

# The GREYWOLF HOWL

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The Operation New Dawn Edition

May 31, 2011

## Gladiators honor their Noncommissioned Officers

**Spc. Sharla Lewis, 3rd AAB PAO**



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

GREYWOLF Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Kelley, the guest speaker for the ceremony, addresses the inductees and audience members.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Soldiers in the battalion recite "A Soldier's Request," a plea from the Soldier to their leaders, as part of the ceremony.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

1st Sgt. Robert Easton lights a candle during the ceremony. The three candles; red, white and blue, represent valor, purity and the strength of the Corps of the Noncommissioned Officer.

3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division held a Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder May 20, 2011 to welcome junior enlisted leaders into the Corps of the Noncommissioned Officer.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Noncommissioned officers with the battalion recite the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer as part of the ceremony.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Wallace presents a steel band of the 1st Cavalry Division insignia to Sgt. Kelly Bird, signifying her induction into the Corps of the Noncommissioned Officer.

# GREYWOLF Soldiers dominate obstacle course

**1st Lt. David Broadbent  
3rd Bde., Special Troops Bn.**

During the early morning hours of May 10, while most Soldiers on Contingency Operating Base Adder remained tucked in their beds, a four man combined team from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion participated in a combat obstacle course designed to test Soldier skills and cardiovascular endurance. The event was sponsored by the 407th Security Forces Flight as one of the many activities marking Na-

tional Police Week. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy declared May 15 to be National Peace Officer's Memorial Day. Additionally, May 15 through May 21 was named National Police Week to honor the frequency of officer deaths in the line of duty.

The 3BSTB team consisted of two infantrymen from A Co., 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, a military police officer from 422nd Military Police Co., and a logistics Soldier from

Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 3rd BSTB. Even though their military specialties differed, the team incorporated their unique Soldier skills to produce a cohesive team that dominated the competition.

The course stretched two miles through the Air Force compound on COB Adder with six stations testing the technical and tactical proficiency of the teams as well as their physical endurance and teamwork.

The stations included: weapons assembly, vehicle push, casualty evaluation, treatment and movement, building a defensive position with sand bags, sensitive site exploitation using night vision goggles and culminated with a combat gear run.

The four man team of 1st Lt. Lon McBride, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Bourquin, 2nd Lt. Ryan Towson, and Sgt. Brian Reaber expertly negotiated all six stations, completing the course in first place by a ten minute margin over the closest competition.

Senior Master Sgt. James McMurdy, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 407th Security Forces Flight, said, "Even if another twelve teams were competing, I'm pretty certain these guys would still have placed first."

The team's dominating effort during the competition symbolizes the camaraderie and esprit de corps that epitomizes the 3rd BSTB Gladiators.

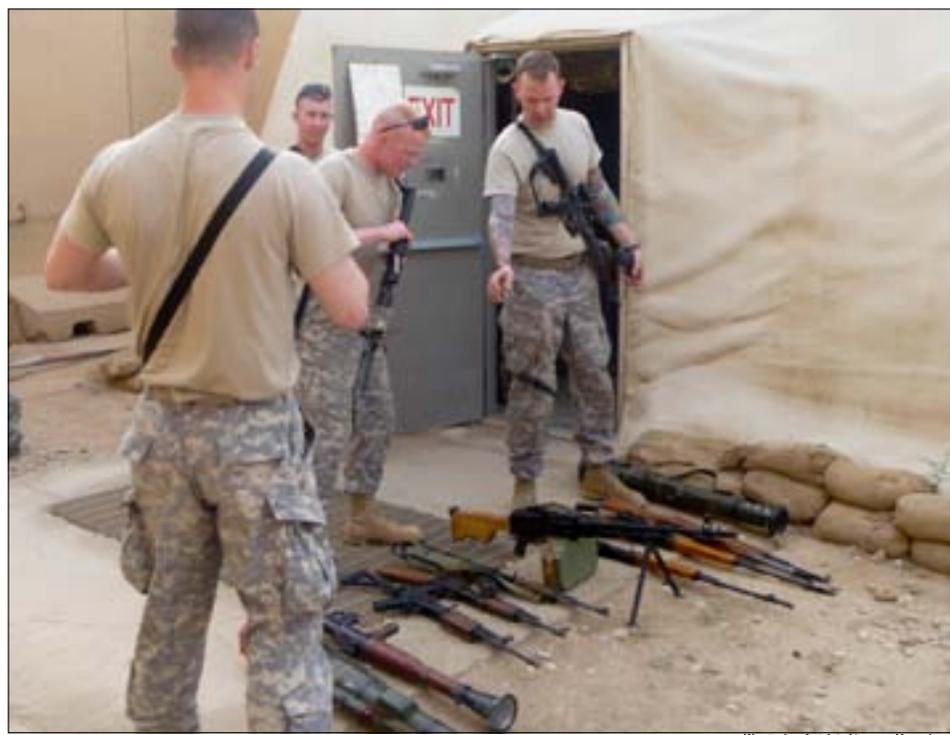
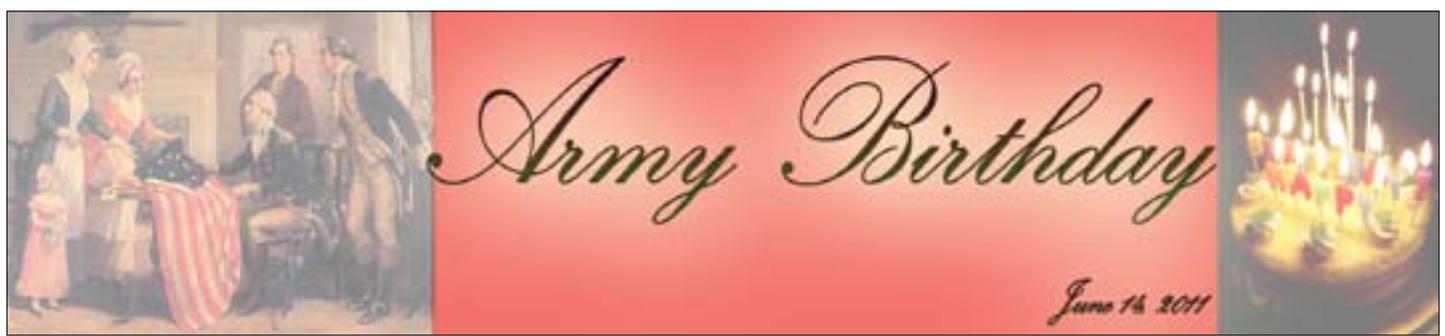


Photo by 1st Lt. Emery Baughan

Team members Sgt. 1st Class Eric Bourquin and 1st Lt. Lon McBride inventory weapons after the night vision sensitive sight exploitation portion of a combat obstacle course



# Chaplains convene on COB Adder

## USD-S holds conference for fellowship, resiliency

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

United States Division – South held a chaplain’s conference May 10 at Contingency Operating Base Adder to foster resiliency and fellowship among the chaplains and chaplain’s assistants that attended.

The day-long conference included a visit to the Ziggurat of Ur, a local religious structure, and was followed by discussion-based training, led by Chaplain (Capt.) Benjie Bender, the deputy chaplain for the division.

To start, the chaplains convened at dawn for the tour of the ziggurat, where they prayed and meditated. Theologians believe the ancient city of Ur to be the birthplace of the religious prophet Abraham.

Many said it was gratifying to spend time with such a valuable piece of history.

“It was definitely a humbling experience,” said Sgt. Richard Courtney, the chaplain’s assistant for 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. “We’re in the land of Abraham, the land of Ur and if you can’t be proud or happy or excited to be there, something’s wrong.”

Later, they gathered at the COB Adder chapel for training and discussions. A video on the topic “God is Closer than you Think” played on a projection screen.

Soldiers talked amongst themselves about personal experiences and their views on sub-topics like “Where is God in my World?” and “Partnering with God Today.”

“God is there just when you think he isn’t. It’s during those uncertain times that he is,” said Sgt. 1st Class Andre Pettaway, the senior chaplain’s assistant for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, as he addressed a group during the training.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Sgt. Devin Lovgren and Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Daum, with 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Nebraska Army National Guard conduct a small-group discussion during a chaplain’s conference which gave chaplains and chaplain’s assistants a chance for fellowship among each other.

The day ended with a prayer session and individual worship time. Many that attended said the training was perfect for the ministry teams to spend time with others of the same field.

“Being able to meet with other chaplains and having someone with the same interests that you do is nice,” said Sgt. Devin Lovgren, the chaplain’s assistant for 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from the Nebraska Army National Guard. “It’s like having brothers and sisters.”

Chaplains throughout Iraq’s southern provinces conduct training of this kind for units on a regular basis, but this is the first occurrence of a conference designed for the resiliency of those behind the pulpit since the start of Operation New Dawn in 2010.

Bender said the training is important to maintain the strength of the chaplain’s corps.

“It’s like on a plane. Rather than following your gut instinct of assisting others, you must give yourself oxygen before those around you,” he said. “It’s the same for chaplains. They do a lot of breathing out and this kind of training allows them to do a little breathing

in and reconnecting with the source of their spirituality.”



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Chaplain (Capt.) Benjie Bender, the deputy chaplain for United States Division-South, presents a mini-sermon.

# Saber standards are non-negotiable

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

Operation New Dawn is a different kind of fight. It is not the door-to-door, street-by-street fight that was typical of Operation Iraqi Freedom. However, that does not mean that the lessons learned from the previous years of sacrifice in Iraq cannot translate into success for Operation New Dawn. For the Soldiers of the Personal Security Detachment, 6th 'Saber' Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, the lessons learned from years of operations in Iraq are evident as they prepare for every mission.

Before each mission, like any other unit getting ready to go 'out the wire', the PSD Soldiers conduct their pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections to ensure their mission essential equipment is present and serviceable.

The PCC and PCI process can be a quick, mundane task under some leaders. However, under the guidance

of Sgt. 1st Class Shane Hanover, the PSD Platoon Sergeant, nothing is more important than diligent preparation.

A veteran of five deployments, Sgt. 1st Class Hanover has seen and experienced the results of good and bad PCCs and PCIs.

"You never know what you don't need until you do" said Sgt. 1st Class Hanover, a Cavalry Scout, and native of Davenport, Iowa.

Taking what he has learned from his experiences in prior deployments, Sgt. 1st Class Hanover leads a very thorough and detailed inspection to ensure that his Soldiers are fully prepared for each mission.

"When it comes time to execute the mission, there is no room for excuses after our preparation. Everyone is ready to go and 100 percent accountable for what they do," said Pfc. Jarvis Bahe, a Gallup, N.M. native now an infantryman with the PSD.

The specific mission preparation will usually begin the night before as the Soldiers prepare their vehicles to go out the next day. The following morning, they finish their vehicle inspec-



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Sgt. Luke Kihullen a Scranton, Pa. native and cavalry scout section leader, inspects Spc. Kristopher Mancha, a Little Elm, Texas native's equipment during a pre-combat inspection before mission.

tions and then begin individual equipment checks and inspections.

During this phase, the Soldiers will be lined up in front of their vehicles with all their necessary gear as Sgt. 1st Class Hanover reads off one of the many laminated inspection and procedures checklists that he has prepared for all of the Soldiers. Going item by item, each Soldier's piece of equipment is checked and thoroughly inspected by the platoon's leadership.

"The thorough preparation we go through before each mission instills confidence in everyone by knowing that they are combat-ready," said Spc. Joel Heston, an infantryman, and native of Lancaster, Ohio.

After the initial inspections are done, the platoon will begin their mission brief and go over a myriad of battle drills to finish their preparation before they execute their mission.

Even though Operation New Dawn is a different fight, the soldiers of PSD Platoon, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. are fully prepared because they know the enemy still exists and the standards for success are non-negotiable.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Team leaders from the personal security detachment, inspect their Soldier's night vision goggles during a pre-combat inspection before mission.

# Dark Knights conduct qualification range

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

Alpha Distribution Company “Dark Knights,” 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division conducted an M-4 and M-16 rifle qualification range May 2 through May 6. Soldiers rotated through the range as time permitted, taking into account the mission schedule and coverage for base taskings that are also executed by the unit.

The ADC Commander, Capt. Vernie Param, and 1st Sgt. Jesus Seary, went to the range daily to check on operations and visit their Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. John Sapp served as the noncommissioned officer in charge and put a great amount of effort into the planning and execution of the range. He developed a range book that contained all necessary documentation and assisted with the movement of ammunition to ADC to ensure the company had a sufficient amount of



Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy

Alpha Soldiers set up the public announcement system at the ADC Range. From left to right: Sgt. Glenn Crozier, Spc. Thomas Cato, Staff Sgt. John Sapp, Sgt. Patricio Salgado.

ammunition available.

“The chain of command gave me the opportunity to hold this range for the Dark Knight Soldiers, so that they could become more familiar with their assigned weapons and to verify their sights. This allows the Soldiers to feel more confident in their abilities to engage the enemy,” Staff Sgt. Sapp said.

Staff Sgt. Miguel Figueroa served as the range safety NCOIC. Figueroa’s task was to ensure that safety standards were being monitored and adhered to throughout the range operations. Staff Sgt. Figueroa said, “We had all the

documentation needed to run the range and we dug into the Army Regulations to ensure we were doing things the right way. Safety was the biggest concern of the commander and first sergeant.”

The ADC range held in the first week of May, was a successful event. Many of the Dark Knight Soldiers felt that their confidence levels increased because they were able to verify the accuracy of their weapons and meet army marksmanship proficiency requirements. The company plans on holding this type of event again in the future, to continue to train Soldiers and to further increase confidence levels.



Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy

Sgt. Damarra Middleton gives the signal to proceed as the right limit safety for the range.

Think  
**WEAPON SAFETY!**  
Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.

# Bravo Bulls continue to support Operation New Dawn

**Spc. Fidel Klemko**  
**2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.**

More than three months ago, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division started their deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. After arriving, the unit wasted no time becoming familiar with their operational environment.

Platoons from B Btry. patrol their sectors and advise and assist their Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army counterparts. On a daily basis Soldiers advise their Iraqi partners on what they can do better to keep their area safe from insurgents while continuing to build strong, lasting relationships.

Along the international highway, a



U.S. Army photo

Staff Sgt. Chad Johnson helps Iraqi Army mechanics put a new serpentine belt in their humvee.



U.S. Army photo

1st Lt. Andrew Rockwood conducts a visit to an Iraqi Army check point in order to share information and provide support and assistance.

route used primarily by United States Forces - Iraq to transport supplies and equipment to bases around the country, 1st Plt. patrols and visits IA and IP checkpoints in order to share intelligence and provide assistance. The general attitude toward the USF-I by the Iraqi Security Forces is very friendly and supportive. Soldiers also talk to people in the area to see how safe it's been since U.S. Forces are not seen as much in their cities or towns. A local business man said he feels safe with IP and IA patrolling their town instead of U.S. Soldiers, a positive sign for Iraq's security forces.

2nd Plt. patrols their sector and coordinates with the IA to conduct joint operations such as setting up joint observation points to deter insurgent activities. They continuously work with the IA in similar operations to build up their capabilities so that they can conduct operations autonomously.

This partnership with the Iraqi forces continues to build more confidence and will allow them to conduct effective security operations once U.S. forces leave Iraq.

Bravo's 3rd Plt. provides security and escorts for a stability transition team during meetings with IP leaders at the Dhi Qar Provincial Joint Coordination Cell. The PJCC tracks all activities that may negatively affect USF or IP forces throughout the province and enables USF-I and ISF to synchronize efforts.

The Soldiers of B Btry. continue to cultivate relationships with the local population and ISF, while deterring insurgent activities such as the placement of improvised explosive devices on routes used by USF-I. Their mission to advise and assist the IP and IA will allow the U.S. to safely leave Iraq at the end of the year while enabling the ISF to provide effective security for their country.



# Basrah Police Train Commandos in Riot Control

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

Iraq is exercising its democracy in the form of freedom of speech, and is using mostly peaceful demonstrations to voice that new freedom. Sometimes, peaceful demonstrations only remain so because of highly trained commandos and emergency response units using their recent civil disturbance training.

Stability Transition Team Enforcer coordinated riot control training for the Basrah Operations Command (BaOC) commandos through its counterpart, the Iraqi Police ERU, to ensure the commandos could operate as an auxiliary force to the IPs in the event that a demonstration turned into a riot.

At the request of BaOC Commander, Staff Lt. Gen. Muhammad Juwad Al-Huwaidy, Enforcer coordinated a four-day, three-hour civil disturbance training session for the IPs to train the commandos. Maj. Steve Cooper, senior advisor to the commando battalion, coordinated the training and attended the sessions from May 10-12.

Iraqi Army Maj. Rey'ad, battalion executive officer said, "I want to take full advantage of this special training so I brought forty other Soldiers to watch and learn while the others trained. I plan to have them train the rest of my battalion."

With shin guards and elbow pads



Photo by Maj. William Mott

Iraqi Security Forces receive a briefing and classroom instructions before their civil disturbance and riot control training begins.

strapped on, face shield helmets, rubber batons, and full-length transparent plexiglass shields in hand, the training began. Thirtyeight IA commandos and nine highly trained professional Iraqi Police took to the field in 100 degree temperatures to build on their earlier classroom instruction.

Scrimmaging against each other, they took turns throwing rocks and cement and kicking at the shields. When the commandos and Soldiers got together for riot training, the excellent IP instructors ensured the scenarios were safe. The teams had fun testing each other's ranks despite the rough and realistic training.

Lt. Col. Gregory Stokes, STT

Enforcer commander, was pleased with the program.

"The third order effect of this training is the cooperation between the IA and IP. We want to encourage more collaboration between the forces to strengthen the bond between them." Stokes said.

In a rare cultural exchange, Maj. Rey'ad called the police chief to say how pleased he was with the training.

"The bond built in just four days was so strong that the IA Maj. Rey'ad recommended a day off as a reward for the IP instructors. It was great to see the IA praise the IP for their professionalism." said Maj. Cooper.



Photo by Maj. William Mott

Iraqi Security Forces receive instructions from cadre on how to correctly hold their riot shields during training for civil disturbance and riot control.



Photo by Maj. William Mott

Iraqi Police kick the shields of Iraqi Army Soldiers to test their strength during a realistic civil disturbance and riot control training scenario.



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## 3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.



Photo by Cpt. Daniel Wagner

Provincial reconstruction team governance representative Jack Slota with members of the Maysan Province Electricity Board at the Al Khrama Substation.

# Maysan PRT helps restore electricity to the Iraqi people

**Cpt. Daniel Wagner**  
**3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.,**

The U.S. and Iraqi government recently completed efforts to refurbish the Al Khrama electrical substation. This rehabilitation project was nominated through director general of electricity, Fali Hadi Alwan, in order to ensure sustainable delivery of power to over 5,000 homes throughout Maysan province.

Demand for sustainable electricity has been the chief concern of the Iraqi people during the month of August, when temperatures soar over 130 degrees in Maysan. Currently, residents can only expect eight hours of electricity at best. Unfortunately, the high demand for electricity during peak hours, and high temperatures, often lead to an increased demand on the substations, resulting in black outs.

When the Maysan provincial reconstruction team asked Fali Hadi Alwan how they could help improve the electrical infrastructure in Maysan, he proposed the idea of rehabilitating the Al Khrama substation. Jack Slota, the

governance representative for the PRT, collaborated with the local engineers and Alwan to ensure the proper equipment was purchased.

With assistance from the PRT, three new transformers and three new circuit breakers were installed. These new transformers and circuit breakers replaced the previous failing circuit breakers and transformers from 1983. The reconstruction efforts ensure that reliable electricity will be delivered to local public services providing medical care, water, schools, but most importantly, to 5,000 residents who suffer through long periods of electrical blackouts in staggering heat.

This project, as well as the several ongoing electrical infrastructure projects in Maysan will ensure that after the U.S. Soldiers and the Maysan provincial reconstruction team depart Iraq, they can be confident the Iraqi government is capable of providing essential service for the citizens of Maysan province. Credit to the collaborative efforts of the Maysan government and the Maysan PRT.