

# The GREYWOLF Howl

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## Cavalry troops utilize first fully operational DDTC in the Army

**Sgt. Omar Estrada**  
**3rd AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.**

Thanks to the support of the entire GREYWOLF Brigade and the hard work of Staff Sgt. Wesley P. Jackson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Deployed Digital Training Campus, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division boasts the first fully operational DDTC in the Army.

During his tenure as the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George W. Casey told the Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) which is located at Fort Eustis, Va., that there was a need for Soldiers to be able to take classes and train while deployed, and give them the same education opportunities while deployed as they have at home.

DDTC is a portable digital network center that can be set up anywhere in the world where Soldiers are deployed that has satellite and land connectivity, just like an office network.

The training campus is a complete-



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Soldiers take the Functional Academic Skills Training at the Deployed Digital Training Campus.



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Staff Sgt. Wesley Jackson, a native of Denton, Texas, explains to Staff Sgt. Adrian Holler from A Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and native of Denton, Texas, the benefits of utilizing the new system.

ly self-contained internet system with 20 laptops, internet and satellite accessibility. There is an antenna outside the building that connects to a satellite, which beams to Landstuhl, Germany, and then sends information by fiber wire to TRADOC headquarters.

The system can also provide video tele-training and it is designed for Soldiers to conduct structured self development courses, Advanced Leader Course phase one common core, correspondence courses, Rosetta Stone and any other program in the Army e-Learning catalog or the Army manage-

ment system.

Many devoted students enrolled in military online courses are taking advantage of this free program.

“I’m taking Advanced Leader Course phase one common core for professional development which is programmed to actually take 60 hours of class time,” said Staff Sgt. Adrian Holler, assigned to A Company, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div. “I’m also planning on taking structured self development courses later on this year,” he said.

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In addition to these benefits, Soldiers can log in and attend college level courses, since it has internet capabilities.

“I got with the education centers in Fort Hood, Kuwait and here (COB Adder), so now I am able to scan and email tuition assistance forms, financial aid requests, and enroll and drop memorandums,” said Jackson, a native of Denton, Texas.

The facility is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and is busiest after 5 p.m., with an average of 200 Soldiers utilizing the facility a week.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III paid a visit to the DDTC

during his tour of Iraq in July, and was pleased to know that the GREY-WOLF Brigade had the first operational DDTC in the U.S. Army.

Col. Douglas Crissman, commander of 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div., invested time and resources into this program due to its importance. It took twenty hours a day for two months to get the program fully operational, and now Soldiers are reaping the benefits.

Other DDTC’s from Afghanistan, Germany, Alaska and Bosnia have contacted Staff Sgt. Jackson for advice on implementing their systems. Thanks to his help, there are now operational DDTC’s in Afghanistan and Germany.

“This program is really good for



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Soldiers take the Functional Academic Skills Training at the Deployed Digital Training Campus.

the deployed Soldier. What Soldiers are lacking is promotion points and can never get promoted. They didn’t have the capabilities to take classes, but now they do.” said Jackson.

3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn.

# Gladiator medics lend helping hand to redeploying engineers

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

Medics with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division lent a helping hand to combat engineers with 34th Sapper Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, slated to return to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii soon at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq on August 26.

The medics facilitated a health assessment to ensure each Soldier would receive the medical care he or she needs upon redeployment.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Combat engineers fill out a hand-held health assessment before being screened by a physician.

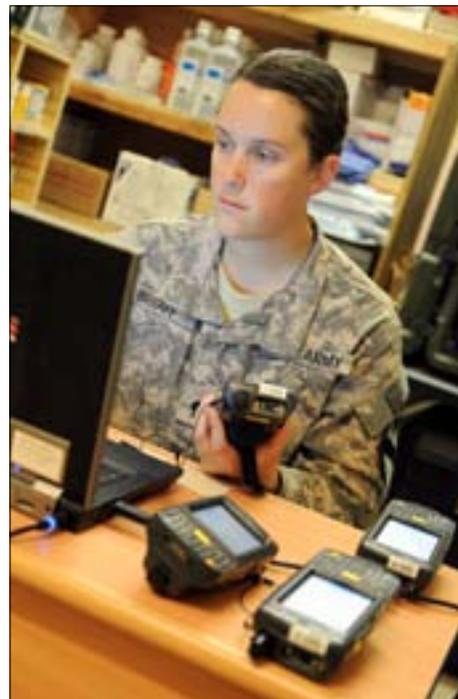


Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Spc. Blythe Briggs downloads information to a computer after combat engineers input their information into the hand held devices.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Spc. Blythe Briggs explains the order of events of a health assessment to combat engineers.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Capt. Jeremy Kent, a physician, reviews information about combat engineers before screening them as part of a health assessment.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Cpt. Michael De La Vega the Squadron physician's assistant, a San Antonio, Texas native, and a doctor from Al Zahraa hospital in Al Kut, Iraq, discuss their individual backgrounds and treating of patients.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, an Ettrick, Wis. native, meets with an administrative representative of Al Zahraa hospital in Al Kut, Iraq, before taking a tour to see several patients.

## Cavalry troopers show support for injured civilians

### 2nd Lt. Stuart White 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

On August 20, Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, Commander of 6th 'Saber' Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and an Ettrick, Wis. native and Capt. Michael De La Vega the Squadron physician's assistant from San Antonio, Texas, visited Al Zahraa hospital on the northeast side of Al Kut.

They stopped by the hospital to speak with hospital officials about the attacks on August 15, express condolences to the injured and loved ones, and offer general medical advice. The spotlight was on this hospital as it had to respond to attacks that killed 34 Iraqi civilians and wounded 70 more.

'Saber' Squadron's mission has been to advise and assist government and security officials in Al Kut since



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Cpt. Michael De La Vega and Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon show their support while they are escorted around Al Zahraa hospital grounds in Al Kut, Iraq, by several doctors.

June. Leaders throughout the squadron have worked closely with Iraqi Army, Federal Police, and Iraqi Police around the city to evaluate their needs and improve their ability to provide security for its citizens, but this was the first time they traveled to any of the hospitals. Al Zahraa hospital is truly a reflection of how hard the officials of Al Kut worked to bring their city to a higher standard.

The attack in Al Kut on August 15 tested the resolve of the entire city. The hospital's facilities were clean, and the staff was excited and enthusiastic to speak with Capt. De La Vega about their response to the attacks, treatment options of each patient, and what their medical capabilities are.

Four doctors guided Cantlon and De La Vega into several rooms explaining the injuries of each patient, their stories, and what had been done to treat them. Each patient shared their stories with the U.S. Soldiers, but they were also adamant about showing confidence in their medical capabilities and pride in their city's ability to bounce back from the event.

"It's obvious these doctors have a lot of passion and truly care about their city and their patients. It is truly rewarding assisting those that have a passion to help their country," said De La Vega of the staff at the hospital.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, an Ettrick, Wis. native, meets with several patients at Al Zahraa hospital in Al Kut, Iraq, to hear their stories and express his condolences over their injuries.

As soon as the Iraqi doctors shook hands with the physician's assistant, they shared their experiences with him. Many of the doctors trained abroad in India or Jordan, but they had all come back to their native city of Al Kut to practice medicine. Each of them had certain specialties, but while meeting with each of their patients, they shared a common compassion and competence in their treatment.

"The attacks on August 15 would have been difficult for any American city to go through. This hospital and the professional doctors on staff typify the current medical support in Al Kut and Wasit Province. They have done a remarkable job under very challenging conditions; I am impressed," said Cantlon.

# U.S. mortar platoon trains with Iraqi Army

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

The mortar platoon from 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, continued to build on training with an Iraqi Army mortar platoon August 25.

The units have partnered for three live-fire illumination training exercises that took place on Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen as well as on Camp Sparrowhawk, the 10th Iraqi Army Division headquarters.

Sgt. Mathew Lee, a squad leader in the mortar platoon, said that their Iraqi counterparts are learning quickly.

“They did pretty well,” Lee, a native of Spokane, Wash., said. “They followed my commands to a ‘T’ and got the experience of actually hanging a round and having their hands on a round, where with their system, they just pull a string, so it’s a little different experience.”

Lee was referring to the differing systems that each country uses and trains on. The U.S. mortar system works by “hanging” or dropping a round into the mortar tube. The Iraqis use a system that is actuated by pulling a string, much like cannon artillery. The U.S. mortar platoon is helping the Iraqis develop a plan to standardize training and certification so Iraqi leaders know that their Soldiers’ capabilities are consistent across units and geographic areas.

“They’re quick learners from what I’ve seen and they like to learn a lot of



Photo by Sgt. Mathew Lee

Soldiers fire a 120mm mortar out of an armored mortar carrier.

new things,” said Pfc. Robert Stevens, a gunner from Chesapeake, Va. The fact that Iraqis are training on U.S. equipment is not a wasted effort. The Iraqis are scheduled to start fielding the U.S. 120mm systems in addition to the 120mm Serbian mortar systems that they currently field.

The partnered training is an enriching experience for the Americans as well.

“When we went over to Sparrowhawk, it was pretty interesting because they set out all their stuff as they would do when they’re firing,” said Pfc. Koda Sorenson, a dismounted rifleman from Branson, Mo. That gave the Americans a chance to compare the Iraqis’ mortars to their own.

In addition to training the Iraqi Army, the mortar platoon conducts

force protection patrols around their base. The Soldiers agreed that these base defense missions are not adventurous, but do get the job done.

Sorenson echoed that, saying the mission was not very exciting, but just to see Iraqis going about their lives proved rewarding, as these Soldiers got a glimpse of life in the Middle East that not many Americans would see in person.

“It’s completely different from the states,” Sorenson said. “I’ve learned a lot since I’ve been out here.”

The Iraqis have planned an upcoming mission, where both the Iraqi and U.S. Forces will fire their respective mortar systems together, continuing this historic mission.



# Blacksmiths have resupply preparation down to a science

**Sgt. Omar Estrada**  
3rd AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

Long hours and an endless formation of vehicles marked the beginning of an overnight re-supply convoy for Soldiers from A Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The convoy left from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq and arrived at Contingency Operating Base Basrah, Iraq the night of August 25.

Soldiers prepared themselves, equipment and vehicles during the light of day knowing that a re-supply mission awaited them as the sun went down.

The Soldiers made adjustments to their helmets and vests, carried cases of drinking water, adjusted their weapons systems and guided vehicles to the convoy staging area.

Meanwhile, key leadership received the latest information for the upcoming convoy, releasing it from one military post to another by means of phone calls and emails.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Satterfield, convoy commander, and native of Orange, N.J., grouped his Soldiers for a final classroom briefing before the convoy began.

During this meeting, Soldiers received the most recent or “the latest and greatest” information, and rehearsed battle drills in the occurrence of an emergency or an enemy attack.

The Soldiers discussed rollover procedures, escalation of force, improvised explosive device reporting and procedures, and medical evacuation reporting.

Soldiers were questioned on the steps to take in case they were confronted in any of the situations mentioned above, which everyone answered in unison every single step



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Staff Sgt. Ronald Satterfield, the Convoy Commander, conducts pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections to assure that his Soldiers have proper and serviceable equipment before the overnight convoy mission.

without a mistake. This repetitive learning ensures that Blacksmith Soldiers are prepared to react accordingly to any emergency situation without hesitation.

“What are the five C’s for a possible IED?” Satterfield asked.

“Confirm, clear, call, cordon, control,” Soldiers answered in unison.

“These are some outstanding Soldiers I have, I couldn’t ask for more out of them, they give 100% every day and on every mission,” said Satterfield. “We go on the road every two to three days and we never have any type of issues.”

The Soldiers went back to their duties at the convoy staging area after the meeting, some continued with their unfinished duties or took initiative to assume other responsibilities. A brotherly environment was felt, where everyone was taking care of business and taking care of each other.

Every single event was perfectly timed and precise by following a

schedule of events.

An hour prior to departure, Satterfield inspected and accounted for each Soldier’s gear and equipment by making notes and crosschecking serial numbers.

A prayer was conducted by Capt. Geun Hyung Lee, Chaplain for 215th Bde. Support Bn., 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div. to which Blacksmith Soldiers gathered and bowed their head to receive the prayers and blessings.

“These are some brave Soldiers that need recognition,” said Lee.

Prepared for their mission, the Soldiers got into their vehicles and departed COB Adder.

The air-conditioning blowing and the sound of the wheels on the road made a calm atmosphere, while the watchful and alert Soldiers took the convoy to the safety of COB Basrah.

“I’m not here for the glory, I’m here to do my job and get these Soldiers home safe,” finished Satterfield.

# Soldiers conduct observation for highway security

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

The International Highway, the main artery for all civilian and military traffic throughout Iraq, extends from Kuwait all the way through the northern Iraq provinces. Minus the missing guard-rails and the surrounding desert, the highway resembles most modern highways, complete with traffic jams and rubber-necking.

Its high usage and comfort to travel on brings inherent risks.

Despite 24-hour joint operations between the Iraqi Highway Patrol, Iraqi Army and U.S. Forces, attacks continue on a regular basis and U.S. Forces are targeted more on the highway than any other road in Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Johnny Curry

Soldiers speak to an Iraqi Army member near Al Fadliyah while conducting a post security observation patrol to prevent future attacks from improvised explosive devices.



Photo by Spc. Tyler Fischer

A view of an International Highway overpass on August 26. These overpasses are historically a dangerous area for U.S. and Iraqi Forces and thus, have been observed more often during 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division observation missions.

In an attempt to mitigate the threat of IED attacks on the highway, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, has been conducting observation missions. These missions include a platoon-sized element focused on setting up a covert position at a safe distance from the highway in order to observe any suspicious or insurgent activity. In the case of hostile activity, the platoon and their adjacent USF and ISF personnel team up and react together.

“These missions are crucial in order for the U.S. Forces to secure the highway. Securing this main avenue of approach will ensure a safe exit for U.S. Forces when that time comes,” said 2nd Lt. Patrick Mulvaney, a platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Btry. from Sugarland, Texas.

The road ahead to a safe exit for U.S. Forces is surely a long one.

Proactive measures such as these observation missions are a step in the direction of successfully leaving Iraq peacefully.





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1st Bn., 12th Cav. Reg.

# Chargers secure the skies in southern Iraq

**Staff Sgt. Brian Vorhees**  
3rd AAB, PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

To ensure the safety of their fellow comrades, surveillance teams often use ground or aerial imagery to track where friendly troops are located.

Soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division deployed to Basrah, Iraq use both at the same time.

Using unmanned aerial vehicles and ground patrols, the unit has a 360-degree view of their area of responsibility.

While an unmanned aerial vehicle pilot prepares the eye in the sky for take-off, a platoon of Soldiers spreads out and keeps an eye on the surrounding area, allowing the pilot to focus on the UAV. Once in the air, the pilot uses the UAV to scan past the vigilant Soldier's line of sight.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Warren

Soldiers provide security during an unmanned aerial vehicle flight.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Warren

Soldiers provide security while Spc. Fue Vang, an unmanned aerial vehicle pilot, prepares a bird for takeoff.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Warren

Soldiers provide security while Spc. Fue Vang prepares an unmanned aerial vehicle for takeoff.