

The GREYWOLF Howl

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GREYWOLF hosts commanders' conference

Maj. Harold Huff III
3rd Bde., Public Affairs Officer

The commander of the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Col. Douglas Crissman, hosted a commanders' conference here on May 5 and 6, for all GREYWOLF stability transition team leaders, battalion commanders, and command sergeants major. The conference also was attended by Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, currently deployed to Afghanistan and Maj. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, commander of the 36th Infantry Division.

These senior leaders from units arrayed across four southern Iraqi provinces and Baghdad came together at Contingency Operating Base Adder to enable discussion on the way ahead for the brigade's mission in Iraq. The conference provided an opportunity for every unit commander within the brigade to showcase their unit and share a vision and understanding of their role in Operation New Dawn.

The conference also provided a rare opportunity for the brigade commander to gather all of his command teams in one location and address current issues.

"It's always good to get leaders together to share in fellowship, a physical challenge and to do some collective analysis. It is a great chance for all of us who have been spread out over the four provinces to hear straight from



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Maj. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, front and fifth from left, the commanding general of 36th Infantry Division—and Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, front and seventh from right, the commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, pose with unit commanders with the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade May 5. The brigade held a conference for its commanders and invited the general officers to attend.

the commander, his thoughts on the area and where he sees the future of the mission and the brigade." said Lt. Col. Ronald Mackay, brigade's operations officer. "It was also really good to share camaraderie with Maj. Gen. Allyn, our parent division commander, as well as Maj. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, our current division commander".

All key leaders arrived on May 5 and were greeted to a barbecue and evening social. Following the meal, they participated in a video teleconference with the family readiness group leadership in Fort Hood, Texas.

On the morning of May 6, leaders conducted a vigorous physical training session on COB Adder to learn more about the Army's new Physical Readiness Training program and enhance esprit de corps. Later, an awards ceremony was held where Allyn presented Combat Action Badges and 1st Cavalry Division coins to deserving GREYWOLF Soldiers. This was followed by photo opportunities with Soldiers, brigade leadership and the division commander.

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During the formal portion of the conference, battalion commanders discussed not only successful tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) in each of their units, but also identified outstanding issues and plans to resolve them. Topics included tactical lines of effort, strategic communications, comprehensive Soldier fitness and best practices to sustain discipline, vigilance and professionalism within the brigade.

After sharing experiences and interacting with other members of the GREYWOLF Brigade, many of the

leaders said the conference was helpful in understanding the brigade's mission. The attendees left the conference with a clear understanding of the brigade commander's vision, philosophy and his goal to finish the deployment "GREYWOLF Strong."

"We thoroughly enjoyed the Commander's Conference," said Lt. Col. James Smith, commander of 215th Brigade Support Battalion. "In addition to fostering esprit de corps across the brigade, the conference provided an excellent opportunity for units to share best practices and TTPs."



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, the commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, places a division coin in Spc. Matthew Joseph's hand at a ceremony.

3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn.

Gladiator support from above

1st Lt. Emery Baughan. 3rd Bde., Special Troops Bn.

The tactical unmanned aerial system or Shadow is a vital asset used to provide intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, battle damage assessment, and analytical support to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division support team. They run missions day and night to ensure Soldiers can stay safe and commanders can have better situational awareness of actions on the ground. The Soldiers of the TUAS platoon strive to meet exact specifications and requirements to maintain the highest level of safety, coverage, and support for the brigade.



Photo by 1st Lt. Emery Baughan

Pfc. Orey Haywood pushes the Shadow back to the maintenance bay for post flight maintenance checks, following a routine mission.



Photo by 1st Lt. Emery Baughan

A Shadow tactical unmanned aerial system makes a landing after a routine mission.



Photo by 1st Lt. Emery Baughan

The aircraft taxis down the runway after landing.

COB Adder gathers for National Day of Prayer

By Spc. Sharla Lewis
3rd AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

Contingency Operating Base Adder, near Nasiriyah, Iraq held a breakfast May 5 to observe the 60th National Day of Prayer, an annual event held on the first Thursday of May each year.

“The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage,” says the official website of the observance. “Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln’s proclamation of a day of ‘humiliation, fasting and prayer’ in 1863.”

This year’s theme was A Mighty Fortress is our God. It was based on the passage, “I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust,” as found in Psalm 91:2, which Chaplain (Maj.) Martin Kendrick incorporated into his sermon while Soldiers, Airmen and civilians listened intently over their breakfast.

Kendrick, the chaplain for 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, explained that when the book of Psalms was written, building materials were difficult to come by and tools were primitive, so people built dwellings and shelters into the side of a mountain, utilizing the natural caves



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Sgt. 1st Class Marc Roberson, an operations noncommissioned officer with 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division leads a gospel chorus during a service to observe the National Day of Prayer.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Maj. Alex Sterea, the information operations officer in charge for 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division sings a hymn at the close of a service to observe the National Day of Prayer.

in the rock.

“The psalmist takes this imagery of hiding in a cave for protection and applies it to God,” he said. “God is our fortress. God is our shelter. God is the one that will provide the protection that we need. Because God will protect us, whom shall we fear? Nobody and nothing!”

The service continued with a series of topic focused prayers, presented by chaplains and chaplain’s assistants from around COB Adder. Among the topics were prayers for the government, military, education, church and family.

“O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect. Amen,” said Sgt. Richard Courtney, the chaplain’s assistant for 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, in his prayer for peace.

Courtney said being able to participate was humbling and that prayer maintains a healthy relationship be-

tween an individual and their spirituality.

“This is important because it reminds people that our spirituality is a relationship first and foremost, and like any other relationship communication is the key to success. Prayer is how we communicate with God and to do it collectively like this is powerful,” he said.

The service ended after participants read eight various prayers and the group sang a hymn.

Afterward, attendees mingled and chatted about the service and agreed that the service was valuable to the morale and spiritual health of those that attended.

“Soldiers must be physically, mentally and spiritually strong and it’s important for leadership to allow us to develop in all those areas,” said Maj. Allison Day, the brigade’s engineer.

“The service showed the diversity of all different denominations. It was a real bonding experience.”

Saber Soldiers teach traffic control point techniques to Iraqi partners

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

Travel down any major road in Baghdad these days and it will be hard to not encounter at least one security check point, formally known as a traffic control point. As a part of the gradual draw down of United States Forces in Iraq, the Iraqi Army and police have taken over responsibility for security operations and one of many functions that ensures the security of the Iraqi people are these traffic control points along the roads.

On Monday May 2, 2011, Soldiers from Bandit Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advance and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division – Center reached out to their Iraqi partners, the 1st Mechanized Brigade, 4th Federal Police Division, and provided a training program to help them improve their traffic control point operations.

Currently, the 1st Mech. Bde. is responsible for many traffic control points along one of the busiest roads in Baghdad.

“Given that they do TCPs a lot already, this training gave us a chance to share our ideas and show them different techniques to do their job more effectively,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Beaudre of Bandit Troop, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div., USD-C, and a Columbia, S.C. native,

The training program began in the morning with the Bandit Troop Soldiers and 1st Mech. Bde. going over basic traffic control operations in a classroom setting. In the afternoon, the training shifted outdoors where the soldiers went through practical exercises conducting personnel and vehicle inspections under different conditions.

“The training program went extremely well. They caught on very quickly, were eager to learn what we were teaching them, and stayed active-



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

A Soldier of the 1st Mechanized Brigade, 4th Federal Police Division practices how to do a personnel inspection on Cpt. David Hanna.

ly engaged the entire time,” said Staff Sgt. Cedric Wilson of Bandit Troop, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div., USD-C, and a Leesville, La. native.

It was evident that the Iraqi Soldiers had not seen some of the techniques and tasks that they were being taught throughout the training. However, by the end of the practical exercise they were able to effectively conduct personnel and vehicle inspections and understood the reasoning behind the way we taught them how to conduct the inspections.

“I believe they are much better equipped to run a successful TCP now because of how well they performed these security operations during the training,” said Staff Sgt. Wilson.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Staff Sgt. Cedric Wilson with Staff Sgt. Jason Beaudre demonstrate how to properly conduct a personnel inspection to soldiers of the 1st Mechanized Brigade.

Dark Knights boost morale with an Organization Day

1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy
215th Bde. Support Bn.

On April 23, the Alpha Distribution Company “Dark Knights,” 215th Brigade Support Battalion, took time from their busy schedule to conduct an Organization Day in order to boost morale and improve unit cohesion.

The Dark Knights were able to do this because there were no sustainment replenishment operations scheduled for that day.

The event kicked off at 1 p.m. with a speech by the ADC Commander, Capt. Vernie Param. “Dark Knights, since we hit ground and took over operations, we’ve been hitting our missions hard on a daily basis. Today, I want each of you to take some time to unwind and have fun. This is a day for you and a way for the command team to thank you for what you’ve done thus far in support of Operation New Dawn,” said Capt. Param.

Various sporting events were held throughout the day, starting with a push-up contest held by 1st Sgt. Jesus

Seary.

Each platoon selected five participants to perform the most push-ups within a one minute time limit. After all five Soldiers from each platoon competed, the total number of push-ups performed was calculated and the 3rd Platoon Violators won the event with a combined total of 384.

The second event was ultimate football. Four games were played between the platoons and 4th Maintenance Platoon took the event by winning both of their games. 4th Maint. Plt. also went on to win the tug-of-war and volleyball events. Staff Sgt. Timothy Sharp, the automotive section noncommissioned officer in charge and team captain for 4th Platoon, said, “I think the other platoons underestimated us. They didn’t know that we were beasts at competitive sports and we were able to show everyone that we are highly skilled, athletic competitors.”

The final event of the day was platoon skits. Each platoon had a chance to imitate personnel in the company and themselves. Winning their second event of the day, the 3rd Plt. Violators



Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy

Pfc. Brandon Combs prepares to execute a spike on Spc. Christina Henderson during the volleyball portion of the Organization Day.

put up their finest efforts but it wasn’t quite enough to take the overall lead away from 4th Plt. The maintenance platoon emerged victorious and was awarded a trophy for their efforts.

Overall, the ADC Organization Day was a phenomenal success. The Dark Knights had a great deal of fun and bonded together as a company during its first Organization Day for Operation New Dawn. Many ADC Soldiers are anticipating the rematches that will occur during the next Organization Day.



Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy

1st Sgt. Jesus Seary competes in the push-up event for the Organization Day. 1st Sgt. Seary competed with the Headquarters Platoon and executed 96 push-ups in one minute.



Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon struggle to win the tug-of-war competition. From left to right on the rope are: Spc. Abel Morales, Staff Sgt. Jameel Hodges, 1st Lt. Michael Garland, Pfc. Nicole Veesper, and Pfc. Edgar Castellanos.

Gunfighter company conducts critical mission

1st Lt. Meagan McClellan
2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

Every week, Soldiers from the G “Gunfighter” Forward Support Company, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division head to the motor pool to conduct a critical mission; preventive maintenance.

The first step in preventive maintenance is to wash down the vehicles before lining them up four deep on each side of the maintenance bay ready for inspection. According to Pfc. Joshua McGowan from Tampa, Fla., a driver with

the distribution platoon, washing the vehicles is important because it helps the mechanics see anything on the vehicle that could hinder the mission.

“Preventive maintenance checks and services are the foundation of the Army Maintenance Program. It all starts with the vehicle operators; that’s how faults are found. The mechanics conduct weekly Quality Assurance Inspections to ensure that vehicles are 100% combat-ready and can complete the mission,” said Sgt. Wesley Cox of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, a mechanic assigned to the maintenance platoon.

Not only are regular



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Towson

Spc. Steven Baldwin is the only transportation specialist in the platoon. Here, he drives the forklift to emplace barriers around COB Adder.

routine maintenance checks conducted, but necessary upgrades to the vehicles are installed during weekly preventive maintenance.

“We’re replacing the cab

windows. The old windows had bubbles and a lower ballistic rating so we’re upgrading them as part of weekly maintenance,” said Spc. Steven Lay from San Antonio, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Robert Mazon, from Belen, N.M., a driver with the distribution platoon said, “Military vehicles are no different from your personally owned vehicle except there are a lot more parts. Every time you get gas in your vehicle at home you’re supposed to check the oil – no one does it, but you’re supposed to do it. It’s the same idea at the maintenance yard—we are the force making sure the platoons are mission capable.”



Photo by 1st Lt. Meagan McClellan

Spc. Seneca Lopez, a mechanic from Dallas, Texas is loosening the bolts on an engine mount bracket so that he can repair it during weekly maintenance.



Photo by 1st Lt. Meagan McClellan

Soldiers in the distribution platoon review vehicle dispatches and maintenance check-lists to prepare for weekly maintenance while their vehicles are lined up awaiting inspection by the mechanics.

A banner for Memorial Day. On the left is a waving American flag. In the center, the text reads "All gave some, Some gave all" in a serif font, followed by "Memorial Day" in a larger, bold serif font, and "May 30, 2011" in a smaller font below it. On the right is a circular logo with "POW/MIA" at the top, a silhouette of a soldier in the center, and "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN" at the bottom.

The Basrah Operations Command

Maj. William Mott
STT, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

Basrah is a 19,000 square kilometer Southern Iraqi province with a growing population of three million people. The Basrah Operations Command (BaOC) is the command and control element headquarters for all Iraqi Security Forces operating in the Basrah Province.

The BaOC is located at the Shat Al Arab Hotel and is advised by C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. This coalition enables Task Force Charger to meet with and advise ISF on a daily basis, and allows TFC to shape decision making of key Iraqi leaders creating a pathway for bilateral information flow.

At the heart of this operation representing U.S. Forces is the battalion tactical liaison officer in charge, Maj. Luis Cruz, a Stability Transition Team member from 1st Bn, 12th Cav. Regt. He runs the Battalion Tactical Center 24 hours a day with the assistance of two non commissioned officers and two Soldiers.

The Soldiers are both linguists and translators who facilitate ISF operations order, briefing translation, situational awareness and Key Leader Engagements support.



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Cruz coordinates Iraqi military escort scheduling with Maj. Amir, and the Basrah Operations Command noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. Cohen Kanewske.

Maj. Cruz employs C Co. Soldiers well versed in the areas of biometrics and sensitive site exploitation to assist with individuals arrested for terrorist and criminal acts against the government of Iraq and U.S. forces.

The BaOC is commanded by Staff Lt. Gen. Muhammad Juwad Al-Huwaydi. It is the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Oil Command Center in the Basrah Province that promotes the Rule of Law and economic development. Some of the interagency offices at the BaOC are the Basrah Security Council, Joint Targeting Meeting and Counter Indirect Fire Working Group.

The BaOC has a Joint Operations Command and Control center that is manned by senior leaders and liaison officers from MoI, MoO, MoD agencies and U.S. Forces. It consists of a morning and evening update brief and also crisis action monitoring.

On the Joint Operations Center floor, Maj. Cruz advises ISF daily on significant activities as they develop, and briefs the appropriate liaison officer, and senior staff members. He coordinates USF support in the form of intelligence surveillance reconnaissance, quick reaction force, explosive ordnance device, and information operations products.



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Luis Cruz, the day shift, Joint Operations Center Watch Officer and Officer in Charge answers the phone during his shift at the Basrah Operations Command.



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U.S. Army photo

Soldiers from Chaos Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division clean and reassemble the M2 .50-caliber Browning machine gun, during the Gunnery Skills Test.

Chaos certifies tank platoons with gunnery skills tests

2nd Lt. Rueben Guillen
3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.,

With the new changes in the Force Protection posture of Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen, Chaos Company continues its tradition of excellence and professionalism with the training and certification of its M1A1 tank platoons in Gunnery Skills. The recent arrival of tanks to Garry Owen has provided Soldiers the opportunity to refresh their MOS skills.

Staff Sgt. Derrick Kolenda, the Company's certified Master Gunner, created and guided the training for the platoons over the course of a week.

The Army's Gunnery Skills Test, is normally administered once every 6 months. The training, and subsequent evaluation, is meant to ensure tank crews are proficient in rollover and fire drills, operation of the vehicle's primary and secondary weapons systems, and enemy vehicle identification.

The instruction given to the Soldiers is tailored to make them competent and confident in the use of tanks and pave the way for each soldier to become an expert tanker.

Training for Red and White Platoons was conducted by their respective leadership in several sessions throughout the normal duty day. Following the curriculum outlined by Kolenda, members of the platoon were instructed in maintenance and firing of the M240B medium machine gun, the M2 .50 cal machine gun, and all safety concerns when, conducting operations in and around the Abrams.

The week culminated in test-firing the machine guns along with a hands-on practical application of what the soldiers learned, and finally a written test on the week's instruction. With this, Chaos has ensured that we can adapt to and accomplish any situation we may face during the deployment.