, and adages, are often allegorical methods of imparting more meta-understandings; these phrases contain the core understanding over the overarching beliefs that bind a community or culture.

Americans use colloquialisms a lot in our daily conversation and so do Iraqis. We say things like, "putting the cart before the horse," "absence makes the heart grow fonder," and "Rome wasn't built in a day." By using these phrases we mean to impart the ideas that one should not get so excited that they forget major details, that some delights are enjoyed more when they are rare, and that excellence takes time and patience.

How people choose to express themselves to the other members of their group tells a lot about the group as a whole; many of our pat phrases in American English have to do with time, money, capitalism, and moving forward; time is money, go with the flow, waste not want not. We also have catch-phrases derived from popular culture. Even while reading this, you can probably think of many sentences that immediately conjure an image: "Bueller, Bueller;" "One time, at band camp...;" "I'll be back." The phrases associated with pop culture are fleeting though, being most popular in the time period they enter the lexicon. Cultural proverbs, however, transcend time. They reference dilemmas and concerns of human life.

Many popular adages in Iraq have to do with reminding the individual to be cautious, to be wise, and to be logical. Below are a few of many interesting sayings used every day in Iraq.

"Sometimes you need to sacrifice your beard in order to save your head." This phrase reminds the listener to keep their priorities in check.

"An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep." The Iraqi belief in strong leadership reflects their tribal roots.

"You should not remove a cake from the oven just because it smells good." An American equivalent to this one would be, "Counting your chickens before they hatch." Do not make assumptions about the results of an endeavor.

"Like getting milk from a bull." It is important to recognize when no amount of effort will yield a result, though perseverance is important, this phrase recognizes the wisdom in "Quitting while you are ahead."

"For every disease there is a medicine, but foolishness will exhaust the person who tries to cure it." This is another saying that urges the listener to

be mindful of the wisdom of knowing when to quit and that there are aspects of humanity that are immutable.

"Walk for a month, but don't cross a river." Much like the American, "Better safe than sorry," this sentence cautions the listener that security above all else is important, more important than immediate gains.

"If you are going to steal, steal a camel. If you are going to fall in love, fall in love with the moon." The American version of this is short and to the point, and one most every Soldier is likely familiar with, "Go big or go home."

Our words say so much more than their dictionary definitions. They express what we believe about the world around us and our place in it. Our words are our messengers, the better we are at understanding their messages, the better understanding we can have of each other. The better understanding we have, the more communication becomes a piece of cake.

★★★★ **IN OTHER NEWS** ★★★★★  
 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS FROM THE U.S.

## Iraq's new government to include Sunni-backed bloc

By Reuters

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraq's squabbling politicians have agreed to return Shiite Nuri Al-Maliki as prime minister, ending an eight-month deadlock that raised the specter of new sectarian violence.

The deal on the top government posts brings together Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds in a power-sharing arrangement that could help forestall a slide back into Shiite-Sunni bloodshed that raged after the 2003 US-led invasion which ousted Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

Sunnis might have reacted with widespread anger had the Sunni-backed Iraqiya alliance of former Prime Minister Iyad Al-lawi been totally excluded from government.

Some may still feel cheated of power because of Maliki's expected return as prime minister.

The deal will see Kurd Jalal Talabani retain the presidency and give a top Sunni politician from Allawi's bloc the speaker post in parliament and other Iraqiya members' cabinet jobs. Allawi himself will head a council of strategic policies.

"Thank God last night we made a big achievement, which is considered a victory for all Iraqis," Kurdish regional president Masoud Barzani said at a news conference.

OPEC producer Iraq, trying to rebuild its oil industry after decades of war and economic sanctions and to quell a stubborn Sunni Islamist insurgency, has been without a new government since a March 7 election that failed to produce a clear winner.

"The most important issue now is that we are out of the bottleneck," said Amer Al-Fayyadh, the dean of political science at Baghdad University.

"The formation of a government is now in sight."

Lawmakers were scheduled to meet later on Thursday in only the second parliamentary session since the election and should pick a speaker, the next step toward a new government.

But in a harbinger of potential hurdles still to come, Iraqiya officials said the bloc had not agreed on a candidate by midday and there was internal squabbling over the nominee.

Allawi pushed hard to displace Maliki

as prime minister after Iraqiya won two more seats than Maliki's coalition in the vote.

Allawi has said repeatedly that Sunni anger might have reinvigorated a weakened but still deadly insurgency had his alliance been sidelined.

Parliament was due to meet at 3 p.m. outgoing Deputy Prime Minister Ross Noor Shawis said on Wednesday.

Its first task will be to elect a speaker and two deputies. It must then pick a president who in turn nominates a prime minister from the largest bloc, who is given 30 days to form a government.

The division of the top posts along ethno-sectarian lines was a reflection of the sharp divisions that define Iraq after more than seven years of warfare unleashed by the US invasion.

Washington formally ended combat in August but 50,000 US troops remain to advise and assist the nascent army and police ahead of a full withdrawal next year.

Overall violence has fallen sharply since the height of sectarian slaughter in 2006-2007, but assassinations and bombings still occur many times a day, followed every few weeks by a major, devastating assault by insurgents in which dozens die.

Tensions mounted as Maliki and Allawi wrestled over power. Rockets and mortars were fired regularly at Baghdad's fortified Green Zone district of government offices in the past few days, and insurgents killed dozens in an attack on a Catholic church and on Shiite areas of the capital.

Maliki's return to office will likely enrage Sunni hard-liners, who abhor what they see as Iran's influence over Iraq's Shiite leaders and his Islamist background, and Sunni Islamist insurgents, who view Shiites as apostates.

## Hope for Homeless Veterans

[www.hawaiinewsnow.com](http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com)

HONOLULU, Hawaii – In war it is kill or be killed. But for thousands who serve our country, the end of combat triggers a battle on another battlefield – the mind.

"There's times when I'm denying to myself how much it affects me. But, obviously, when I wake up in the middle of the night screaming or remember a certain dream, that makes me think twice," Josh Finn said.

When Finn was honorably discharged,

the U.S. Army staff sergeant could not adjust to civilian life or shake the demons from three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was arrested, unemployed, hooked to alcohol and drugs, and homeless.

"I crashed and burned. I was spinning in the mud, just going too fast, living a fast lifestyle. I didn't take time out to calm down, relax and get back on stable ground," he said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates on any given day 107,000 vets are homeless across the U.S. and 1.5 million are at risk of homelessness.

Hawaii's VA occupies a building on the grounds of Tripler Army Medical Center.

While music plays in the lobby, upstairs homeless veterans recite a chorus of sorrows and plead for help.

"Some of our veterans might have substance abuse issues. Others might have mental health issues. Others might have both," said Andrew Dahlburg, who heads up the homeless veterans program.

"No veteran should be homeless, I don't really care how you consider it," Marko Johnson said.

For many homeless vets in Hawaii, the road to recovery begins with Johnson. He finds homeless vets on the street and directs them to the VA.

"Whatever need they may have, what they ask for, we try to fill it. If they're hungry we feed them. If they need a place to stay for that night we find out whatever we can do or find a facility where they can stay for that night," he said.

Many of the veterans Johnson encounters are housed in the U.S. Vets shelter in Kalaeloa.

It is estimated there are about 1,500 military who are homeless in Hawaii. And 200 of them are living at the Kalaeloa center.

They live in emergency, transitional and permanent housing. They get help for substance abuse plus career guidance.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is one year into a five-year mission to eliminate homelessness among veterans.

"I'd like to think we could work ourselves out of a job," Dahlburg said.

In Hawaii and across the mainland, outreach workers like Johnson are reaching out to homeless veterans.

US Vets holds its Patriot Walk and Run fundraiser Saturday morning at the waterfront at Puuloa.

Go to [patriotrnhawaii.com](http://patriotrnhawaii.com) for more information.