

The GREYWOLF HOWL

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‘Charger’ troops and IA conduct Neighborhood Watch

**2nd Lt. Ryan Tucker
A Co., 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.**

With the end of Operation New Dawn getting closer and the inevitable reposturing of United States Forces-Iraq nearing, the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division have been hard at work protecting fellow Soldiers and ensuring the future stability of Iraq through a joint operation known as Operation Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch is unlike any other mission conducted in the ‘Charger’ area of operations.

These operations enable the Soldiers of Co. A to do more than simply train and mentor their partners from the 14th Iraqi Army Division Commando Battalion at their base, but to train them in the adversity of a tactical, real life environment. This on the job training also promotes public confidence in the Iraqi Security Forces. With more than twenty joint missions, the 14th IA Commandos gained invaluable experience patrolling, establishing traffic control points, searching vehicles and gathering intelligence.

“Operation Neighborhood Watch gives the people of Basrah the chance to see their own organic security forces in action,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael White, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon. “The people here in Basrah see

the Commandos out on the street, taking the lead with patrols and it lets them know that the security in Basrah is taken care of when the U.S. forces are gone.”

With a primary focus on force protection, the Soldiers of Company A have played an integral role in maintaining security both on and off Contingency Operating Base Basrah. Since the inception and execution of the first Neighborhood Watch operation in mid June, COB Basrah and the ‘Charger’ Soldiers that live and work there have seen a significant decrease in the amount of indirect fire attacks on the base.

The insurgent forces still present and active in Basrah have long since

gone into hiding amongst the local populous and continue to stay out of sight as the Iraqi Security Forces become more and more visible while patrolling the neighborhoods of Basrah.

Operation Neighborhood Watch, and its resulting decrease in enemy activity, has been effective in demonstrating to the people of Basrah that the security situation is stable and will continue to be stable for a long time to come.

“Working with the Commandos has given us a great opportunity to ensure that we are leaving Iraq with a capable and competent security force.” said 1st Lt. Brandon Schmidt, Co. A., executive officer.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Thompson
Staff Sgt. Joe Bussell, out on patrol in the Az Zubayr neighborhood of Basrah, Iraq Oct. 1, 2011.

GREYWOLF troopers reaffirm commitment

Spc. Sharla Lewis
3rd AAB PAO

In an oath, members of the military affirm their commitment to the Constitution of the United States, the President and ultimately, each other. By attesting their true faith and allegiance to those appointed over them, they enter a family of patriots and comrades-in-arms.

Like an initial enlistment into the armed forces, a re-enlistment ceremony binds a service member who is already fulfilling their contract to additional years of service. An appointed officer administers the oath of enlistment and often the Soldier's family is present.

In a rare opportunity Oct. 5, Cpl. Shawn Revell and his wife, Spc. Kayla Revell, strengthened the bonds of their family and their commitment to the United States at a mass re-enlistment ceremony together with others from 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Al Asad Air Base. Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, the deputy commanding general of operations for United States Forces – Iraq, presided.

Shawn, an infantryman, is with Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and Kayla, a human intelligence collector is with A Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. While Shawn is stationed at Contingency Operating Base Basrah, Kayla works at Contin-

gency Operating Base Adder in southern Iraq, and both are scheduled to return home to the U.S. by year's end.

Both of the Soldiers said that re-enlisting was something they had planned to do as soon as they realized they would be deploying in 2011. Participating in the ceremony side-by-side however, was too much to hope for until recently.

"This is one of the coolest experiences I've had in my military career," Shawn said. "To find out that there was a ceremony right at the time that we wanted to re-enlist was perfect."

At the ceremony, Shawn and Kayla stood next to each other in a formation of more than 100 Soldiers, seven of which were from the GREYWOLF Brigade.

As Helmick delivered the oath of re-enlistment, the couple raised their right hand and recited in unison, "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic..."

Other troopers also re-enlisted for their families, like Sgt. Holly Hinton, a medic with C Medical Co., 215th Bde. Support Bn. who said she re-enlisted to be able to provide for her daughter.

Hinton has been with 3rd AAB since 2006 after a break in service and working multiple jobs to try to give her daughter the life she deserved. Now



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick presents a speech during a mass re-enlistment ceremony.

able to do that, Hinton said she planned to make the military a career and was happy to be able to have such a memorable re-enlistment ceremony.

"I'm a lifer," she said. "My friend Reyes re-enlisted in a (medical evacuation helicopter), so I had to find something cool to top that. When I heard about this, I jumped at the chance."

After the ceremony, the participants lined up with their certificates to meet the general and his right-hand man Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice.

Seven GREYWOLF troopers reaffirmed their commitment to the U.S. that day. While the ceremony site was empty after guests thinned, the Army family swelled with a renewed sense of loyalty and devotion.

Since the ceremony, 156 Soldiers in 3rd AAB have re-enlisted, and the brigade expects 150 more by Christmas.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Cpl. Shawn Revell and his wife Spc. Kayla Revell recite the oath of enlistment.



Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

Soldiers with 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade and 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command pose with their certificates after the ceremony.

'Dark Knights' prepare for the move south

**1st Lt. Michael Escalera
ADC, 215th Bde. Support. Bn.**

The reposturing of United States Forces - Iraq has become a reality and it is no secret that the U.S. military is in the process of leaving Iraq; there are countless details involved in a move of this magnitude which entails a lot of long hours and detailed coordination.

The United States Army has been in Iraq for nearly a decade, and during that time thousands of pieces of equipment have been brought across both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans to support the war on terrorism. Now with the reposturing underway, it is time to begin the arduous process of shipping that equipment back home from Contingency Operating Base Adder and other locations throughout southern Iraq.

One of the units responsible for these logistical operations is Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

From supplying fuel for vehicles to providing meals and cold drinks to Soldiers and contractors transporting the



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Sgt. Patrico Salagado, a native of Santa Ana, Calif., verifies communication with the Troop Commander and the "Dark Knight" Command Post.

equipment to Kuwait, the Dark Knights are doing their part.

Dark Knight Soldiers coordinate the transportation of equipment to centralized locations throughout Southern Iraq to aid in the process of base closures.

As the only distribution company in the brigade, the Dark Knights provide critical supplies to Soldiers, as well as the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. This support allows our brothers in arms to accomplish their mission and begin their process of relocating back home to America.



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Spc. Aaron Diming, a native of Tutwiler, Miss., secures a load on a M1000 Heavy Equipment Transporter Semi-trailer.



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Sgt. Keith Soto, a native of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, escorts a Heavy Equipment Transporter to the staging lane for inspection.

Bulldog Platoon sharpens teamwork with medical training

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

Bulldog Company continues to challenge their Soldiers as 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division prepares to transfer Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen to Iraqi Security Forces and move their equipment to Contingency Operating Base Adder in advance of the drawdown of United States Forces-Iraq later this year.

Third platoon recently took the opportunity to do some realistic training in sector and practice their medical evacuation skills. The training included establishing a helicopter landing zone and loading litter-bound casualties onto the helicopters.

Soldiers simulated an improvised explosive device blast, or multiple blasts, before setting vehicles in a security perimeter.

Bulldog Soldiers sprung into action immediately applying buddy aid, scanning for secondary attacks, readying litters and calling up a 9-line MEDEVAC to battalion.

“I think it was really good training,” said Pfc. Juan Germosen, a native of the Dominican Republic and the platoon medic. “We should do that sort of training more often.” Germosen also said that the practice of managing multiple patients, triage and working as a team were the most important elements of the exercise.

“It was great because we’ve never worked with the birds before,” said Spc. Mark Yaletchko, a rifleman and native of Westchester, Pa. “Especially for those of us who are on our first deployment. It was good. We learned how to set up security for a landing zone, pushing guys out to the medic, multitasking.” Yaletchko added that he felt confident that the



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Staff Sgt. Mario Comacho, a squad leader from Fresno, Calif., calls in the helicopters to evacuate wounded Soldiers during a training exercise.

unit would perform just as well in a real-life scenario.

Germosen especially liked the way the platoon worked together. He noted that every Soldier jumped in to perform necessary tasks.

“During the first iteration we had two casualties, and I was able to manage them both, but during the second we had four casualties, so I needed to work through other Soldiers to get them stabilized in the short amount of time we had,” said Germosen. “We had really good communication. My guys have been trained on this before, so it was beautiful. In real life, all four casualties would have been stable and we would have gotten them to medical care.”



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Bulldog Company, carry a litter-bound casualty to the evacuation helicopter.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Bulldog Company, sharpen their casualty evacuation skills during a training event.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Soldiers from Bandit Red Platoon pull up the tow bar to practice recovering a vehicle during breakdown operations for 'Saber' safety stand down on Contingency Operating Base Delta.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Staff Sgt. Christopher Maust and Sgt. Chris Rose, of Comanche Troop and Frankfort, Ky. natives, instruct their Soldiers in driver's skills during the 'Saber' safety stand down.

'Saber' safety standards

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

Soldiers and leaders from the 6th 'Saber' Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division conducted a safety focus day in order to promote individual Soldier safety standards for mission essential tasks and leisure activities on Contingency Operating Base Delta, Iraq Sept. 28, 2011.

During the safety training, the squadron limited regular operations to take vehicle recovery classes, drivers training and various other safety classes related to operations in Iraq. The classes were planned and designed by the individual troops, but every Soldier had to take the vehicle recovery class, drivers training, and weapons proficiency classes.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Staff Sgt. Peter Knight, of Blacksheep Platoon, and a New Orleans native, ground guides one of his Soldiers through a slalom of obstacles as a part of the driver's training during.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Spec. Robert Skillern, of Comanche Troop and Houston native, prepares the gunner's restraint system for a rollover drill conducted along with the driver's skills training during the 'Saber' safety stand down.



Alpha Co. takes on Strongman competition with physical intelligence

Capt. Lester Deaver
3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn.

The military intelligence professionals of Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, are the GREYWOLF Brigade's foremost experts with regards to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in support of the mission in southern Iraq.

Much of what these silent professionals do behind closed doors is not for public consumption nor is it a topic for conversation amongst their peers in other military occupational specialties.

This required anonymity results in very little recognition; where intelligence failures are easy to identify, by and large their successes go unnoticed. It is said, all Soldiers are riflemen first, and it is no secret that military intelligence Soldiers are widely regarded as cerebrally inclined. Many of their career fields do not entail additional physical demands that are required in other jobs.

To distinguish themselves, select Outriders recently participated in the Contingency Operating Base Adder Strongman competition hosted by the Army's Morale Welfare and Recreation program at the House of Pain gym. This standardized event measured strength and endurance across three weight classes utilizing three specific events to determine overall strength conditioning and fitness.

The first event was a timed tire-flip. The objective was for the participant to flip the tire as many times as possible in one minute. The tire was from a Mine-Resistant Ambush-



Photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Van Zandt

Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sgt. Robert Easton, competes in the humvee pull.

Protected (MRAP) vehicle and measured approximately four feet in diameter and eighteen inches wide. The metal rim was also in place for the event, making the total weight in excess of 200 pounds.

The second event was a timed humvee pull. The humvee was an 1151 series armored vehicle, easily over 13,000 pounds. The competitors had to grab hold of the vehicle, without the use of a rope or harness, and pull it as far as possible in two minutes.

The third event was a "sandbag" carry, using a full size boxing punch bag weighing approximately 50 pounds. The competitors were required to bear hug the bag without leveraging it on their shoulders and run as far as they could in one minute.

Headquarters Platoon's Spc. Brian Wroda took first place in the heavyweight category and 4th Platoon's Pfc. Christopher Patterson secured first place in the lightweight category. With Outriders placing first in two of the three weight categories, the company was able to secure the overall COB Adder trophy for the battalion.

One of the major focuses during a deployment is increased physical fitness. With fewer distractions and continuous amounts of work to be done, Soldiers rely on exercise as a means of staying combat-ready, resilient and relieving tension while deployed.

Although fitness is a non-negotiable component of the Army lifestyle, the Outriders have elected to exceed the standard and distinguish themselves whenever possible. Based on the Outriders' domination of recent physical events, it is safe to say their efforts have not been in vain.



Photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Van Zandt

Strongman competitors receiving the overall first place trophy from the Morale Welfare and Recreation event coordinator.



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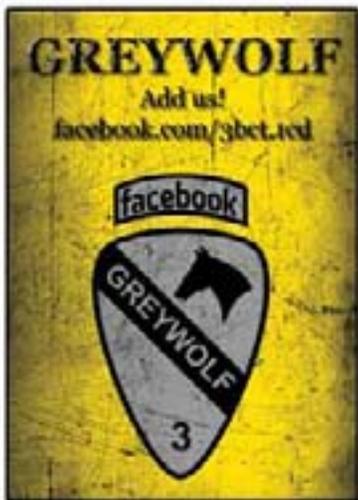
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2nd Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ted Bentler

'Steel Dragon' Soldiers hand out humanitarian aid to local children at a village near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The humanitarian aid kits, which included coloring books, school supplies, hygiene items, sandals and soccer balls, were provided by stateside charity groups.

'Steel Dragon' builds friendship with local Dhi Qar villagers

2nd Lt. Ted Bentler
2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

'Steel Dragon' Soldiers from Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division have been busy during Operation New Dawn. The entire battery has been working hard to plan, execute, and support missions. At a village near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq Soldiers continued to build on their relationships with the Dhi Qar locals when they visited them during a recent mission.

The 3rd Platoon Soldiers have become friendly faces to the villagers over the course of the deployment and this recent visit helped strengthen the platoon's ties to the population.

In the process, they handed out humanitarian aid kits which included coloring books, school supplies, hygiene items, sandals and soccer balls. The platoon also receives care packages from stateside charity groups. To help the local citizens of Dhi Qar, the platoon shares the packages with local Iraqis. They also sent packages

with beanie caps and mittens for the upcoming winter months.

The villagers, especially the children, were grateful for the aid.

"Helping kids and seeing the looks on their faces makes it all worth it," said Sgt. Marcus Coston.

During this mission, the Platoon, nicknamed "Doggpound," received feedback from the community on the current security situation.

"The Iraqi Police stationed nearby are taking a greater role in security operations and recognize their role in the security of Dhi Qar," said 1st Lt. Ryan Ochocki, the 'Doggpound' platoon leader.

Many of the locals are pleased with their increasing quality of life thanks to Iraq's improved security. Villagers are happy to see the police have a larger role in the security of the area. This security has allowed local villagers to conduct their daily affairs and increase their quality of life. This small village is just one example of how Battery B and 2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt., are doing their part to improve, aid, and assist Iraqis during Operation New Dawn.