

# The GREYWOLF HOWL

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## ‘Saber’ Squadron conducts counter-indirect fire operations

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

On July 6, the Soldiers of Bandit Troop, 6th ‘Saber’ Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, along with their Iraqi Security Force partners, sought out insurgents attempting to use indirect fire assets against the local security forces in Wasit province, Iraq by conducting area reconnaissance.

Bandit Troop is currently partnered with 3rd Bn., 32nd Iraqi Army Bde., out of Al Kut, Iraq. As a part of their mission to advise, train, and assist their Iraqi partners, B Troop regularly coordinates and conducts counter indirect fire patrols and area reconnaissance with the IA Soldiers in order to enhance the security of the surrounding areas.

“The enemy’s use of rockets and mortars is a serious threat to our operations and the safety of the people here in Iraq,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Morrow, Platoon Leader of 1st Platoon, and an Austin, Texas native.

The use of indirect fire assets, such as rockets and mortars, and improvised explosive devices by insurgents are an on-going concern and focus of operations for Saber Squadron and its ISF partners in the Wasit province. This is especially true as insurgents have shown a willingness to conduct attacks against United States Forces-Iraq bases in the past few weeks.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmlad

Soldiers from Bandit Troop utilize a Long-Range Advance Scout Surveillance System to eliminate insurgent’s capabilities to use indirect fire assets.

As a part of the reposturing of troops in Iraq, and the next step in the strategic partnership between Iraq and the United States, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. and other USF-I units are preparing to transfer many of their bases over to the ISF in the coming months.

“These bases are vital to the future security of Iraq. By insurgents conducting rocket attacks against these bases, it is a direct attack against their own prosperity and peace,” said Staff

Sgt. Jose Rosa, a Cavalry Scout, and Bayamon, Puerto Rico native.

However, by conducting patrols like these to deny insurgents the ability to conduct rocket attacks, Bandit Troop, and other Saber Squadron Soldiers, are ensuring the continued security and prosperity of Iraq.

“We will continue to help our Iraqi partners in any way possible and seek out these insurgents that threaten lives here in Iraq.” said Morrow.

# ‘Ghostrider’ Soldiers keep routes clear

**1st Lt. Peter Thompson**  
**3rd BSTB**

As the sun sets on the desert horizon, the highways of southern Iraq empty of civilian traffic. Although the local population begins to go home for the night, a new type of traffic emerges on Iraq’s highways. Long rows of headlights are exiting Forward Operating Bases all across Iraq. Trucks either full of goods going to the Soldiers further north or loaded with equipment heading for Kuwait.

As combat logistic patrols begin their hauls into the dark of night, a small group of vehicles separates from them; vehicles brightly lit but moving slowly and deliberately. These are the improvised explosive device hunters of the United States Forces-Iraq looking for their next find. The combat engineers of Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, are out in full force to provide critical assured mobility across the GREYWOLF operational environment.

As the only organic combat engineer company in the brigade, the ‘Ghostriders’ have conducted over 1,000 route clearance missions to date. They have covered over 50,000 kilometers of highways and secondary roads in southern Iraq, searching for IEDs and explosively formed



Photo by 1st Lt. Peter Thompson

Investigating a suspicious object with the help of a “Buffalo” vehicle, specifically designed to investigate improvised explosive devices and sustain a high-order detonation.

penetrators. As IED hunters, their task is to put their safety in jeopardy to ensure it for others. Their missions are anything but short.

They are sometimes on the road for ten continuous hours, scanning for deadly IEDs, enduring the 120 degree heat and yet courteous to Iraqi traffic patterns. Because of this, they have enabled the brigade to safely conduct hundreds of combat sustainment and resupply missions, which have supported over 15,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and civilians in southern Iraq.

“Our company conducts 24-hour

operations, seven days a week, so we are constantly gathering intelligence from the battlefield to provide our platoons with the best operating picture for their missions,” said Spc. Christopher Fuentes a native of West Chester, N.Y.

As one of Charlie Company’s Intelligence Support Teams (COIST) lead analysts, Fuentes is responsible for battle tracking and coordinating assets for seven route clearance teams across 150,000 square kilometers.

Company C recently finished its fifth month of a 12 month deployment to Iraq. As units and equipment begin to move south to Kuwait, the combat engineers of Company C will spearhead their movement.

“It’s a large responsibility to undertake. To actively search for IEDs and clear the roads for the Soldiers behind us, but it’s one that I’m proud to fulfill,” said Pvt. Sean Lee a native of White Plains, N.Y. “I want to be here with my unit, making a difference in the lives of others. I wouldn’t want it any other way.”



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Torres Carr

Combat engineers conduct a dismounted route clearance of a drainage culvert.



Photo by 1st Sgt. James Ratliff

Combat engineers conduct vehicle evacuation and medical evacuation rehearsals.

# ‘Warhorse’ conducts operations with Iraqi Army to counter lethal aid networks

By Maj. Harold Huff III  
3rd AAB PAO

For the past month, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, along with Soldiers of the 38th Bde., 10th Iraqi Army Division, have conducted partnered patrols to counter lethal aid networks smuggling in the Maysan province.

The recent increase in insurgent attacks continues to require significant force protection for GREYWOLF Soldiers and an offensive approach to Iraqi Security Forces and United States Forces-Iraq tactics.

Following the transfer of Joint Security Stations Sifer and Al-Sheeb to the ISF late last month, Alpha and Delta companies moved to Contingency operating Station Garry Owen and are currently incorporated into operations throughout the province. Despite the change in location, they continue to maintain their advise and assist role with their Iraqi partners.

The Warhorse Soldiers were not alone in the planning of these missions. Stability transition team members from 3AAB, representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Border Patrol all assisted in the discussion of effective counter-LAN tactics, techniques and procedures with the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement.

The purpose of these patrols is to disrupt LANs and reinforce ISF control

of the marsh region in the Maysan province. The intent is to ensure enemy smuggling of lethal accelerants through Maysan is disrupted by USF-I and ISF presence along desired routes.

The operation begins when Warhorse patrols link up with their ISF partners at the 10th IA headquarters and begin reconnaissance of the marsh lands located in the southeast section of the province. The patrol conducts area reconnaissance to determine route accessibility, ISF checkpoint locations and identify potential enemy LAN smuggling locations. Other measures undertaken include establishing traffic control points, investigating boat launch ramps along the marshes as well as checking fishing licenses and the content of boats observed in the area.

Following travel through the marsh lands and stopping at different DBE checkpoints, the Warhorse troopers return to COS Garry Owen with intelligence and assessment data for the battalion’s leadership.

As American forces modify their advise, train and assist efforts in Iraq, support to Iraq-led counter-smuggling operations in the province continues.



U.S. Army photo

Warhorse Soldiers, along with Soldiers of the 38th Bde., 10th Iraqi Army Division, investigate boat launch ramps along the marshes in southeast Maysan province as well as checking fishing licenses and the content of boats observed in the area.



U.S. Army photo

**STRONG BODIES = STRONG UNITS**  
**GET UP AND GET MOVING**

# 215th Brigade Support Battalion celebrates 40 years of service

## 2nd Lt. Tiffany Bradley 215th BSB

The 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, formally known as the 215th Composite Service Battalion was activated on June 30 1971, in the Republic of Vietnam. Forty years

later, the “Blacksmiths” celebrate their birthday and history on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The birthday celebration started off with the battalion commander, Lt. Col. James M. Smith, a Hampton, Va. native, addressing the battalion formation with his views on the impact the unit has made on past missions and his

opinion of their current mission in Iraq.

Following Smith’s remarks, 1st Lt. Justin Hackett, a native of Beloit, Kan., and a Security Platoon Leader for Bravo Field Maintenance Company, read the battalion’s history to the formation. The history highlighted mission support in Vietnam; supported operations in Fallujah, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II; Diyala province, and Salah ad-Din province during OIF 06-08; Mosul during OIF 09-11 and most recent operations in COB Adder, Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen and Basrah, Iraq.

After the history was read, the formation was released to take a battalion photo behind the cake and then the oldest Soldier, Sgt. Bradley Bailey, a Buffalo, N.Y., native, and the youngest Soldier, Pfc. Darius Bolden, a Baton Rouge, La., native, joined Command Sgt. Maj. Henney Hodgkins, a native of Bristol, Pa. and Smith in cutting the battalion’s birthday cake.



Photo by Spc. Deadrian Alston

The 215th Brigade Support Battalion, takes an opportunity to capture another moment in the battalion’s history by pausing to take a photograph during the battalion’s 40th birthday celebration June 30, 2011.



Photo by Spc. Deadrian Alston

Lt. Col. James M. Smith and Command Sgt. Maj. Henney Hodgkins cut the first pieces of birthday cake as the battalion’s oldest Soldier, Sgt. Bradley Bailey and youngest Soldier Pfc. Darius Bolden observe June 30, 2011.



Photo by Spc. Deadrian Alston

Lt. Col. James M. Smith serves 2nd Lt. Tiffany Bradley a piece of the battalion’s birthday cake during the celebration.

# Steel Dragons partner with local tribal sheik to support Iraqi families

**2nd Lt Christopher Molaro**  
**2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.**

It was approaching mid-day, dust had picked up, conditions were not the best, but Lt. Col. Robert Wright, commander of Task Force Steel Dragon, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, was determined to help a local sheik support his tribe when they needed it the most.

A few weeks earlier, Task Force Steel Dragon had downloaded six trucks worth of humanitarian aid in Dhi Qar province. Literally tons of sugar, beans, flour and tea were lugged through the Steel Dragon assembly line and set up in rows six feet high. The site was impressive and the feat enormous.

The first aid drop was through Shaykh Mahmoud's tribe and was to be delivered to thirty different families. In one aid packet was: a 50 kilogram bag of flour, a bag of beans, sugar, lentils, milk formula, tea, cans of tomatoes and cooking oil. While United States Forces-Iraq used their resources to make it possible, it was the insistence and leadership of the Iraqi sheik and government which helped the idea



Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro

Lt. Col. Robert Wright, commander of Task Force Steel Dragon, greets a local Iraqi after delivering a humanitarian aid packet.

come into fruition.

Those were the tangibles, but the intangible value was priceless. Children smiled from ear to ear. Families who were struggling through the summer months with little water and food supply were now going to be able to endure the heat of July and August. The idea that humanitarian aid is a permanent fix would be naïve. What the humanitarian aid mission offers is proof to the underprivileged in Iraq that the sheik and government

do care and have their best interests in mind.

Also, as Wright and his Soldiers lifted the packets off the stacks, helped carry the bags of aid to the homes and smiled as pictures were taken, they offered the softer side of USF-I to people that may otherwise fall victim to the negative propaganda of insurgents.

“This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate to the local populace our genuine concern for their well being. We hope that this opportunity will provide the local families the ability to view the U.S. Forces as their friends and partners as we continue to further develop the security situation in Iraq.” said Wright.

The reposturing of USF-I is inevitable. But, what the Steel Dragons are trying to accomplish is to leave a positive footprint on a land which had little hope just eight years earlier under an oppressive regime. In their last few months in Iraq, as their final symphony, they can help place the cornerstones for a brighter future, one bag of sugar at a time.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro

Lt. Col. Robert Wright hands out bags and packets of humanitarian aid to Iraqi families with Capt. Josh Holden and 2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro

Lt. Col. Robert Wright picks up a bag of beans to be added to the packet of lentils and cans of tomatoes to make up a humanitarian aid package.

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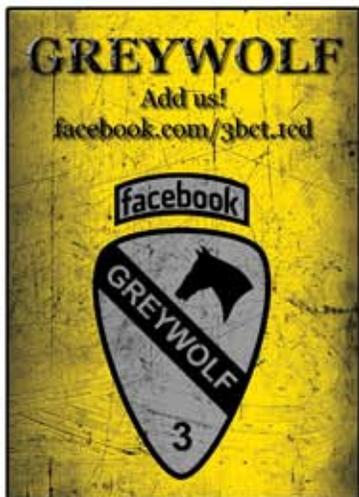
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## STT, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.



Photo by Maj. William Mott

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement personnel take a class picture after training on Entry Control Points at the Basrah Operations Command.

# GREYWOLF transition teams prepare to hand over responsibility to U.S. Department of State

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

The camel-like silhouettes of United States Forces-Iraq Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles disappear on the horizon as a new dawn comes to Iraq.

Stability transition teams across the Iraqi provinces are transitioning their duties to the U.S. Department of State, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) teams, while the U.S. military prepares for re-posturing of personnel.

STT Enforcer and INL personnel have started what the military calls the 'right-seat ride' where the STT continues daily operations and the INL shadows them as missions are executed. The INL teams are meeting with their Iraqi counterparts and receiving initial training from officers on their individual duties.

Key to a successful transition is the STT's ability to provide a solid understanding of the nuances of organizational structure, cultural dichotomies and relational networks. Lt. Col. Gregory Stokes, STT Enforcer commander, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cav. Division said, "With a two-phase ap-

proach to the transition and 90 days to accomplish it, we expect to have a seamless transition."

The first phase of the transition involves training the INL team on concepts for growing and tracking real progress such as the Lines of Effort concept that STT Enforcer applied to the Provincial Department of Police and the National Intelligence and Information Agency, a force of more than 23,000 personnel.

The second phase is when the INL takes the lead and the STT shadows their work, providing assistance when needed. This consists of 60 days of key instruction with police personnel and Iraqi leader engagements, and STT Enforcer in support.

"Phase II ensures INL personnel maintain progress, and encourage their Iraqi counterparts to work with them in their new roles." Stokes said. INL will assume full responsibility as of October 1, with STT Enforcer providing indirect support until relieved.

As military bases close, and the American flag is seen less and less on the Iraqi horizon, the Department of State will usher in another new dawn of progress for Iraq.