

# The GREYWOLF Howl

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Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Col. Douglas Crissman and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Kelley uncase the brigade's colors at a transfer of authority ceremony March 12. The brigade assumed authority of the Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Basrah Provinces of United States Division – South from the 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 4th Inf. Div. of Fort Carson, Colo.

## GREYWOLF assumes authority in Iraq

**By Spc. Sharla Lewis  
3rd AAB Public Affairs**

3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division uncased its colors and assumed authority of Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Basrah Provinces from 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in a ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq March 12.

The ceremony signifies the conclusion of one unit's deployment and the beginning of another unit's mission.

This marks the fourth deployment in Iraq for the GREYWOLF Brigade.

They served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, 2006, and in 2009.

In 2009, the GREYWOLF Brigade was responsible for the Ninawa Province in northern Iraq. The brigade conducted operations to improve security, stimulate economic growth and create enduring stability. They transitioned security primacy within Mosul and Tal Afar to the Iraqi Security Forces.

15 months later, the brigade finds itself back in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

"This is GREYWOLF Brigade's fourth tour in Iraq and we're excited

to serve as the newest members of the (36th Inf. Div.) team during this historic time," said Col. Douglas Crissman, the commander of 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

This is the 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 4th Inf. Div.'s fourth deployment to Iraq but first in support of Operation New Dawn. The brigade advised, trained and assisted dozens of local military and security organizations, transitioned 19 military bases to Iraqi control as well as funded \$15.5 million to provide areas with infrastructure like water and electricity.

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“We are departing proud of our accomplishments none of which would have been possible without the blood, sweat and tears of our incredible Soldiers,” said Col. James Rainey, the Iron Bde. commander.

After applauding the Iron Brigade for their help in the transfer of authority process, Crissman vowed to continue to build on their foundation.

Speaking directly to the Iraqi partners, Crissman acknowledged the significance of the coming year and said, “Your presence reflects not only your genuine respect for Col. Rainey and his team, but also, your recognition of the importance of our partnership in the year ahead.”

In his speech, Maj. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, the commander of United States



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

The color guard formation at the Brigade’s transfer of authority ceremony

Division – South and commander of the 36th Infantry Division, praised the Iron Bde. for their work and told the GREYWOLF Bde. that

he could not think of a better prepared or more motivated unit to assume control of the provinces during Operation New Dawn.

3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division is one of the final units to operate in Iraq as U.S. forces responsibly draw down.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

### Blacksmiths conduct TOA ceremony

Lt. Col. James Smith and Command Sgt. Maj. Henney Hodgkins, with 215th Brigade Support Battalion uncase their unit’s colors at a transfer of authority ceremony and colors uncasing March 9. The battalion assumed authority from 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

### Gladiators conduct TOA ceremony

Lt. Col. Jack Vantress and Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Wallace, with 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion uncase their unit’s colors at a transfer of authority and colors uncasing ceremony at Memorial Hall on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq March 9. They assumed authority from 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.



# Saber improves mission readiness

By 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad  
6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

In a perfect world, all the vehicles and equipment necessary for a Soldier to conduct the mission would be ready the first day he or she arrived in Iraq. However, that is rarely the case as Soldiers spend many long hours and days getting their equipment, vehicles, and tactical operations center fully mission capable. Fortunately, for the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division – Central, its troopers came prepared to put in the long hours necessary to build the squadron’s mission strength.

C Troop recently received the vehicles that they will use for their duration in Iraq. The vehicles came from a squadron that just ended their mission in Iraq and redeployed to the United States. Even though these vehicles have everything a Soldier needs to properly and safely conduct his or her mission, they must still conduct preventive maintenance checks and services in order to verify these vehicles are mission-ready.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Troopers fix a loose mirror on their HMMWV on March 8 during PMCS.

“The Soldiers have been working hard these past few days conducting maintenance on these vehicles; these trucks are practically new after all the work they have done,” said Cpl. Paul Podhorn, a native of Temple, Texas.

With troops conducting patrols in support of the squadron’s advise and assist mission in Iraq, it is necessary to have these vehicles quickly and constantly mission capable.

“It is vital that we put in this work on these trucks because we need these vehicles to work properly for our upcoming missions,” said 2nd Lt. Dave Devine, a platoon leader in C Troop and a native of Warwick, R.I.

While vehicle maintenance can be a

painstaking task, the troops understand the necessity of getting the vehicles ready.

“I have been impressed with the morale of the Soldiers. The work has been hard, but they have stayed motivated throughout the entire process,” said Devine.

However, this is only a small sample of the hard work that Soldiers of Saber Squadron have been putting in the past days. Throughout the squadron each day, Soldiers continue to improve their mission strength by performing maintenance like this or through various other tasks. These Soldiers know that a successful mission can only come through hard work.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Troopers perform vehicle maintenance.



# GREYWOLF begins relief in place

## Bone Crusher takes over where Attack will leave off

By Spc. Sharla Lewis  
3rd AAB Public Affairs

3rd Advise and Assist Bde. is conducting relief in place with units in Iraq to support Operation New Dawn by developing their tactics and techniques and setting their own standard operating procedures.

Soldiers with B Co., 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt. are coordinating efforts with A Co., 1st Bn., 68th Armor Regt., 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 4th Inf. Div until their departure.

The focus of the two units during their relief in place is to transfer responsibility of Tadreeb al Shamil, the local Iraqi Army version of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Translated, Tadreeb al Shamil means “training that includes everything,” and lives up to its reputation. The training is 25 days long and conducted at the battalion level. Jundi (Soldiers) participate in combined weapons ranges, land navigation courses, mortar team training and squad, company and battalion level maneuver training.

Simultaneously, Iraqi Army officers learn techniques for planning operations and managing troops.

“Attack” Co. supported the first iteration by helping implement training and doctrine command (TRADOC) standards and overseeing the development of the training facility.

Halfway through the second iteration, “Bone Crusher” Co. arrived and began conducting relief in place with Attack.

The Bone Crusher commander said their mission is to advise and assist the Iraqi Army trainers in order to improve the combat readiness of selected Iraqi infantry battalions.

“My company is working with Attack to understand the way the Iraqi Army trains,” said Capt. Bryan Herzog, a native of Shrewsbury, Penn.

Senior non-commissioned officers with the company said the training



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Soldiers with 3rd Bn., 40th Bde., 10th Iraqi Army Div. fire mortar rounds during a live fire exercise at Camp Dhi Qar during their iteration of Tadreeb al Shamil, or “training that includes everything.”

conducted at Tadreeb al Shamil was familiar and made their relief in place a smooth transition.

“I was impressed by the ranges,” said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Green, a platoon sergeant and native of Gainesville, Fla. “They are set up just like U.S. ranges which makes them easy to maneuver around. We haven’t decided what we’ll adopt, but all the mechanisms in place now are working.”

Bone Crusher is watching Attack to gain a better understanding of how to advise the Iraqi Soldiers through the training.

“They have this to a science and the Iraqi Army seems to operate well,” said Pvt. Joshua Parlin, with Bone Crusher. “Attack gave us pointers and told us what to expect. Going out there for the last few days has helped. Just being hands off and able to observe everything.”

March 2, 3rd Bn., 40th Bde., 10th Iraqi Army Div. completed their iteration at Tadreeb al Shamil at a ceremony.

Soldiers said they were excited about seeing more iterations complete the training.

“I’m looking forward to this experi-

ence and interacting with another culture,” Parlin said. “I’m already learning Arabic from them.”

As GREYWOLF begins their mission in USD-S, their new role as an advise and assist brigade is already creating a relationship with their Iraqi military counterparts.

“These guys are Soldiers just like us. A lot of the things my guys have gone through they’ll see the Iraqi Soldiers go through out here,” said Green.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Capt. Bryan Herzog, the commander for B Co., 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., 3rd Advise and Assist Bde., 1st Cav. Div. stands in a formation celebrating the completion of an iteration at Tadreeb al Shamil.

# Saber medics broaden their skills

By 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad  
6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

Some people fear the sight of blood or even the hint of a needle, but not the medics of 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment; they jump at every opportunity to improve their medical and life-saving skills.

All the medics in the squadron are trained to level-one care standards per Army regulations. These level-one skills allow the Soldiers to set up and run an independent aid station at the squadron to treat injuries, especially those that threaten life, limb, or eyesight. However, when a patient comes into the aid station with a condition that requires more advanced skills, the patient must be sent off to a level-two care or medical facility.

Fortunately for the Saber medics, the squadron has been advantageously situated next to Witmer Troop Medical Clinic, at Camp Liberty, Iraq, a level-two care facility.

“Being next to this level-two aid station has given us a unique opportunity

to cross-train on a new set of skills that will allow us to better treat the troopers of the squadron,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Casto, a treatment non-commissioned officer and native of Girard, Penn.

Saber Squadron took advantage of this opportunity by setting up a level-two training program with the Soldiers of the 546th Area Support Medical Company who operate the facility. This teaches the Soldiers new medical skills in the areas of lab work, dental, EKG (electrocardiogram), x-rays, etc.

“This training opportunity has allowed us to get some hands-on training in situations that we are not normally exposed to,” said Pfc. Jesse Gould, a native of Carrolton, Ga.

Currently, the training program is a two-week rotation that involves one squad from the medical platoon shadowing the Soldiers from the 546th ASMC for a week and then getting hands on training on these new level-two care skills the next week. “It is important to learn these skills because there may be heavier demands on med-

ics and their abilities and we may not always be next to a level-two care facility like this,” said Sgt. Buddy Stratton, a treatment non-commissioned officer who is from St. Augustine, Fla.

The medics of Saber Squadron build upon their skill sets to provide the best care they can to their fellow Soldiers and increase their mission capabilities.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad

Spc. Jarrod Eason evaluates a patient during a level-two care training exercise.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad

Sgt. Buddy Stratton operates an EKG (electrocardiogram) during a level-two care training exercise.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad

Pfc. Jesse Gould draws blood from a Soldier.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad

Troopers prepare to evaluate and treat a patient.

# Finishing the fight

By Capt. Donald Hayfron  
3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

The Soldiers and leaders of 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment officially assumed responsibility of Maysan province from 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Col. Timothy A. Brumfiel Sr., said, "This is a historical moment and the last time an American unit will conduct a relief in place in Maysan province and we will finish the job through our continued support of our Iraqi counterparts to ensure their success after the departure of the last American

unit in Iraq."

Unlike others in the past, this RIP focused mainly on Iraqi partnership and property inventories.

"Not surprisingly, property book inventories presented the most significant challenges, however due to the willingness of both battalions, we were quickly able to resolve those issues," said Capt. Nicholas Rinaldi, the battalion logistics officer.

"As far as the tactical aspect of the RIP, there were some challenges specific to the new mission, with our Iraqi counterparts in the lead however for the most part the transition was smooth,"



U.S. Army photo

3/8 Cav. Regt. Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Peare and Commander Lt. Col. Tim Brumfiel pose in front of the unit's colors.

said Capt. Jared Lang, the assistant operations officer.

The RIP is complete and Soldiers of the Warhorse Battalion will finish the fight with honor and courage.

# Bravo "Bulls" ride again

By Spc. Fidel Klemko  
Spc. Braden Jensen  
2nd Bn., 82nd Field Artillery  
Regt.

An improvised explosive device detonated near units while on patrol recently in Dhi Qar province, Iraq.

The IED tested the preparation of Soldiers with B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division as they transitioned into their new operating environment.

The battery was returning from a relief in place patrol with B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regi-

ment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division when the detonation occurred.

The batteries quickly assessed the scenario and used their training to overcome the trauma. Sgt. Rueben Aldridge recalls putting his leadership skills into action.

"After the detonation I checked all my Soldiers making sure they were okay," he said. "I was also impressed at the way two units with separate tactics, techniques and procedures were able to work together during and after the detonation."

During relief in place, units shadow

the counterparts they will replace to glean experience for their deployment by conducting operations and training side by side.

The explosion did not cause damage or injuries and acted as a learning experience for new Soldiers.

"It was my first mission of my first deployment," said Pvt. Bryan Johnson of Chesapeake, Va. "When it went off I was calm, and did what I was trained to do. I did a quick scan of my area, and I checked to make sure my buddies and I were unharmed."

As units transition from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn, they strive to maintain discipline and vigilance no matter where they find themselves.

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## Outriders conduct intel support for GREYWOLF

**By 1st Lt. Emery  
Baughan  
A Co., 3rd BSTB**

The sun is rising on a new dawn, but for the Soldiers of A Co. it is just another day. As Soldiers return to their containerized housing units (CHUs) after a long night of work, others are hanging up their physical training uniforms, getting ready to begin their day.

After a month of hard work, A Co., 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division has transferred authority and is prepared to assume the mission. The Soldiers of the company stand ready to provide intelligence support. Their support provides enablers allowing them to achieve a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq.

As the brigade's only organic intelligence asset, the "Outriders" provide a diverse mix of capabilities that drives operations. The company is home to twenty different military occupational specialties, all equally important and critical to the unit's success. The company can be broken down into five different mission sets.

Human intelligence operations cultivate relationships to gain intelligence.

Signal intelligence is much like it sounds, intelligence based on the interception of signals, whether between people or electronic signals not directly used in communication, or combinations of the two.

The company's tactical unmanned aerial systems (TUAS) platoons fly mis-

sions to spot possible improvised explosive device (IED) sites or other areas of interest while the all source analysts gather any data they can to try and figure out what the enemy is going to do next.

The headquarters and operations sections help manage the platoons and keep everyone informed of events.

For many of the Outriders this isn't their first deployment. While this deployment is to a location where the temperature is not always nice and the rain is laced with dirt and dust, it is still a strange and exotic land in its own way. Unless you are a linguist and have studied Arabic, interacting with the local population can some-

times be a game of charades, though the U.S. Army has been here long enough that most of the workers on the contingency operating base speak at least rudimentary English and communication is easy enough.

With the Soldiers falling into a battle rhythm, after transferring equipment and authority from the previous unit, there are many things to keep their morale and spirits up. The dining facilities offer good food in a clean environment which is helping many Soldiers keep their new year's resolutions of getting back in shape or losing weight. 24-hour gyms also help keep Soldiers stress free. Morale, welfare and recreation events and a

resiliency center help Soldiers keep in touch with the outside world and provide an enjoyable distraction during their off time. Internet can be ordered in their CHU's, and luckily the weather hasn't started to shift to the extremes and walking to and from everywhere hasn't become a chore.

As the sun sets, the shift change marks that another day has passed. The day where Iraq belongs to the people, without the support of the U.S. Army, is one day closer which means that the day when we can see family and friends is one day closer as well. Until then, we will keep ensuring that everyone is safe and that the transition out of Iraq goes smoothly.



Photo by Pfc. Brittany Hampton

### GREYWOLF medics conduct humanitarian aid mission in Basrah

Spc. Ashley Vorhees, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, unwraps soccer balls to be distributed to local Iraqis in Basrah March 3. Her platoon volunteered medical services to the local populace as part of a humanitarian aid mission and the toys were gifts for participation.



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U.S. Army photo

Soldiers and Iraqi Police work together to fill bags with edible goods for the surrounding neighborhood.

## Transition team provides humanitarian aid

**By Maj. William Mott**  
**3rd AAB Public Affairs**

The 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment Stability Transition Team, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and Basrah Iraqi Police community policing department conducted a humanitarian food drop to families in their area recently.

A crucial part of the team's mission is to advise and assist the entire department so they can operate on their own.

This project is a key opportunity for the IP to build lasting relationships with the surrounding neighborhood.

An effective tool to accomplish this is a community outreach program that highlights the officers interacting with their neighbors in as many positive ways as possible. These interactions spread the word

that the IP care about their community enough to develop programs to help families and children.

"These are some of the poorest families in Basrah, and they are extremely thankful for the food," said Lt. Col. Ra'fa, the deputy chief of community policing and media.

Two typical methods are food drops and school backpack drops. The food provision bags consisted of flour, rice, cooking oil, tea, sugar, white beans, lentils, powdered milk, and tomato paste.

As the families arrived home with their provisions, the Basrah population could see that the IP are willing to work with their neighbors.

Soldiers with the battalion said the project was a success.

"This is a great opportunity to help the people of Iraq and I am proud to be part of that process," said 2nd Lt. Jay Twitty, with C Co.