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April 1, 2009

## MND-C, MND-SE combine, creating MND-S

MND - S PAO

COB BASRA – The Multi-National Division – Center absorbed MND-Southeast into its operating area, forming MND-South, during a transfer of responsibility ceremony Monday at Basra International Airport.

Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, MND-S commander, accepted responsibility from the commander of MND-SE, British Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon.

Oates and the MND-S now support Iraqi Security Forces operations over nine provinces in southern Iraq.

Gen. Raymond Odierno, Multi-National Force – Iraq commanding general, Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin III, Multi-National Corps – Iraq commander, Government of Iraq officials and ISF leaders were on hand to witness the historic transfer.

Austin congratulated the outgoing command for all their accomplishments in Basra.

“We thank you very much for your service to the Coalition and the Iraqi people. You have been an essential part in Basra’s hard-won and new-found freedom,” he said.

The MNC-I commander encouraged the newly-formed MND-S to continue the high standards set by MND-SE.

“As we farewell the Multi-National Division - Southeast, we welcome the Multi-National Division – South...10th Mountain Division Soldiers are the right team for the work that remains,” said Austin, who commanded the 10th Mtn. Div. from Sept. 2003 to Aug. 2005. “(They) have made significant strides in providing security in central and southern Iraq by partnering with the Iraqi Security Forces over the past year. Now they will expand their great partnership with the Iraqi Security



Photo by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

**British Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon, MND-SE commander, and Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, MND-S commander, shake hands during the transfer of responsibility ceremony March 31 in Basra.**

Forces throughout the entire south.”

Oates, who was responsible for eight provinces as MND-C commander, expressed his appreciation for United Kingdom contributions here, calling the U.S. and British relationship outstanding.

“It’s a bitter-sweet day for me to have them leave,” said Oates, a native of San Antonio, Texas. “I’m enormously proud of them and I think the people

of Great Britain should be very proud of their Army.”

The MND-S objectives in Basra include helping with economic development and governance, increasing security for the Iraqi people and assisting with training and transitioning of ISF.

After six years of deployment in southeast Iraq, approximately 4,000 British troops remain. They are scheduled to redeploy this summer.

# Learn a new language for free

SGT. BRANDON LEFLORE  
MND - S



**CAMP VICTORY** – Soldiers can take full advantage of the popular Rosetta Stone language software and learn a new language for free.

Soldiers can sign up for the Army e-learning program and access the Rosetta Stone package using the following web address: [usarmy.skillport.com](http://usarmy.skillport.com) or by simply logging onto their AKO account and clicking on the “My Education” link under self-service. There is a link to Army e-learning from that page. Once logged into Army e-learning, Soldiers can click on “catalog,” then click the link for Rosetta Stone, which will bring up more than 30 language programs, including Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, German, Greek and Italian.

After finding their language of interest, Soldiers will sim-

ply click “add to my plan.” Soldiers can then take the courses at their leisure; it’s completely self-paced.

Rosetta Stone’s teaching technique mimics the learning behaviors of children – it builds an association between images and words. The Rosetta Stone learning package is made up of three learning levels. The first level of instruction, the basic building blocks of learning a new language, consists of 92 lessons, or 200 hours of training. The second level is 118 lessons and more than 250 hours in length, and the third level builds upon conversational skills.

The package, named after the famous Rosetta Stone on display at the British Museum in London, has a game-like interface that is extremely user-friendly and creates an engaging learning atmosphere. The software is designed for fluency and is the trusted language learning software for the U.S. State Department, NASA, Pitney Bowes, and the U.S. Army.

## The CG wants to talk to you!

When?? Sunday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

Baghdad time

(Noon, Fort Drum time)



Go to the Mountain  
Sound Off  
Blog at

[www.taskforcemountain.com](http://www.taskforcemountain.com)

Where?? <http://www.taskforcemountain.com/lima-charlie-chat-room>

[www.taskforcemountain.com](http://www.taskforcemountain.com)

### THE Mountain View

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#### Contributing Units

172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division  
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division  
41st Fires Brigade  
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
793rd Military Police Battalion  
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.  
Task Force 449



# Spartans provide watchful eye in southern Iraq



Photo by 1st Lt. Joanne Cotton  
**(Below)** Soldiers assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's Unmanned Aerial System Platoon move to a UAS launch-and-recovery site on Forward Operating Base Hunter, Iraq, recently.

Photo by 1st Lt. Joanne Cotton  
**(Above)** Spc. Roy Bankhead, a Soldier assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's Unmanned Aerial System Platoon, prepares an aerial systems launcher recently.



**SPC. STEPHEN RAYLEIGH**  
 4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



**COB ADDER** – The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) has been used for reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering by the Department of Defense since 1950.

Today, the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Platoon is using the high-flying, remotely-piloted aircraft to provide real-time imagery along the southeastern border of Iraq.

The UAS troops were initially stationed here at COB Adder when the brigade took responsibility for southern Iraq's tri-province areas of Dhi-qar, Muthana, and Maysan in late June of 2008.

As the brigade began to expand operations, the Spartan Soldiers deployed to Forward Operating Bases Garry Owen and Hunter to use their extensive 'eye in the sky' visuals to monitor the brigade's ground troops and provide increased force protection capabilities.

The platoon initially moved a section of troops to FOB

Garry Owen in September to support the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt. Soldiers with long-range UAV coverage in the city of Al Amarah.

In early October, the 21-man platoon was on the move again to FOB Hunter in southern Maysan Province. The 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. Soldiers worked closely with the UAS platoon, while the Soldiers provided aerial coverage for the entire Maysan province.

"Our Soldiers were up to the task," said Lt. Col. Timothy Norton, the 4th STB, 4th BCT, 1st. Cav. Div. Commander. "They realized how important their role was, so relocating wasn't an issue at all."

The 1-9 Cav. Regt. accommodated the UAS platoon by requesting all the necessary equipment and supplies to turn a barren patch of dirt into a functioning launch-and-recovery UAS site.

"There was a lot of cooperation with 1-9, running through courses of action to find possible solutions," said Chief Warrant Officer Adam Morton, of Brownsville, Texas.

The challenges of this deployment have strengthened, honed and refined the skills of this group of Spartans as they provide crucial aerial intelligence for their brigade.

# Headline Round-up

## World News:

SEOUL, South Korea - Two American journalists detained at North Korea's border with China earlier this month will be indicted and tried for illegal entry and hostile acts, Pyongyang's state-run news agency said March 31. The Korean Central News Agency report did not say when a trial might take place, but said moves to indict the Americans are underway as the investigation continues. "The illegal entry of U.S. reporters into the DPRK and their suspected hostile acts have been confirmed by evidence and their statements," the report said, referring to the country by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Euna Lee and Laura Ling, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's San Francisco-based Current TV media venture, were detained by North Korean border guards March 17.

## U.S. News:

BALTIMORE - A former religious cult member plead guilty Monday to starving her 1-year-old son to death after making an unusual deal with prosecutors: If the child is resurrected, her plea will be withdrawn. Ria Ramkissoon, 22, also agreed to testify against four other members of the now-defunct religious group known as 1 Mind Ministries. All four are charged with first-degree murder in the death of Javon Thompson. According to a statement of facts, the cult members stopped feeding the boy when he refused to say "Amen" after a meal. After Javon died, Ramkissoon sat next to his decomposing body and prayed for his resurrection. Ramkissoon's attorney, Steven D. Silverman, said Ramkissoon believes the resurrection will occur. She agreed to plead guilty only after prosecutors said they would drop the charges if the child comes back to life, Silverman said.

## Odd News:

DENVER (AP) - A parrot whose cries of alarm alerted his owner when a little girl choked on her breakfast has been honored as a hero. Willie, a Quaker parrot, has been given the local Red Cross chapter's Animal Lifesaver Award. In November, Willie's owner, Megan Howard, was babysitting for a toddler. Howard left the room and the little girl, Hannah, started to choke on her breakfast. Willie repeatedly yelled "Mama, baby" and flapped his wings, and Howard returned in time to find the girl already turning blue. Howard saved Hannah by performing the Heimlich maneuver but said Willie "is the real hero."

## Quote of the Day

"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment." - Barry LePatner

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		1	3	9					7
u				3	4				

For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



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## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### Fishbowl Gym

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K.

Registration begins @ 7 a.m.,

race begins @ w8 a.m.

T-shirts awarded to top

finishers.

### Freedom Chapel

Sundays

Protestant (Traditional) @ 10

a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass @ 12 p.m.

LDS service @ 2 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox @ 4 p.m.

Protestant (Contemporary) @ 12

p.m.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @

7 p.m.

Tuesdays

God & the Military @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar Lessons @ 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Catholic Choir practice @ 5:30

p.m.

Fridays

Catholic hour @ 6:30 p.m.