

The GREYWOLF Howl

Vol. II Issue X

The Operation New Dawn Edition

June 30, 2011

Sergeant Major of the Army visits GREYWOLF Soldiers at COB Adder

Staff Sgt. Chris Bridson
3rd AAB PAO

On March 1, 2011, the Department of the Army appointed Raymond F. Chandler III, as the 14th Sgt. Maj. of the Army and in doing so appointed a new senior enlisted advisor to the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Much of the Sgt. Maj. of the Army's time is spent travelling throughout the Army as a scout for the Chief of Staff, observing training and talking to Soldiers and their families, seeing how the Army can meet their needs.

On June 25, Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division had the chance to not only meet the Sgt. Maj. of the Army, but also, sit down at Contingency Operating Base Adder and ask him various questions regarding the posture of the Army and currently working Army policies.

The morning began when senior enlisted leaders met Chandler in front of the brigade headquarters building. There, the Sgt. Maj. of the Army was joined by: Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, the United States Forces-Iraq, Deputy Commanding General-Operations Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson Early, the United States Division-South Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley, the 3AAB, 1st Cav. Div., Command Sgt. Maj., and various Battalion



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, joins Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson Early, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley, and various Battalion Command Sgts. Maj. and 1st Sgts from the GREYWOLF brigade, for a picture opportunity in front of the GREYWOLF 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div., headquarters building on Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Command Sgts. Maj. and 1st Sgts from the GREYWOLF brigade.

Chandler has a history with the 1st Cavalry Division as he served with 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004.

As part of his visit, Chandler was able to take a tour of the Army's first fully operational Deployed Digital Training Campus.

The DDTC tour was given by Staff

Sgt. Wesley P. Jackson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the campus, which is part of an ongoing project that was started by Gen. George W. Casey six years ago.

Inside the campus, Jackson explained some of the uses of the DDTC, such as; online and offline classes, Army Functional Academic Skills Training class or FAST class (a program designed to raise a Soldiers retention control scores) and military specific classes used for unit level training.

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“We have been using the campus for offline training with the GT (general technical) improvement or FAST class,” explained Jackson. “We have had 65 people come through the class and they have improved on average by 13 points.”

After leaving the DDTC, Chandler made his way to Memorial Hall where he was greeted by approximately 200 Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the various units on COB Adder. Chandler gave a brief speech about possible changes Soldiers can expect to see in the future and how they can have a say in these changes by filling out surveys and answering questions.

“If somebody asks you what you think, answer. If you don’t speak out, you can’t have your say on changes.” Said Chandler.

Such subjects as sexual assault, Army retention and control, deployment timelines and the recent and proposed changes to the Army uniform, in particular the standard headgear, were addressed by Chandler.

“Replacing the beret and changing to the patrol cap saves the Department of the Army approximately \$6.5 million alone.” Said Chandler.

Soldiers then had a chance to ask the Sgt. Maj. of the Army questions on these topics and more in a session that lasted more than one hour. Chandler then handed out coins to some deserv-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Bridson

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley, (right) receive a briefing about the U.S. Army’s first fully operational Deployed Digital Training Campus by Staff Sgt. Wesley P. Jackson.

ing Soldiers from the various units in attendance.

The main party then moved to the Coalition Dining Facility for lunch, where Chandler was joined at the table by Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

One of the Soldiers sitting at the table with Chandler was Spc. Alexandria L. Joiner, a native of Austin, Texas, who said it was nice that he wanted to

listen to what the Soldiers had to say.

“It was an honor to sit down with him and have him really listen to what I had to say, and hopefully he will make an improvement (based on the subjects talked about) to the things I had to say.” said Joiner.

Shortly after lunch, the Sgt. Maj. of the Army, and his entourage headed to the flight line to catch a plane to Basrah and continue his mission as the scout for the Army Chief of Staff.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Bridson

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, addresses Soldiers and noncommissioned officers at the Memorial Hall.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Bridson

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III ask Soldiers for a worthwhile reason to receive a coin.

Cavalry Troopers and IA Commandos conduct joint training exercise

1st Lt. Richard Vogt
3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

Soldiers from Chaos Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Division, have been busy training and working with a special group of Iraqi Security Forces called the Commando Battalion. This unit consists of a select group of Iraqi Soldiers spread throughout the 10th Iraqi Army Division.

The Soldiers recently trained for urban operations and helicopter insertions. This training is nothing new to the elite IA soldiers, but gave ISF commanders flexibility to carry out a larger mission set, validate capabilities, and give the ISF and United States Forces-Iraq an opportunity to train and work more efficiently together.

“One (objective) is to confirm to me and my guys that they know what they're doing,” said 1st Lt. Sean Jopling, a platoon leader from 3rd Platoon, Chaos Company. “And everybody needs refreshers.”

Every unit has its own unique way of doing even routine tasks. Rehearsals allow leaders to understand each unit's tactics, techniques and procedures.

“It gives them an idea of how we do it, compared to other units they used to work with,” Jopling said. “It's kind of a fun thing for the guys, and then when we're out on a mission, they know how to communicate with the Iraqis.”

The rehearsals also let leaders see how U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers react to enemy contact. Jopling said that any unit can improve by practicing their basic battle drills.

Training kicked off at Camp Sparrowhawk, near the city of Amarah. U.S. Soldiers briefed the IA on cordon-and-search operations and how to enter and clear a room. Both exercises are essential to effective urban operations. After the briefing, leaders moved to a sand-table exercise. ISF squad leaders led the final phase of the training, demonstrating that the unit was fully prepared.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Soldiers and Iraqi Army conduct rehearsals before they began training.

Days later, the U.S. and IA Soldiers moved to the helicopter pad late at night when the summer heat was less intense. Crew chiefs instructed the Soldiers on how to approach the aircraft and board safely, as well as the proper procedures for exiting the aircraft.

“This is the best way (to travel),” said 1st Lt. Rahman Taweh, “Because it's very fast, and that allows you to control the enemy.” Taweh is a platoon leader with the 10th IA Commandos.

Jopling was impressed with his IA counterpart.

“He's really good. He's really hard on his guys and keeps them in line.”

Jopling remarked that he was pleased with the quality and motivation of the Commandos. “They have better gear, better training... more motivation.” Jopling said that his unit has a great working relationship with the Commandos and regularly asks them to accompany his unit during patrols.

Taweh said he likes working with U.S. Forces, and maintains relationships with units he's worked with in the past. “We still do missions together in Amarah and Nasiriyah,” he said. When asked what he's learned from U.S. Forces, Taweh replied that he's learned much more than he could have imagined prior to the training.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

10th Iraqi Army Commandos prepare for training at Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen.

U.S. missions take Soldiers off the beaten path

Offers glimpse into the serenity of a war-torn land

Spc. Aaron Crouch
B Co., 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

The days are gone where U.S. Soldiers are caught in fire-fights every time they leave the base; thankfully those occurrences are currently a rarity. Now that the U.S. Forces-Iraq are collectively catching their breath they are undertaking missions which, surprisingly often, lead to a glimpse of local culture most Soldiers would not have suspected.

In the midst of the re-posturing of forces, the missions Soldiers undertake are focused entirely on security, either of bases or the roads between bases. One important method of providing this security is the prevention of weapons and contraband from being smuggled into or through the area. Recently, 2nd Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cav. Division, performed one of these counter-smuggling missions which led to a rare snapshot of the beauty of this country; one which is too often obscured, but usually right around the corner.

The mission was to reconnoiter an area near a canal for possible smuggling routes. 2nd Lt. Michael Watson, of Escondido, Calif., 2nd Platoon leader, led the patrol off the dusty and beaten path, and there, one kilometer away from Iraq's largest and busiest highway, was something few of the soldiers expected to see... large swabs of green, dotted with camels, goats and shrubbery.

Watson said, "It was interesting to see how the Iraqi people live out in the middle of a harsh desert. They survive on the water features and the basics of working hard and tending to flocks of sheep and herds of camels."

The earliest dawn of the year was just breaking at this point and in



Photo by Spc Aaron Crouch

Sgt. Salvador Gutierrez, a Chicago native, inspects a kiln for possible hidden contraband. The kilns are used in the making of the huts seen in the area.

the unseasonably cool morning air, a sense of quiet fell over the Soldiers as the environment of gun-trucks and highway traffic faded. The details began to stand out... the small flock of goats right on the other side of the canal, the two men digging near the canal for their day's fresh water, and the lush vegetation... everywhere.

"It felt like I had walked out onto my front porch and was looking at the green pastures that my horses graze from, instead of the dusty wastelands I have become accustomed to seeing here," said Spc. Cody Rutland of Harleton, Texas.

Upon seeing what was likely a kiln for baking bricks Sgt. Salvador Gutierrez, a native of Chicago had to investigate further because his curiosity had been peaked while immersed in this other culture.

Sgt. Gutierrez said, "It was a memorable mission. To the battalion



Photo by Spc Aaron Crouch

Spc. Cody Rutland, a Harleton, Texas, native peers out over a small homestead used by a shepherd to support his family during a patrol.

leadership the mission was a success, the 5km of land was tactically analyzed for smuggling and attack potentials. To 2nd Platoon, B Company it was an unexpected delight, an experience which furthered our cultural understanding and sensitivity."

Dark Knight LTAT continues to train Iraqi Security Forces

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

While debate continues on the future of Iraq and the potential re-posturing of United States Forces-Iraq, Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cav. Division, Logistical Training and Advisory Team, remains focused on its mission.

Led by 1st Lt. Jose Julia, a Cayey, Puerto Rico native, and Staff Sgt. James Hardeman, an Oklahoma City native, the LTAT trains and assists the Iraqi Security Forces to become better equipped to deal with certain challenges in the Basrah province.

After working with the Iraqi Army's 14th Provision Transportation Command for four months, the LTAT has transformed the training focus from U.S. led training to an Iraqi "train-the-trainer" mindset to ensure Iraqi leaders can sustain this training without USF.

Training began with the basic lessons of preventive maintenance checks and services. It progressed to more advanced training on electrical systems for different types of civilian

and military-made vehicles. The focus has gradually shifted from training on the humvee to the civilian-made international 5-ton trucks. This transition has allowed the PTC to become more self-sufficient and combat effective.

"This is a very important step in the transition of the new and independent Iraqi Army. LTATs have been working with the IA for over seven years and it is time for them to take the reins on training and educating their Soldiers," said Hardeman. "Although the Iraqi Army leaders are grateful for all of the support in building the new Iraqi Army, it is time for them to lead and train their Soldiers. They are the future and must accept this great responsibility," he added.

In order to ensure that training is consistent throughout the 10th Iraqi Army Division, various LTATs of different echelons have combined forces to conduct effective training.

Lt. Col. Bernie Spoerri, the stability transition team advisor to the 10th IA Division, works with the LTAT to maximize resources while providing the IA with high-quality training and advice.



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Staff Sgt. James Hardeman and Lt. Col. Bernie Spoerri discuss plans to conduct maintenance training for the 10th Iraqi Army Division.

"Working with the division LTAT has allowed us to reduce the number of missions on the road while effectively maintaining communications and high trust levels with the Iraqi Army," said Julia. "By pooling together our resources, we can ensure that all levels of leadership are on the same page and are held accountable to ensure mission accomplishment."



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Lt. Col. Bernie Spoerri presents an Iraqi Soldier with a diploma for graduating the LTAT Maintenance Course.



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Staff Sgt. James Hardeman an Oklahoma City native, instructs an Iraqi Soldier on the preventative maintenance checks and service process for an Iraqi 5-ton vehicle.

US forces keep promise to Wasit province farmers

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

Members of 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, the incoming squadron to Wasit Province and 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the outgoing squadron and the Provincial Reconstruction Team delivered on a long-awaited promise to local farmers in Wasit province by providing mechanical grain probes to three local grain silos. On June 22, a small ceremony was held at the Al Kut Grain Silo to signify the completion and successful operation the new mechanical grain probes.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon left, George Stickels, second from left, and two project managers at the Al Kut Grain Silo stand by the new Apollo Gamet mechanical grain probe during a ribbon cutting ceremony conducted at the grain silo.

“Back when I first met you, I made a promise that we will try to provide these grain probes for you. Today, we show you that we kept that promise,” said George Stickels, a member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team and United States Department of Agriculture that led the project to deliver the mechanical grain probes, to the farmers and silo employees gathered at the ceremony.

The Apollo Gamet mechanical grain probes provided by United States Forces-Iraq allow for the grain that farmers deliver to the silo to be accurately and consistently graded based on the quality of the grain.

“Before these mechanical probes, the workers at the silos used a manual process that was not easy to continuously replicate. Considering the hours in the heat that were required to do this job, a poor quality of grain was going out to the people of Wasit province because it was not properly graded,” said Stickels.

Now, with the grain properly graded by the mechanical probes, better quality grain is properly stored allowing for better food for the people of Wasit province and the surrounding areas in Iraq.

This project was initially started while 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was responsible for conducting operations in Wasit province. However, as of June 15, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment replaced 2nd Sqdn., 3rd ACR.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon address local media in front of the new Apollo Gamet mechanical grain probe during a ribbon cutting ceremony conducted at the grain silo.

“I am very encouraged by the progress that the local Iraqis are making and their willingness to reach out to us for assistance and support. Our squadron is ready and willing to help provide whatever assistance we can to these people,” said Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, Commander of the 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., and an Ettrick, Wis. native.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon and George Stickels meet with local farmers during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Al Kut Grain Silo signifying the completion and successful operation of an Apollo Gamet mechanical grain probe provided by the Provincial Reconstruction Team.



422nd MP Co transfers authority to 805th MP Co

Maj. Willie Triplett
422nd MP,
3rd Bde., Special Troops Bn.

After a long year of providing force protection to Contingency Operating Base Adder, the 422nd Military Police Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted a transfer of authority (TOA) with the 805th Military Police Company, 3BSTB, 3AAB, 1st Cav. Div., before redeploying to Fort Bliss, Texas.

On June 13, Soldiers from the 422nd MP Co. conducted a TOA ceremony with the 805th MP Co. The ceremony was held at Memorial Hall on COB Adder.

The 422nd MP Co. is an Army Reserve unit out of Bakersfield, Calif. The unit began their preparation on April 28, 2010, with Soldiers from three different MP units merging with the 422nd MP Co. for the deployment: the 56th, 314th and 491st MP Companies, all of which fall under the 11th MP Brigade, Los Alamitos, California.

The new unit conducted three phases of training in Bakersfield, Calif., Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., and Fort Bliss, Texas prior to deploying to Iraq on August 23, 2010. They received their final phase of training and validations in Kuwait.

The company was split into three

locations in southern Iraq and served under both the 3BSTB, 3rd Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., August 2010 – March 2011 and then with 3BSTB, 3AAB, 1st Cav. Div. from March 2011- June 2011. A small detachment of Soldiers were also sent to Isa, Bahrain to conduct a force protection mission.

Soldiers performed multiple duties throughout southern Iraq including force protection, internal and external patrols and working with various agencies including civilian police advisory teams, human intelligence teams, and stability transition teams, all while forming partnerships with counterparts from the Iraqi Security Forces.

The 422nd MP Co. was one of the last units to deploy under Operation Iraqi Freedom and one of the first to fall under Operation New Dawn, as the mission changed from a combat role



Photo by Spc. Ashley Mejia

Maj. Willie Triplett, and 1st Sgt. Marcus Mitchell case the colors representing the end of their mission for Operation New Dawn.

to an advise and assist role. The Soldiers performed in an outstanding manner and received numerous accolades throughout the deployment.

Cpl. Jorge Velasquez from Porterville, California stated the mission gave him a vast perspective as he had the opportunity to work in several different positions. “Being a corporal gave me the opportunity to experience more of a leadership role.” he said.

The TOA represented their official release from the mission. While deployed approximately 30 percent of the Soldiers were promoted based on their performances and potential for taking on increased responsibility.

“I was able to appreciate the job more after being promoted from Specialist to Sergeant and learned that caring for Soldiers was a significant portion of being a good leader.” said Sgt. Angelica Trujillo from Shaster, California.

The 422nd MP Co. started their redeployment back to Fort Bliss, Texas in mid June.



Photo by Spc. Ashley Mejia

The official party enters the building to start the transfer of authority.



Photo by Spc. Ashley Mejia

(from left to right) Sgt. Lannah Hinds, Staff Sgt. Amber Wood, Spc. Ashley Mejia and Spc. Marlene Monarrez proudly display their end of tour awards.

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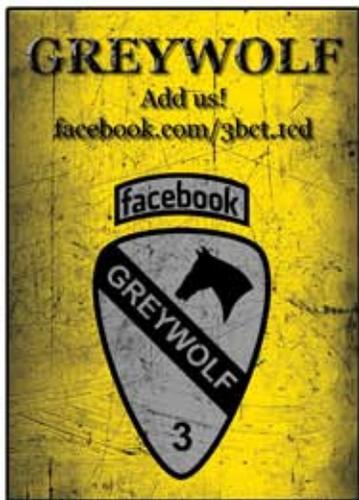


Photo by Spc. Jared Forsythe

Lt. Col. Andrew Poznick shakes the hand of Lt. Col. Muhammad after turning over the key to Patrol Base Minden.

The Transfer of Patrol Base Minden

2nd Lt. Nicholas Cochran
1st Bn., 12 Cav. Regt.

As we look back on our time spent at Patrol Base Minden, what originally seemed like a lengthy operation along the Iraq-Iran border has quickly come to a close, bringing forth a stronger partnership between United States Forces-Iraq and the Government of Iraq.

Nearly four months ago, the men of Deathrider Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, successfully took forth the reigns and established complete operational control of Patrol Base Minden. While operating along the border of Iran and Iraq, the company participated in numerous partnered operations, focused on refining and expanding the tactical knowledge of the Department of Bor-

der Enforcement (DBE). As a result, a stronger and more cohesive border security force has developed the skills necessary to safeguard the future of Iraq.

Now as the Iraqi Security Forces continue to develop and strengthen their nation, USF-I have successfully transferred control of Patrol Base Minden to the DBE.

At a ceremony on June 22, with ISF and USF-I in attendance, Patrol Base Minden was officially signed over to the DBE and the Government of Iraq, marking a historic occasion and a giant leap forward for the transition and security of Iraq.

The transition of Patrol Base Minden will help strengthen the perception of the ISF, and it will also improve the public's belief in an independent, self-sufficient Iraqi government.