

# The GREYWOLF HOWL

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The Operation New Dawn Edition

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## Bandit Troop uncovers explosive remnants of war

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

During a routine patrol Sept. 5, 1st Lt. Christopher Morrow, a native of Austin, Texas, and Red Platoon Leader, Bandit Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, spotted ordnance on the side of the road, near Al Kut, Iraq.

Upon investigation, Red Plt. discovered an old, abandoned, Iraqi Artillery firing point containing multiple artillery rounds and approximately 50 fuses.

However, the 'Saber' Soldiers didn't have the equipment necessary to dispose of the explosive ordnance which is a potential risk to innocent civilians and could also be used to harm U.S. Soldiers. Because of this risk, the platoon returned with an explosive ordnance disposal team to dispose of the artillery rounds and fuses.

When explosives or potential weapons are found, EOD is called to follow platoons into the various sectors around Iraq to analyze and safely dispose of them. EOD refers to these rounds as explosive remnants of war.

These explosive remnants of war are dangerous because it is unknown when the shells were made, what they are made of, the condition of the fuses, who left them, or how long they have been there. Patrolling platoons take ex-



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

1st Lt. Christopher Morrow discusses the mission with Lt. Muhammad of the Iraqi Army before they leave for the abandoned Iraqi firing point near Al Kut, Iraq.

plosives like these very seriously and treat each one as a potential threat.

"Even though there was no evidence of terrorist activity around the old firing point, disposing of leftover ordnance keeps the Iraqi civilians and U.S. Soldiers safer, so finding any small amount of explosives is important," said Morrow.

Along with EOD, the platoon partnered with Iraqi Army Soldiers to secure the site. Working with their Iraqi Army partners is a part of every mission 'Saber' Squadron executes. Iraqi Army facilitates all operations and works with United States Soldiers to

accomplish each mission.

"Executing the mission is always our first priority, but a key element of that mission is working with the Iraqi Security Forces because they are ultimately in charge of security in Wasit province," said Sgt. 1st Class Dallas McKay, Red Plt. Sgt., and a native of Atlanta.

The 'Saber' Soldiers and their Iraqi Army partners escorted an EOD team to the old Iraqi firing point, and they secured the area for EOD to gather the explosives.

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The Soldiers spread out over a large area and began clearing several old firing points, uncovering two Iraqi 130 mm illumination rounds, three 130 mm Iraqi high explosive rounds, one Russian 122 mm high explosive round, one unidentified white phosphorous round, and 49 fuses.

“Every mission is designed to prevent terrorists from harming innocent people or attacking Soldiers. Bandit Red Platoon showed a lot of awareness finding these rounds, and it supports our mission.” said Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. commander and a native of Ettrick, Wis.

EOD gathered all the explosives took them back to Contingency Operating Base Delta, and disposed of them using a controlled detonation.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

A Soldier evaluates explosive remnants of war to safely and securely move the ordnance to an appropriate place for disposal.

**2nd Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt.**

# Soldiers conduct recovery training

**2nd Lt. Joel Fecke  
2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.**

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted a vehicle recovery exercise at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq Aug. 25, 2011.

With the use of an M984 wrecker recovery vehicle, Soldiers had to use all of their past training and experience to recover a vehicle that was stuck in 2 feet of mud in just one hour.



Photo by Spc. Randy Yockey

Soldiers successfully recover a mired vehicle as part of a training exercise.



Photo by Spc. Randy Yockey

Soldiers attach shackles to the mired vehicle as part of a training exercise.

After evaluating the scenario, the Soldiers decided the best course of action would be attaching shackles to the mired vehicle, running a chain from the wrecker’s winch through those shackles and then back to the wrecker. This

made the towing capabilities twice as strong.

The six Soldiers successfully completed their mission within the allotted time.

# “Operation Home Guard”

**2nd Lt. Jay Twitty**  
**1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.**

As Operation New Dawn draws closer to an end, Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division prepare for the upcoming obligations associated with departing the small combat outpost in which they reside.

Joint Security Station Basrah Operation Command, or JSS BaOC, is a fully mission capable outpost located on the outskirts of Al Basrah, Iraq. The element in charge of the JSS has manned this outpost for the entirety of the deployment.

As the battalion prepares to depart Iraq, Company C must first shut down the outpost and rejoin the battalion located on Contingency Operating Base Basrah.

One of the primary dangers associated with United States Forces-Iraq closing down combat outposts is the dreaded improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAM) attack. It is the enemy’s most dangerous course of action, and therefore one of the primary concerns of the leadership of the GREY-WOLF Brigade.

The IRAM attack is a powerful short range weapon, with far greater accuracy than common indirect fire. As a result of these characteristics, the attack is often reserved for small out-



Photo by Spc. Robert Burns

Two Soldiers remain alert during an early morning counter improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAM) mission near Joint Security Station Basrah.

posts, or patrol bases. Considering the high threat level associated with an IRAM, the leadership of Company C developed an extensive plan to mitigate the dangers of the potential attack. A large part of the IRAM mitigation plan is “Operation Home Guard.”

The premise of the mission derived from the counter indirect fire mission, but the entire patrol would be dismounted and within a close perimeter of the BaOC. This allows for the unit to investigate suspected areas in which vehicles can’t possibly access, which helps lower the possible threat of an IRAM attack. All platoons within the BaOC take part in “Operation Home Guard,” using standard dismounted

military movement techniques.

While Soldiers are conducting the counter IRAM mission, they are provided overwatch by Spc. Fue Vang, the company’s Raven unmanned aerial vehicle pilot. Vang has countless hours of flying time at the National Training Center and is one of the most competent pilots in the battalion. This surveillance air asset is approximately the size of a large eagle, and hovers over and around the BaOC while “Operation Home Guard” is taking place.

The Raven, which comes equipped with a small camera and global positioning system, allows Vang to keep an eye on the element as they patrol through the suspected areas. This incredible asset, allows the company leadership to remain fully aware of the patrols status which makes it a far safer endeavor.

“The counter IRAM patrol, conducted weekly, is one of the most important mission sets this company partakes in,” said Staff Sgt. James Warren. “The threat of an IRAM is considerably lowered every time we go out. I’m proud of the Soldiers that go outside the wire almost every day. We have them to thank for our safety.”



Photo by Spc. Robert Burns

A Soldier pulls security during one of the counter improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAM) missions.



Photo by Spc. Robert Burns

Soldiers embark early in the morning to deter the enemy from firing improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAMs) towards the BaOC.

## 'Warhorse' gets lean; Army cooks replace contractors

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

As the United States Army's mission in Iraq winds down, Soldiers find themselves giving up progressively more of their creature comforts. At Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen, Iraq, Soldiers from 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division are "getting lean" in preparation for that day.

The Soldiers from F Forward Support Company, 215th BSB reached a milestone recently when the contracted SERKA Company workers who cooked meals and maintained the dining facility, packed up their knives, chef's hats, and aprons and handed over the day-to-day operations to Army cooks.

Now, Sgt. 1st Class Horoma Domogma, the noncommissioned officer in charge and a native of Hilo, Hawaii, has to do with 12 Soldiers what SERKA did with 84 contractors. It's a daunting task, and Soldiers are working long days to accomplish the mission. Soldiers' days are ending at 10 p.m. and then they start all over again at 2 a.m. to get the first meal ready.

Spc. Bryan Geiger, a Gilbert, Ariz. native, is in charge of making sure the warehouse is stacked and ready to go. All supplies and food arrive by convoy, and Geiger has to unload it and stack it in the warehouse. Once everything is stacked and accounted for, he pulls



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Sgt. 1st Class Horoma Domogma, the noncommissioned officer in charge of dining facility operations and a native of Hilo, Hawaii, readies the dinner meal.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Pfc. Daniel Summey, a native of Charlotte, N.C., stirs a pot as he heats up food for hungry Soldiers.

out what the unit needs for each meal. Everything the dining facility needs is stored here: paper products, chips, drinks, food, condiments and meals ready to eat. The warehouse area is the busiest spot because food items need to be stored at different temperatures and certain foods must be defrosted for a 24-hour period before it is ready to be served.

A hiccup here means the hot meal Soldiers were looking forward to all day is suddenly replaced with MREs.

"If he went down, I'm dead." Domogma joked, about Geiger.

"We must maintain the [dining] area, do a headcount, and that's got to be accurate to compare how much food is needed," said Domogma. "The ration order is based on head count. We have to monitor to-go plates so we know how much paper product to order. Everything's based on head count. You don't want to over order," she added.

Kitchen Patrol troops help with the burden. Fourteen Soldiers from the companies work in two shifts to help set up, serve, and clean up. Without them, the cooks could not accomplish the mission.

Even when the SERKA employees were here, there were still challenges.

When rockets landed just outside the DFAC, the workers wanted to quit. Domogma talked them out of leaving and requested that they get a briefing from the base defense group on how to respond to rocket attacks. Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schally, platoon sergeant for the mortar platoon, instructed them on how to react when the alarm sounds. His words made the difference, and the workers stayed until the Army cooks took over.

Domogma joined the Army in 1998 because she wanted adventure and likes to travel.

"I like the challenge," she said.

This is her fourth deployment to Iraq. Other challenges the unit has had to overcome include making adaptations to the plugs which were designed for use on the 110 AC voltage current in the United States and not the 220 current used in Iraq.

The whole process is painful, but it's a necessary pain that means this unit is that much closer to going home to some well deserved rest with loved ones.

# Physical resiliency for body and mind

**Sgt. Omar Estrada**  
3rd AAB PAO

The GREYWOLF Brigade is in the process of molding 21st century, combat ready Soldier-athletes by ensuring they are well rounded in the following pillars: physical, social, emotional, family and spiritual. These pillars of fitness ensure Soldiers are balanced and able to perform under many challenging situations.

Capt. Joseph Lopez, the physical therapist for 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted a physical resiliency training class at the Memorial Hall on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq on Sept. 19, 2011.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Capt. Joseph Lopez compares Soldiers shoes and feet to make sure they have the appropriate shoes for their type of feet during a physical resiliency training class that took place at the Memorial Hall.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Sgt. 1st Class Larry J. Owens, a native of Palm Bay, Fla., performs one of the flexibility and stability exercises.

For the past 30 years, the Army conducted all physical training sessions using guidance from Field Manual 21-20, (the Army physical fitness manual) where units were concentrating more on having Soldiers pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, (APFT) by running four to five miles, three times a week. Research has shown that doing pushups and sit-ups until Soldiers reached muscle failure did not allow Soldiers to fully progress with their physical resiliency.

The progression of Training Circular 3-22.20 is dramatically improving Soldier mobility outside of that straight plane mentality of the past three decades. This is much more realistic both in an athletic culture as well as in combat; Soldiers don't do things in a straight line in a deployed environment.

"It's going to make physical readiness fun to perform, instead of doing the dull fashion of pushups, sit-ups and go run," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry J. Owens, the senior paralegal for the 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div., legal office,

and a native of Palm Bay, Fla.

Under the Army's new physical resiliency training program, Soldiers will conduct physical training in the normal Army physical training uniform for the first couple of weeks, and then progress to wearing the Army combat uniform, and finally, doing the same agility and endurance movements with a combat load by providing sufficient training before upgrading to each stage.

"This will dramatically improve the Soldier athlete or the tactical athlete that the Army wants us to become," said Lopez.

During combat, a Soldier must be able to jump, conduct three to five second rushes, kick in doors or drag a wounded comrade to safety. Performing some of these movements requires the body to twist and turn into positions that a four mile run will not.

If Soldiers practice in an environment that requires them to move a lot more and then transition to heavier loads prior to deployment, that may decrease the risk of serious injury.

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“What we want to do is have warriors physically resilient before going to a combat situation,” said Lopez.



Photo by Spc. April Stewart

Capt. Joseph Lopez conducted several functional movement screening tests that measured Soldiers agility, flexibility and balance during a physical resiliency training class at the Memorial Hall.

The Army is trying to make the optimal tactical athlete, without causing any injuries.

Lopez conducted several functional movement screening tests that measure a Soldier’s agility, flexibility and balance. The tests are designed to find out who is prone to injuries.

“I learned that I don’t have much flexibility in my legs. I don’t have the best stability as well,” said Owens.

Lopez, analyzed warriors feet and shoes by pairing them up to make sure that Soldiers are wearing the proper running shoes. Soldiers were also informed of their foot type and what type of running shoes to buy; motion control for flat feet, stability for a normal arch and cushioned shoes for Soldiers with a high arch.

“When I came into the Army, no one looked at my feet, no one told me what type of running shoes I needed. The only way I found out is when I went to a sports store. Yesterday, Capt. Lopez told me that this is the right type

of shoes for my feet, which made me more resilient,” said Owens.

Knowing what type of shoes Soldiers should wear for their foot type and knowing their own weaknesses in movement patterns along with conducting PRT, Soldiers will reduce injuries and maximize their combat and physical resiliency.

Physical resiliency shows how you can improve your physical fitness level and also the positives that come from physical fitness.

“If I’m physically resilient, that gives me the self-confidence and the abilities to lead and overcome tough situations in life,” Lopez said.

The new training standards are designed to better prepare the modern day Soldier for combat.

“If you are training for combat, passing a fitness test should be easy, but if you are training to pass a fitness test, that might not prepare you for combat.” said Lopez.

**The Postal service will be shutting down operations on COB Adder as of mid - November. To guarantee that your Soldiers receive any packages you send them in a timely manner, it is suggested that you do not mail anything after the middle of October. Anything that is sent after this date may not make it in time and could end up lost.**

# Sappers climb to new heights

**Spc. William McGuigan**  
**3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn.**

Combat engineers serve as the Army's premiere breaching force; the tip of the spear. When confronted with a daunting obstacle that hinders their mobility, maneuver commanders rely on their Sappers to perform adaptively in the urgency of combat and lead their force through the objective. As the only combat engineer company within 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, the Soldiers of Company C uphold that standard daily. They interrogate and neutralize improvised explosive devices while on patrol, but on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq Aug. 30, 2011, they overcame a new obstacle of their own.

Under the leadership of Sgt. Chad Keith, the company's intelligence and support team noncommissioned officer in charge and an architecture major at Texas A&M University, a plan was developed to construct a 20-foot,



Photo by 1st Lt. Peter Thompson

Spc. Doxton Johnson and Pvt. David Poirier begin the construction of the Sapper tower Aug. 30, 2011. The tower was constructed in front of the company headquarters building and serves as both an inspirational motivator and training device for combat engineers training for Sapper school.

portable steel rope tower. With the support of Pvt. David Poirier, a welder and mechanic assigned to Company C, and the Allied Trades section, materials were procured and cut to strict specifications. After two weeks of manufacturing and welding, the tower's frame was complete and ready for assembly. Spc. Doxton Johnson led a small team of Soldiers from the company and assisted in the raising of the tower, which was proudly anchored next to the company's command post. Thanks to the generous donations of several 'Ghost Rider' families, the company was able to raise enough money to purchase new ropes for the tower, which now allows two climbers to negotiate the obstacle at once.

To date, the new Sapper tower has seen over 150 climbs, each instilling confidence and physical toughness in the Soldiers of Charlie Company. Designed to replicate the rope tower at the Sapper Leader Course, it has also

become an invaluable training tool for those Soldiers who aspire to earn the Sapper tab. At the end of August, the company as a whole decided on a new standard that would be set forth for the remainder of the deployment: before each mission, every Soldier on that patrol will climb the tower – an affirmation that Sappers will overcome any obstacle.



Photo by 1st Lt. Peter Thompson

Spc. Doxton Johnson climbs the Sapper tower with a 40-pound ruck sack before conducting a six mile foot march.



Photo by 1st Lt. Peter Thompson

Capt. Matthew Cyr, the commander of Company C, conducts the inaugural climb on the Sapper tower.



# GREYWOLF inducts Soldiers into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

**Sgt. Omar Estrada**  
3rd AAB PAO

Born June 20, 1924 Sgt. Audie Leon Murphy, rose to national fame as the most decorated United States Soldier of World War II. Among his 33 awards and decorations was the Medal of Honor. He also received every decoration for valor that this country had to offer, and an additional five decorations from France and Belgium. He became a legend within the 3rd Infantry Division. Audie quickly rose to the enlisted rank of Staff Sgt. and was given a battlefield commission to 2nd Lt.

Eleven noncommissioned officers from the different battalions within the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, competed to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club which took place at the GREYWOLF Brigade headquarters building on Contingency Operating



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Sergeant Audie Murphy board participants, listen to Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley for their final instructions and a few words of encouragement before the start of the board.

Base Adder, Iraq Sept. 23, 2011.

The SAMC competitors brought their varied military knowledge to the table, learned through years of experience in their military careers, and were anxiously waiting to go before the board to test their fortitude.

Over the past few months, Soldiers studied hard in preparation for this board. Subjects ranging from basic military skills, Army regulations, battle drills and Sergeant Audie Murphy's biography, were drilled into each competitor by their sponsors.

Only the best leaders of the different GREYWOLF Battalions were given the privilege of participating in such an honorable board, but only the best of the best were allowed to become part of

the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

The competitors and their sponsors patiently waited to be called into the SAM board. At the end of the day, only five out of the original 11 outstanding noncommissioned officers were chosen for the prestigious club.



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Sgt. Brandon L. Blodgett (right) Company A, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and native of Fremont, Ohio, poses with his sponsor.



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn M. Moriarity (right) HHB, 2nd Battalion, 82nd FA Regiment, and a native of Killeen, Texas, poses with his sponsor.



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Staff Sgt. Michael S. Ailstock (right) Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Killeen, Texas, poses with his sponsor.



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Sgt. David M. Nagle (right) Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, and a native of San Diego, poses with his sponsor.



Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Sgt. Ryan D. Redner (right) Company A, 2nd Battalion, 82nd FA Regiment, and native of Mebane, N.Y. poses with his sponsor.



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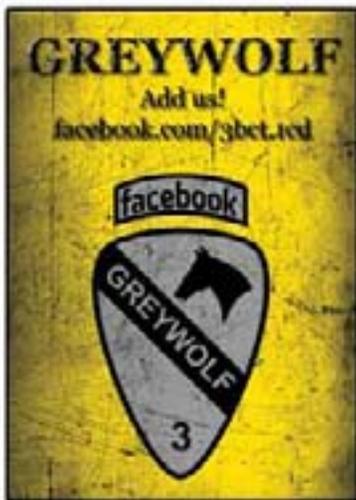
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## 215th Bde. Support Bn.



Photo by Sgt. Holly Hinton

1st Lt. Adriana Ramos, a Brownsville, Texas native, administers the enlistment oath to Spc. Angelica Reyes, a native of San Jose, Calif., aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk flying over Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

# 'Witchdoctors' celebrate re-enlistment and promotion

## 1st Lt. Adriana Ramos CMC, 215th Bde. Support. Bn.

Spc. Angelica Reyes, a native of San Jose, Calif. and a medic with Charlie Medical Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division had an opportunity recently to re-enlist aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk flying over Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq Sept. 5, 2011. She re-enlisted to attend the Licensed Practical Nurse Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The following day, Sept. 6, 2011, Soldiers from CMC, had another chance to gather, this time for a promotion ceremony. Spc. Michael Howard, a native of Panama City, Fla. and a medic with 215th BSB, joined the noncommissioned officer corps when he was laterally promoted from specialist to corporal at the Brigade Medical Supply Office on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Soldiers and officers came together to celebrate these two events which will



Photo by 1st Lt. Adriana Ramos

Spc. Michael Howard, (center) during his lateral promotion from Spc. to Cpl. Howard is pictured with his Company commander, Capt. Evette Barnes, a Huntsville, Texas native, 1st Sgt. John Buford, a Lake Charles, La. native and Sgt. 1st Class Quincy Martin, a native of Dallas, Texas.

have a significant professional impact on the Soldiers' individual careers.



Photo by Sgt. Holly Hinton

Spc. Angelica Reyes, is accompanied by Sgt. Holly Hinton, a Dragoon, Ariz. native and Spc. Turkesa Johnson, a native of Lewisburg, Tenn. on her re-enlistment.