

SENTINELS

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49th Military Police Brigade

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2010

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A Page of History

Brigade Soldiers get involved with Iraq national election



TOP: The operations center of the Baghdad Provincial Directorate of Police headquarters was in constant action March 7 during the Iraq national election. Soldiers from the 49th Military Police Brigade and civilians attached to the unit monitored security operations.

LEFT: Civilians walk past Pfc. Michael Chappell, a Soldier from the 229th Military Police Company, who was observing a checkpoint near the Baghdad Provincial Directorate of Police headquarters. Civilians had to walk to various voting sites during the March 7 Iraq general election. A curfew restricted traffic flow to just essential vehicles.

BOTTOM: An Iraqi father walks his daughter past a local policeman to a voting poll near Baghdad's Provincial Directorate of Police headquarters March 7 as Iraqis exercised their right to vote in the 2010 national election.

(US Army photos/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA)

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD – This is a story about courage. It's a tribute to the Iraqi Police, the brave citizens who stepped forward to vote March 7 during Iraq's national election, and a slew of American Soldiers who participated in a part of Iraq history.

Above and beyond, this is for the Iraqi people. Millions voted despite multiple incidents to lure them away from the polls. In Baghdad alone, more than 120 incidents occurred. The majority happened within two or three hours after voting sites opened.

"Today's voting makes it clear that the future of Iraq belongs to the people of Iraq," said President Obama (www.whitehouse.gov). "I congratulate the Iraqi people on their courage throughout this historic election. Today, in the face of violence from those who would only destroy, Iraqis took a step forward in the hard work of building up their country."

Those American Soldiers – particularly a platoon-size force located at Baghdad's Provincial Directorate of Police (PDOP) headquarters and Patrol Headquarters from the 229th Military Police Company – exemplified what the U.S. military has done since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003. Amid all the bombings and other blasts, the PDOP-based Soldiers stuck to their mission of "assisting the Iraqi Police. They stood on the streets, overseeing a checkpoint manned by local authorities, assuring that proper procedures were followed.

"It's supposed to be some kind of scare tactic, but it's not scaring us," Sgt. Ralph Jarrell, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 229th PDOP crew, said about the bombing. "We were prepared for it. We know our mission is important to the election. We're not surprised (the bombings) were coming."

The 49th Military Police Brigade sent members of its Police Transition Team to PDOP with the 229th's assistance to serve as information and intelligence facilitators. This crew of activated Army National Guardsmen monitored how Iraqis set up their election security. They provided advice. But for the most part, they just observed and let the Iraqis run their own

See **ELECTION**, Page 5



CONTINGENCY OPERATING STATION HUNTER, Iraq – Capt. Martin of 2-13 CAV and Lt. Chiro of the 57th Military Police Company meet with col. Mehedi, the Qalat Salah ERU commander, to discuss the Iraq national election and security for polling stations in the southern Maysan Province.



Empire state MPs partners in safe election

By SGT. NEIL W. MCCABE

17th Fires Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq - As tens of thousands of Basra residents voted in the national election, Military Police Soldiers from the New York National Guard's 206th Military Police Company joined their Iraqi Security Force partners monitoring the country's second largest city in its Provincial Joint Communications Center.

The PJCC is a compound of many facilities, including a modern crime lab, a criminal intelligence center, a jail and barracks and administrative offices, said 1st Lt. Nicholas Monuteaux, a platoon leader with the company, a N.Y. National Guard unit based in Albany. The company is deployed to COB Basra, where it falls under the 203rd Military Police Battalion, attached the 17th Fires Brigade.

Rather than a staging area for executing missions, Monuteaux, who lives in Rensselaer, N.Y., said the PJCC is where representatives from Government of Iraq law enforcement, public safety and military agencies and forces work together in single command room to keep each other informed, hearing the same reports and looking at the same map.

For roughly eight hours on election day, Lt. Col. Charles Buxton, commander of the 203rd, a unit of the Alabama National

Guard, stayed at the PJCC to be on hand if something happened to break the peace.

To help the Iraqis better follow the movements of military units and teams of election observers the MP's were tracking, Buxton, who lives in Duluth, Ga., brought with him pieces of paper, just smaller than a postal stamp, labeled with the name of a military element or election observer team. These tabs were placed on the large high-resolution satellite image of the province the Iraqis laid out on the map table of the long room.

For the MP's, another advantage is being available to answer questions the Iraqis have about the missions and posture of American forces, he said.

A case in point was the report after the polls had closed that an American military convoy was spotted just outside the Basra city limits. The Iraqis were not tracking the convoy and an Iraqi police commissioner went to the map table at the end of the command center's long room to plot the convoy's location.

Joining the commissioner were other IP's and an Iraqi Navy lieutenant commander, whose work space and desk were near the table. Together with some MP's, they compared the report with the positions and movements of American

See **NEW YORK GUARD**, Page 5

Iraq election: Our contributions were so evident

As the 49th Military Police Brigade Headquarters reaches its halfway point I'd like to reflect on our many important accomplishments and comment on our focus over the next few months. Rather than cataloging those accomplishments, I ask you to consider their context.

It is easy to go into "auto-pilot" mode when we are doing our jobs day to day. The jobs our Soldiers do day to day in the field and in our headquarters is just part of the story. The impact of that work goes much farther. The halfway point is a perfect time to take a step back and take account of our contributions as a unit. Nowhere is our contribution so evident than in the recent Iraqi National Election.

Recently Gen. David Petraeus was interviewed on NBC News "Meet the Press". The moderator asked him, "Of all the countries within Central Command that you oversee, 20, would you consider Iraq to be the most democratic?" General Petraeus answered "Right now it--I don't think there's any question right now that the Iraqi government, however imperfect--and this is "Iraqracy" at work, not necessarily Western democracy. But this is a government that is representative of all of the people, it is responsive to the people, it, its leaders know they are facing the electorate on March 7. There's a fierce campaign, there's high political drama that's gone on.

I think Gen. Petraeus' response is testament to the incredible efforts you have brought to bear on your mission. From training the Iraqi Police, to performing Area Security missions, to conducting law enforcement missions, every one of you has contributed to the transition of the Iraqi government from a dictatorship to a democracy. It's something to be very proud of. But our work is not done. If an Iraqi democracy is to survive, the government must be able to provide

BRIG. GEN. DONALD CURRIER 49th Military Police Brigade Commander

essential government services to its people. A capable police force is one such service. MPs have been training IPs in this country for almost eight years now. Their progress was very slow at first, but has accelerated rapidly since June 30, 2009. Although they can effectively police on their own now, we still have something to offer. We will stay engaged, even as we turn-in our equipment and prepare to leave. No units will be extended and no units will miss their departure date because they failed to turn-in their equipment.

We are in a precarious time that leads into the seating of the government and the election of the prime minister. This is all taking place while the United States draws down its forces to an unprecedented level. This will present a period of great vulnerability. I ask you to be aware of the following issues as you complete the remainder of your mission:

1) Non-Battle Casualties. Tragically, the Brigade suffered two non-battle casualties in the month of February. One was a suicide, while the other Soldier was killed in an automobile accident while home on leave. There are few things more difficult for a unit than losing one of its own. I ask that you re-double your efforts to watch your buddy. Every unit has a battle buddy policy, but how seriously do YOU take that policy. Whether you are the newest private or the commanding general, the buddy policy applies to YOU. It's OK to correct your buddy and to enforce Army standards. It is OK to ask a fellow Soldier how they are doing, especially if they appear more quiet than usual. Trust your instincts and act. It's better to have a few awkward moments between buddies than to



not say anything at all, only to find yourself looking back and saying, "I saw the signs, but did nothing." The challenge with suicide prevention is taking our training and applying it in a day-to-day environment.

2) Family. Please continue to communicate with your families at home. Tell them how important their support is to your morale and thank them for that support. Commanders and leaders, you have a responsibility to express your heartfelt appreciation to the Family Readiness efforts being implemented at your home station. I fully understand the struggles Family Readiness leaders have in achieving momentum towards a successful program. Your gratitude toward these volunteers helps reinforce their efforts. Be available to your network at home if they want to conduct teleconference calls or they want you to write a letter in their newsletter. But please, make the effort to prioritize our foundation: The Families.

3) Iraqi Weapons. Last month we had a unit leave theater that abandoned Glock pistols in their Company area (this in-
... Continued on PAGE 5 ...

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| <h3>Video Contest</h3> <p>The second annual Peer to Peer Video Contest, sponsored by the US Army Combat Readiness Safety Center, has begun. The Army wide competition encourages Soldiers to create safety videos. Winners will receive up to \$2,000. For more information, log onto: https://safety.army.mil/peertopeer</p> | <h3>Death March</h3> <p>The 21st annual Bataan Memorial Death March will be held March 21 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. This event memorializes those who died in the tragic 1942 event in the Philippines. Registration is open. Log onto www.bataanmarch.com for more information.</p> | <h3>Freedom Award</h3> <p>National Guardsmen and Army Reservists are encouraged to nominate their civilian employers for the Employer Support Freedom Award sponsored by the Secretary of Defense. The honor goes to businesses that have provided exceptional support. Go to www.freedomaward.mil.</p> | <h3>Say it Loud</h3> <p>"If they can make penicillin out of mouldy bread, they can sure make something out of you." -- Muhammad Ali</p> | <h3>Wild Guesses</h3> <p>What does man love more than life? Fear more than death or mortal strife? What do the poor have, what the rich require, and what contented men desire? What does the miser spend, the spendthrift save, and all men carry to their graves? ANSWER: Nothing.</p> |
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SENTINELS

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In this issue:



4 Women's History
The month of March is dedicated as National Women's History Month. The 49th Military Police Brigade held a ceremony March 3 to honor women who have made a difference in Iraq.



6 Biden's guards
The 229th Military Police Company had a unique mission. Their job was to help protect Vice President Biden during his visit to Iraq in February.



9 Heroes
The 49th Military Police Brigade credits its recent heroes with a four-page layout, depicting recent Soldiers honored as Weekly Heroes for various accomplishments.



3 Recognize your employer
The Patriot Award is an honor given to employers of National Guardsmen and Reservists.



8 Haiti fundraiser
A Soldier from California came all the way to Iraq to serve his country. But now he's on a mission to help the people of Haiti following the devastating January earthquake.

STORY
9
19
F
E
A
T
U
R
E
S

Remain vigilant, fight complacency

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROBERT LILES

49th Military Police Brigade Command Sergeant Major



Hello once again, Sentinels. Well, we are over the hump, yet we still have a long way to go. I would like to ask that you remain vigilant and continue to look out for each other over the coming months. Complacency has no place in our ranks and I ask that we continue to build our team. Now that the heat has made its presence known, I would ask that leaders at all levels monitor your peers, subordinates and leaders. We all need a gentle nudge from time to time.

I have witnessed our Soldiers actively engaged in personal physical fitness events and group activities. I would ask that you remain alert and practice safe PT wherever you are. Theater-wide, there is a significant rise in sports related injuries. Please don't become a statistic!

Recently I had the pleasure of watching the very first 49th Military Police Brigade Headquarters-Headquarters Company women's flag football practice and game. These lady warriors came out to win. I was very impressed that they took some hard falls. Although I was concerned with physical injuries, these lady warriors never fussed or whimpered. In fact there was quite a bit of bolstering and most definitely Esprit de Corps. Sgt. Chris Coleman, Spc. Farrell Mapp and Spc. Melvin Brunson were on site to coach the ladies. Their depth of knowledge was evident. On Sunday, the ladies played their first game. Unfortunately I had to depart. But before I left, I had observed that the other team outnumbered our lady warriors. However, our ladies came to win and the other team had to earn the win.

All of these ladies were proud to share the outcome of the day after and show off their bruises. I did see an occasional limp and grimace. Hey, No pain no gain, right? I hear the ladies are working on a team T-shirt. I can't wait to see their next game. Way to go lady warriors!

New team members. Anyone interested

in joining our women's football team should contact Spc. Mapp, Sgt. Lauren Whitted, Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald or Sgt. Coleman.

I have seen that our softball team has started again. Although I was not able to attend this game, I heard that it went very well. Good luck to all on the softball team. I hope to see and attend your next game. No injuries please.

Patience and Compassion. With warm weather and free time comes flaring tempers and outbursts of aggression. Instead I challenge all to be professional and have consideration for others. First and foremost, we are comrades and more so a family. Think first. If you would not act this way with your own family, then why would you do so with your brothers and sisters in arms? They too might be having a difficult day and could be in need of your support.

If you see a Soldier in distress, take the time to intervene and share a moment of kindness. If the situation is out of your ability to provide direction and support, steer the Soldier in the right direction. Use your moral compass and get help for your peer. The chaplain is always available for spiritual support and more. Even if you do not attend church or believe in religion, you might be amazed that the chaplain is extremely well versed in resolving many issues. He is a skilled counselor and has many years assisting Soldiers and their families. I highly recommend the chaplain.

Schools. I would like to challenge each of you to expand your personal horizons while on deployment. There is time to attend college courses. Yes, we have an operational mission. However, the Commander and I are committed to you improving your personal knowledge. Visit your educational center and ask about tuition assistance and upcoming classes. For some of you tutors, are available for a nominal fee.

Formal Military Schools. Oh yes, it is never too late to plan for your future in the military. If you are content to never advance your military career, you need to go see your first sergeant. He or she needs to motivate you. Everyone should be more than interested in advancing your military career. NO ONE owes you your next promotion. You must earn that promotion. You have an obligation to show your leadership that you desire that next promotion and are the best qualified.

Clearly, you are more qualified than any

other. This means that you have done your part in the process. You need to ensure that that your ERB is correct, your awards are coded and permied, you possess the proper level of NCOES, your NCOERs are up to date and none missing from your record, you have a current DA photo, your EQIP is updated and not due to expire. Also make sure your APFT is current and you have a valid height and weight certification. Get an update on your weapons qualification. I strongly encourage you to visit with your platoon sergeant and first sergeant. Trust me, they will help you.

Negligent discharges. This still undermines our efforts in keeping the force safe. With safety being all encompassing and paramount, leaders are the pivotal point in eliminating this problem. NCOs should be involved in every aspect of loading and clearing procedures. No one should be loading or clearing their weapon without a team leader, squad leader or NCOIC. Leaders at all levels will, without fail, oversee loading and clearing procedures! This is not optional. It is not negotiable.

317th MP Battaion. The Centurions recently held their first NCO \ Soldier of the Quarter board. CSM Dorsey stated that he had some truly remarkable Soldiers and NCOs appear before his board. CSM Dorsey stated that the board was more challenging than most expected. The Soldiers and NCOs came prepared and represented the 317th MP Battalion with true devotion and passion.

336th MP Battalion. The Steel Soldiers were fortunate to receive and escort Vice President Biden. These Soldiers had the Personnel Security Detail mission. According to Command Sgt. Maj. Spice, all represented the Military Police Corp flawlessly. My hat is off to you Steel Soldiers. You rock. For those of you at the Criminal Justice Center, I have been visiting on a regular basis. Trust me, I see the fruits of your labor. I do appreciate your willingness to show me what you do and how you do it. Keep up the good work.

203rd MP Battalion. Enforcers, I have not been to Basra in a little while. But each time that I'm there, you really do amaze me. Command Sgt. Maj. Hooper is extremely inviting and cordial to say the least. I guess it is just the southern hospitality that comes so natural. I have seen the remote and austere conditions that most of your Soldiers have to endure. What is so amazing is that I have not heard one complaint! Not sure how you do

it, but I applaud each and every one of you in your commitment to the mission and meeting our commanders intent. Leaders, AWE-SOME job.

151st MP Battalion. Devil Guards, I owe you my apologies. Other than seeing you at pre-mob training in beautiful down town Camp McGregor, Fort Bliss, Texas, I owe you a visit and some time abroad. You have had some real challenges. Your recent move was difficult to say the least. Nevertheless, I am proud of your willingness to adapt and overcome any mission and accept the needs asked of you by higher headquarters. Hooah!

Non-Lethal training. Staff Sgt. Daugherty and Staff Sgt. John McDonald planned, prepared and executed two classes and certified 61 Soldiers. This is significant as the PMG mandated law enforcement recertification for all 31-series annually. In this class, students found that they had not utilized the M-203 or the 12-gauge shotgun. So the training was relevant and necessary. Students reviewed formal doctrine in a classroom environment and put it into practice on the range. They demonstrated proficiency and knowledge of each weapon system along with its capabilities and limitations.

More classes are scheduled for all 31-series. If you did not attend either of these classes, YOU WILL. Upcoming classes will include FN 303, chemical agents, baton, X-26 taser, restraint gear and report writing, just to name a few. All had a good time. Everyone found that they did not know everything that was taught in this class. I assure you, you won't leave saying that the class was boring.

Sentinel Hero of the Week. I do this program every Friday. Not everyone gets selected, but everyone is a hero. Sometimes it's hard to pick the one Soldier who truly stands out. We have so many worthy and deserving Soldiers. It is your first sergeant who selects and recommends through your battalion command sergeant major, then to me. I will compare the submission and select the best articulated Hero of the Week. Packaging is everything!

Background is extremely important. Demonstrated knowledge and the total Soldier concept are equally weighed.

Anyone is eligible. I whole heartedly encourage you to approach your platoon sergeant and ask him what you need to do to win this award. Good luck to all of you.

206th mentors IPs in police tactics, techniques

BASRA, Iraq -- Members of the 206th Military Police Company's 2nd squad, 3rd platoon recently began a mission of training Iraqi Police in police tactics and techniques.

Members of the squad were excited to continue the mission, coming off of two weeks training Iraqi Police in crime scene management. The police tactics mission took place at the Shiaba Joint Training Academy; a facility used to train new Iraqi Police, as well as continued training for current IPs.

"We are teaching them the 'bread and butter' of what police do. Handcuffing, searching, and building clearing is going to be a daily task for these IPs," stated Sgt. Caleb Nappi of Auburn, New York.

This training session consisted of four days per week of classroom and hands on practical exercises including two days on the shooting range. The IPs showed up every day with a great attitude and a willingness to learn. Searching, handcuffing, room/building clearing, weapon safety, weapon maintenance, and weapon marksmanship were topics



covered during this training.

While squad noncommissioned officers conduct the classroom portion of this training, the entire squad enjoys getting "hands-on" with the practical exercises. All of the Soldiers feel a great sense of accomplishment being able to be a part of giving Iraqis the necessary tools to ensure their safety.

"These are worthy missions, we go back to the COB every day feeling a sense of accomplishment," said Spc. Paul Croteau of Clifton Park, New York. The 3rd platoon Renegades will continue to lead the way in accomplishing any given mission with great success.

Writing women back into history

Ceremony held to honor women making a difference in Iraq

By SGT KENNETH BINCE
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – With the theme of “Writing Woman Back into History”, United States Forces-Iraq (USF-I) celebrated National Women’s History Month with a ceremony highlighting the contributions of women in world history -- as well as in the U.S. military -- at Al Faw Palace on Mar. 3.

The palace is home to the USF-I headquarters and is often utilized for grand events such as presidential visits, U.S. naturalizations and promotion ceremonies. The former vacation palace of Saddam Hussein was the backdrop where more than 50 servicemembers and civilians recognized the contributions of women.

Twelve Army and Air Force general officers attended the event, including Lt. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, USF-I deputy commanding general for support.

Upon completion of the invocation by 49th MP Brigade chaplain, Lt. Col Daniel Viveros, and the national anthem, event organizers showed an 8-minute video highlighting women in the U.S. Armed Forces and Iraqi Police.

“Growing out of a small-town school event in California, Women’s History Month is a celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture and society,” said Master Sgt. Steve Melton, the event’s master of ceremonies. “The United States observes it

annually throughout the month of March.”

One month prior to the event, an essay contest was initiated. The winner read her essay during the ceremony. First Lt. Kristen Johnson, 472nd Signal Company’s executive officer, read her essay that incorporated works of literature with the current accomplishments of women in the military.

Four women guest speakers lectured on a variety of experiences and historic women figures. Spc. Jakeya French, 49th MP Brigade human resources specialist, spoke about her experience of witnessing the first class of women Iraqi Police officers who graduated Nov. 10, 2009.

Sgt. Deleal Gladney, 49th MP Brigade human resources sergeant,

talked about four family members, all women in her personal history who played pivotal roles in her personal development as a woman and as a Soldier.

The 151st Military Police Battalion executive officer, Maj. Teresa James, spoke about a special group of women in the history of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Lioness team, and how they changed the face of the combat Soldier.

“The Lioness team originated out of the necessity of the need to search the Iraq women during missions,” said James. “Mechanics, signal Soldiers to administrative clerks, were assembled, trained and conducted side-by-side operations with

Army and Marine combat units.”

“These women went beyond their scope of their trained specialties to accomplish the mission,” said James.

Col. Grace Edinboro, deputy commander for the 49th MP Brigade, focused and profiled prominent women in world history.

“Perhaps there is not the need to write women back into history, but include the study of significant women in our history. Something, Women History Month encourages us to do,” said Edinboro.

“I’m happy with how the event turned out,” said Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th MP Brigade commander. “The speakers were interesting, passionate, articulate and informative.”

US Army photos
SGT KENNETH BINCE
TOP: 1st Lt. Kristen Johnson, 472nd Signal Company, executive officer, stands next to her winning essay that she read during the Women’s History Month event held at the Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq, Mar. 3.

CENTER: Spc. Jakeya French, 49th Military Police Brigade, human resources specialist, talks about her personal experience of witnessing the first class of women Iraq police officers who graduated last year.

LEFT: Col. Grace Edinboro, 49th Military Police Brigade deputy commander, quizzes the crowd that attended the Women’s History Month event about prominent women figures in history. Edinboro, the fourth and final guest speaker at the event, also spoke about the adversity many women still face in many cultures and nations throughout the world.

“I think we all learned something about women in history this evening. When you think about it, we have a lot of female servicemembers making history right here, right now. I’m proud of every one of them,” said Currier.

66th MPs train, graduate 36 Iraqi policemen

By SGT KENNETH BINCE
49th Military Police Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – Soldiers of the 66th Military Police Company graduated its first class of 36 Iraqi policemen from a 5-day election security class here Feb. 4.

The Fort Lewis, Wash.-based MP company, nicknamed ‘Wareagles’, arrived in theater early January to conduct police transition training, which consists of training, guidance and mentorship to their Iraqi equivalents. In addition to the PTT mission throughout the Diyala province, the 66th MPs took ownership of the ‘on the FOB training’ mission, from the 287th MP Company. “We hit the ground with our boots running,” said Capt. Ranjini T. Darnaraj, 66th MP Company commander. “66th Soldiers were training IP from the province before our TOA (transfer of authority) ceremony.”

Second platoon, 2nd squad was tasked with operating ‘on the FOB training’. “In the month of February, with the assistance of International Police Advisors (IPAs), we changed the training from crime scene investigations to election security,” said 1st Lt. Rachel Morgan, 66th MP Company 2nd platoon leader.

“The first of the five days of training starts off with an overview of what will be covered during the entire five days,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Meuret, 66th MP Company, on the FOB training, director.” During that day, the instruction includes, policing in a democracy and human rights classes.”

“The IPs here are very motivated and willing to learn, said Meuret. “When they come here in the morning they are ready to start, it’s probably because their sergeant major ac-



US Army photos/SGT. KENNETH BINCE

Sgt. David Patterson, 66th Military Police Company election security class noncommissioned officer in charge, lectures on a segment of training during the 5-day course.

Two Iraqi policemen control and search a fellow student while conduct election security training Feb. 3 during the 5-day “On the FOB training” held at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.

companies the policemen all through the five days of instructions.”

“So that IPs attending the classes here have a command structure within their training group or ranks,” explained Meuret. “That’s very similar to the way the US military is setup.

“Not only do the training classes have internal Iraqi command and control, the sergeant major marches his policemen to and from the dining facility for lunch,” said Sgt. David Patterson, 66th election security class noncommissioned officer in charge. “We all eating lunch together, which is a good time for the instructors to establish a rapport with the IPs and their sergeant major.”

The second day of instruction consisted of the different types of searches that will be conducted at the polling sites, along with responsibilities of each officer at the different search stations. “Personal searches, hand wandering with metal detectors and the importance of each of the different search stations,” said Patterson. “And how it is very critical to watch and control the individuals search stations.”

The third day of training is a consolidation of the individual skills that were learned in the previous two days. “Here we put everything together, said Patterson. “The training always starts off with a walk through, or at half speed, and then we move up to full



speed,” said Patterson. “Once the full speed is achieved, scenarios are added and changed up.”

The fourth day is the testing day for the class of Iraqi policemen. “All stations of the polling place are observed and tested. From the individual search stations to the command and control of the whole polling site, are graded and evaluated,” said Patterson.

“Once the IPs achieve the standard, the IPA, MP trainers, and Iraqi police conduct an AAR (after action report),” he said, “That’s where the instructors and IPA give and take opinions from the IPs on how effective the course was, and to provide feedback on how to improve the course for future classes.”

Currier: Detention operations begin next month

Continued from Page 2

cluded an assortment of weapons intended for Iraqi Security Forces). Further investigation revealed some unit members stole Glock pistols and shipped them home or destroyed the pistols when suspicions started to rise.

The entire unit was held back from departing theater. The company commander and first sergeant were relieved of command. CID continues their investigation of criminal allegations.

We can be thankful this was discovered before they left theater and that most of the lost weapons were recovered. However I would be remiss if I did not share this story. As Soldiers, we all understand the concept of personal responsibility and accountability for our equipment. Integrity is an Army Value. Soldiers who make honest mistakes in furthering their mission are rarely punished harshly, but they are held accountable. Those who compromise themselves and their unit in order to cover-up an embarrassing incident or mistake

should expect no sympathy.

We have processes in place to ship war trophies home; any Glock pistols discovered must be distributed to the Iraqi Security Forces. Please contact your unit leadership if you discover anything unusual related to non-MTOE weapons.

4) Detention Operations. On April 1 the 49th MP Brigade is establishing a command Tactical post at Camp Cropper to assume detention operational responsibilities. My deputy commander, Col. Grace Edinboro, is assuming responsibility of this mission. This is a no-fail mission with severe political and diplomatic ramifications.

I want you to be aware of this development because it will essentially double the size of the brigade, from 5,000 to 10,000 Soldiers, close to 10 percent of the USF-I overall strength. I have challenged my staff to design systems and processes to keep up with the administrative and logistical (not to mention special staff) support related to this mission development.

A friend of mine recently sent me a quote that I thought was appropriate the work our Soldiers are doing all over Iraq. When you find yourself wondering if you can really make a difference in the destiny of Iraq and the vital national interests of our own country, consider this quote:

"Because your own strength is unequal to the task, do not assume that it is beyond the powers of man; but if anything is within the powers and province of man, believe that it is within your own compass also." ~ Marcus Aurelius

Each of you reading this letter is important to the Brigade's mission. Your contribution to this historical period in Iraq's development as a democratic nation and therefore to future generations of Americans cannot be overstated.

Thank you for the work you do every day. I thank you and your family for the sacrifices you make every day to serve your country. I am very proud you all.



US Army Photo/SGT 1ST CLASS JEFF PARKER

CONSOLIDATED OPERATING STATION GARRY OWEN, Iraq—On March 7, members of 3rd platoon, 57th Military Police Company, along with Staff Sgt. David Hill, Military Working Dog handler (MWD), and his partner, Marco, of the 1st Armored Division MWD Detachment conducted a random search of local national tents in order to identify any contraband.

Staff Sgt. Hill and Marco are stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder, but were sent to COS Garry Owen to provide MWD support during the elections. The MWD team also performed several training demonstrations of their abilities while standing by on the COS.

NEW YORK GUARD

Continued from Page 1

forces labeled on the map, while other MP's called up to their battalion Tactical Operations Center with their own queries.

Within 15 minutes of the report, the police commissioner was able to report to the shift commander that the American military vehicles were part of an Iraqi team securing ballots from polling stations.

Another example was when the battalion TOC called the MP's at 5:30 p.m. to make sure the IP's knew that the GOI lifted the election night curfew. One MP turned to another and said, "Yeah they know-they told us." In fact, the IP's had passed the information to the Americans just before noon.

Throughout the day, Lt. Col. Awooda Abdal Hafeel Manaa, the election day PJCC shift commander, conducted video conference calls with the national operations center in Baghdad with updates on the public safety and security situation. This dialogue from a mid-afternoon call was typical:

Baghdad: Are there any reports of violence?

Manaa: No, nothing.

Baghdad: Are you sure there are no emergencies?

Manaa: Yes.

Baghdad: Then, you are still the "White Province."

By "White Province," the national operations center meant the city and province of Basra were not marred by trouble or violence, Monuteaux said. "Basra is the model for all the other provinces today."

As reports came to the MP's, often Buxton himself would move the tabs and use these updates as an opportunity to brief the shift commander.

At 6:15 p.m., after the polls had closed and before Buxton returned to the Basra Operations Center, a centralized facility specifically for the Iraqi military, he gestured to his interpreter and said, "Let's let the shift commander know what is going on."

Then, at the map table, the bat-

talion commander briefed Manaa on the most recent movements of American, British and other foreign contingents. When he had finished, the IP colonel asked Buxton for an honest assessment of how the day's operation had gone.

During his drive through the city that morning, Buxton said to him, he saw that both security force officers and patrolmen carried themselves with professionalism.

"I am glad it went well today and there were no accidents," the battalion commander said. "I think you had a very good plan."

The practice of keeping the Iraqi Police as the inner ring, with primacy in the city, while the Iraqi Army provided security around the outer ring, also worked out very well, he said. "Now we just have to work together to secure the ballots."

For the voters, the day was over. But, for the Iraqi Security Forces and their partners from New York State, it was on to the next phase.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

operation.

"Everything they've done is impressive," said Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, 49th commander, during a brief stop at the PDOP operations center. "It's so different from the last time we were here. What they're doing today says a lot about the Iraqi Police."

This election, says Gen. Currier, was of special interest. When the 49th deployed in 2005-06, he witnessed the December 2005 general election. The 49th was strongly involved with that process by directing IPs, said the general. But this year, the 49th was in a supporting role. The unit became the important front seat passenger, but not the driver. It observed and provided advice. It let the Iraqis run their own operation.

"The fact that they were able to coordinate their planning and execution with other security forces demonstrated a capability that they did not have a short time ago," Currier explained. "The Iraqi Police demonstrated their ability to plan and execute security operations for the elections in Baghdad. That entailed a comprehensive effort to plan and execute polling station security, checkpoints, curfew enforcement, effective vehicle movement restriction and a public information campaign that reassured its citizens that they

were as safe as possible."

Maj. Jeanette Stuart, 49th's officer in charge of Iraqi Police services national transition team, led the Patrol Headquarters element. She led a team of six who served as the "conduit" for getting information to and from United States Forces-Iraq and the Iraqi Patrol Police.

"The 49th has been partnering with various IP agencies in Baghdad to provide mentoring, training, support and assistance, as required," said the Reno, Nev. resident. "The Iraqi Police Services successfully assisted in providing security for the Government of Iraq Elections. They were able to prevent violent extremists from influencing or disrupting the Iraqi election process. The public gained confidence in the Iraqi Police's ability to provide civil security."

Even the 49th's Personal Security Detail got involved. Staff Sgt. Clinton Bayoneta, PSD noncommissioned officer in charge, and more than a dozen members escorted Currier to PDOP and Patrol Headquarters. They drove more than 35 miles through Baghdad, he said. All returned unscathed and ready for another mission.

The 229th, based in Virginia Beach, Virginia, added to PDOP's internal defense. It regularly sent out foot patrols, where Soldiers

walked the compound to check its perimeter. It stationed mine resistant, ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles near the facility's entrance. Gunners manned them around the clock. Election day, Soldiers rotated monitoring an entry control point (ECP) occupied by Iraqi police. This ECP was about 200 yards from a voting site.

They were in constant radio contact especially during the explosions. Fortunately, none happened near PDOP. That could be attributed to the Iraqi police's success of curbing attacks.

"The enemy's (tactics, techniques and procedures) are forcing themselves to go further away from targets," said 229th's Lt. Bradley Churchill, platoon leader. "That means the Iraqi police are doing their job. If anything, the (bombings) made us focus on our responsibilities a little more."

As Soldiers from the 229th watched local authorities search vehicles and pedestrians (a curfew restricted vehicles allowed on roads to just necessities) they also witnessed history. They saw Iraqis walking to and from a nearby voting site. They saw democracy, something non-existent in this country eight years ago.

"God willing," said Lt. Col. Shaker, PDOP movement officer and a key entity in the 49th's

relationship with Iraqi police. "We are hoping for the best this election. All will go well, God willing."

The role of the 49th represented that of US forces throughout Iraq. At PDOP, the 229th Soldiers over-watched checkpoints manned by Iraqi police. The Iraqi police executed all vehicle and personnel searches. At Patrol Headquarters as well, the 229th served as a 24-hour security unit. Both elements were on stand-by if there was a need for investigative assistance.

Neither the 49th or 229th was called upon. That's credit to the Iraqi Police for having control of their operation.

"The take-away from this event is that the Iraqi Police have dramatically increased their professionalism, capabilities and leadership," the general added. "They can still benefit from US partnership, but that is no longer a junior-senior partnership. It is a partnership of equals -- each with strengths that benefit one another."

Final results will take months. Millions of Iraqis voted. But this day started in 2003, when the 49th and 229th's military predecessors launched Operation Iraqi Freedom. For these two units, the day ended with a loud boom -- the sound of courage.

229th helps protect top U.S. official in Baghdad

Vice President Biden visits Iraqi leaders during pre-election stopover in February

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Soldiers from the 229th Military Police Company stepped away from normal Operation Iraqi Freedom duties to perform a bigger task: Provide route security here for the United States' second-in-charge.

More than 150 of the Virginia-based Soldiers monitored traffic intersections and designated points on a route Vice President Biden drove through during a brief stop on Jan. 23. Biden and his entourage that included Gen. Ray Odierno, United States Forces – Iraq commanding general, arrived via military helicopters and were conveyed to a nearby dining facility to visit troops. The 229th staged Soldiers throughout Victory Base Complex (VBC), an operating base covering about 35 square miles.

“When the garrison command was given the mission to provide security and route clearance for the vice president’s visit, I specifically asked for the 229th MP Company from the 49th Military Police Brigade to support that,” said Lt. Col. William Prestage, force protection and anti-terrorism officer for VBC Garrison Command. “We’ve used them before for other missions. I knew the officers and noncommissioned officers can do the job.”

The norm for the 229th is police transition team (PTT) missions, where Soldiers work with Iraqi Policemen. They train Iraqis in various skills. But the 229th also performs humanitarian missions, says 1st Lt. Jason Meador, a platoon leader. Biden was in Iraqi meeting with key leaders. According to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the vice president met with top officials “to discuss US and international efforts to support Iraq, with a focus on the national elections scheduled for March.”

When Biden arrived, a 229th element led the convoy that took the vice president to dinner. All remaining 229th teams stationed across VBC re-directed traffic – and kept outsiders away from the main convoy -- until Biden was safely escorted off the compound. The 229th arrived in Iraq in October. The Virginia Army National Guard unit is based in Virginia Beach.



US Army photo/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

Soldiers from the 229th Military Police Company, Virginia Army National Guard, use a map to designate security areas for the arrival of Vice-President Joe Biden Jan. 23 at Camp Liberty, Baghdad, Iraq. The 229th manned traffic control points and led Biden’s convoy to a dining area on Camp Liberty. The vice president arrived in Baghdad to meet with Iraqi leaders. Shown are: Staff Sgt. Kevin Foxwell, Staff Sgt. Ronald White, 1st Lt. Jason Meador, Sgt. David Dick, Sgt. Robert Dyer and 1st Lt. Cari Kelso.

218th Soldiers re-enlist, get rewarded and promoted

By CPL JESSE GUTIERREZ

218th Military Police Company

KIRKUK, Iraq -- The sun is high in the sky and the Soldiers of the 218th Military Police Company are in formation. Today is a day of reenlistment, awards and promotion. The ceremony began with two of our proud Soldiers, Sgt. Sung and Spc.



Schnuerer, taking the oath of reenlistment. Sgt. Sung is a former Marine who joined the Army as a cook, but found himself allured by the Military Police Corps. He soon re-classed and began a successful career as a team leader.

SGT Sung re-enlisted for six years. He plans on becoming a drill sergeant to train, mentor and lead Soldiers to success for many years to come. Spc. Schnuerer also took the next step in his career and re-enlisted. He has completed one tour in Korea and came to the 218th from the 163rd Military Police Detachment, where he worked as a traffic accident investigator. Spc. Schnuerer reenlisted for three years. He intends to move to Japan with his wife, Sgt. Schnuerer.

The Soldiers of 2nd platoon were also recognized for excellence in physical training. Soldiers received Certificates of Achievement for participation in a paper board. One Soldier celebrated a promotion.

Cpl. Helgemo, Spc. Enriquez and Spc. Yang received Certificates of Achievement for scoring 290 or above with 90 percent in each event on the Army Physical Fitness Test. These Soldiers achieved the highest standard and inspired our entire



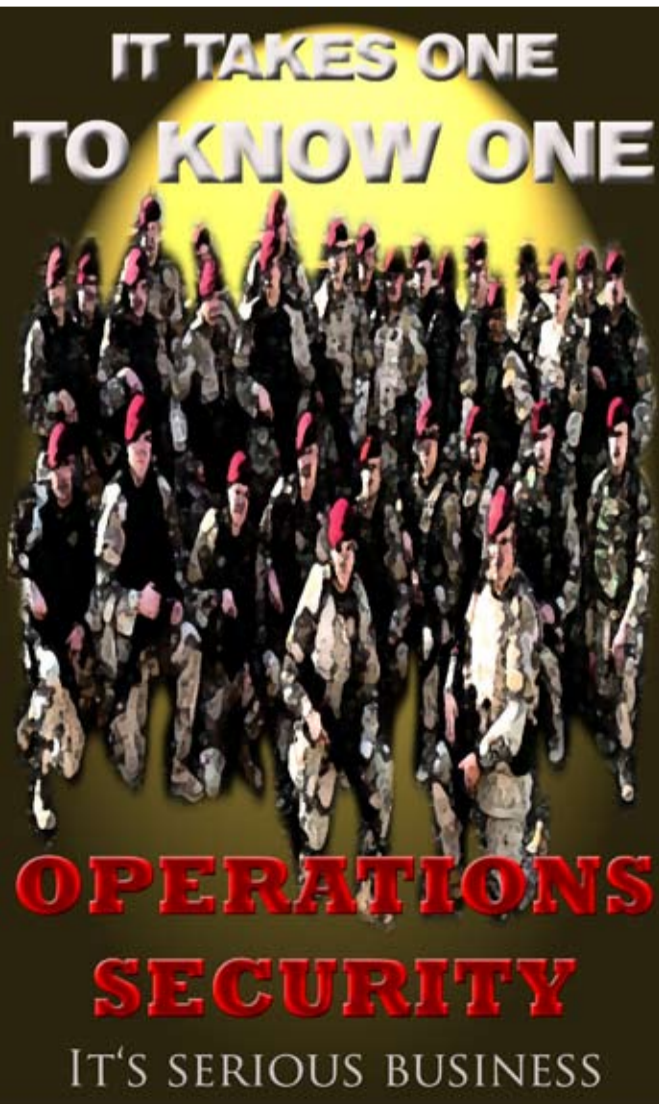
platoon to achieve the same.

The platoon had six Soldiers receive Certificates of Achievement for participating in the 49th Military Police Brigade’s Soldier of the Quarter board. Sgt. Sung, Cpl. Gutierrez, Cpl. Rivera, Spc. Mazzarella, Spc. Yang and Pfc. Martin all submitted packets and wrote essays on what they would do to improve their unit.

“The process left them with a sense of accomplishment and a few extra promotion points. Pfc. Martin remained on center stage, to be promoted to specialist. He came to our platoon fresh out of basic training and advanced individual training just a few months before the 218th deployed.

There are high hopes for this young Soldier, who was one of the “Best of the Best” at Fort Leonard Wood. The rank of specialist denotes more responsibility and begins the transitioning phase from Soldier to noncommissioned officer.

Pfc. Martin plans on being a career Soldier.



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REAL - TO - REAL

Around the 49th Military Police Brigade ...

BUCCA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Aaron Olson, from Cape Coral, Florida, has been an example for other Soldiers when it comes to rapport building in Iraq. Building a relationship with Iraqi Security Forces has been an essential part of the success of 810th Military Police Company in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Olson is shown after training with two Iraqi Police Officers from a local Police Station.

FOB ECHO, Iraq– Sgt. Dustin M. Ford, a native of Rockford, OH, is conducting a Key Leader Engagement (KLE) with COL Assam, the Dean at the Diwaniyah Police Academy. Sgt. Ford has conducted numerous KLE, check point and terrain denial missions in the community surrounding FOB ECHO. Sgt. Ford is a Team Leader assigned to 2nd Platoon, 543rd Military Police Company.

Demonstrating proper evidence collection to Iraq law enforcers is Spc. Christina Jones of the 591st Military Police Company, during a four-day training session sponsored by the 591st at Camp Taqqadum, Iraq.

BABIL, Iraq– Soldiers of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, 563rd Military Police Company stop at a local market place during an Area Security Patrol to foster relations with the local Iraqi residents. Soldiers are Spc. Stephanie Laney from Prescott, Arizona, Sgt. Katheryne Hoover from Blacksburg, Virginia, and Sgt. Justin Tibbett from Hutchinson, Kansas.

BASRA, Iraq – Lt. Col. Sami, Deputy Assistant to the Director of Intelligence for Basra; Capt. Han, 203rd Military Police Battalion S-2 and Sam, 203rd interpreter, discuss individuals identified on the high value target list. Last month the 203rd's Police Transition Team and S-2 members conducted a key leader engagement with Brig. Gen. Ahmer, Director of Intelligence, Lt. Col. Sami and Lt. Col. Khalid to establish a partnership to exchange intelligence information regarding targets in the Basra Province. The high value target list was one of the topics of discussion during the groups visit.

COS GARY OWEN, Iraq –Members of 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 57th Military Police Company, and U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Division personnel, instruct Iraqi EOD from the Maysan Provincial EOD Headquarters on Improvised Explosive Device awareness. Pictured are Staff Sgt. Lee, USAF EOD; John, USAF EOD Interpreter; Tech. Sgt. Daley, USAF EOD; and Staff Sgt. Farrow, 2nd Squad Leader, 57th.

BASRA, Iraq – Members of the 203rd Military Police Battalion maintenance shop receive a briefing from the mechanics in the motor pool of the District Police Headquarters in Basra. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Victor Slaten (battalion motor officer), Sgt. 1st Class Robby Mays (battalion maintenance NCO) and Sgt. Roger Miller (HHD Motor Sergeant) were members of the official party. The purpose of the mission was for coalition maintenance personnel to observe the vehicle maintenance procedures in order to determine if any assistance could be provided.

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Sgt. Baumgratz, from Allentown, Pa., a team leader assigned to 1st Platoon, 543rd Military Police Company, hands out a tip card to a local national in the town of Sudayr. These flyers are developed by the PSYOPS team on FOB Echo and contain messages in Arabic that promote peace, stability, and cooperation with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). They also have a hotline number that will connect the caller anonymously with the Provincial Joint Communication Center (PJCC). The PJCC will then consolidate and interpret this information and sent it to the Iraqi Police Provincial Headquarters. Since the Task Force began handing out these tip cards to the local civilians three months ago, calls to the tip line have quadrupled. These tip cards have helped Iraqi civilians take responsibility for their own security and help to create peace.

BAGHDAD -- Pfc. Thomas of the 229th Military Police Company peers out of the turret of his Mine Resistant Armor Protected (MRAP) vehicle while on an escort mission in downtown Baghdad.

BAGHDAD -- Spc. Jameson Gurley of the 229th Military Police Company checks traffic while on a Baghdad mission.

AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Members of 543rd Military Police Company are in the process of training and developing Iraqi Military Police Soldiers of the 8th Iraqi Army Division, stationed in Diwaniyah. The platoon has been providing classes in MP mission essential tasks and skills, ranging from personnel and vehicle searches to riot control, non-lethal weapon systems and room clearing procedures. The Soldier pictured here is Spc. Derek Gregory who was a main instructor for room clearing classes.

ISKAN, Iraq– Members of the 563rd Military Police Company conduct joint check point inspections on MSR Tampa with the Al Samud Highway Patrol. Shown are Staff Sgt. Daniel Stack, from Lansing, Michigan, 2nd Lt. Melissa Hutchinson, from Gainesville, Florida, and Sgt. William Smith, from Killeen, Texas.

Photo Contributions by:
SPC FRANCES RIVERA
810th Military Police Company

SPC JUSTIN A. WALKER
543rd Military Police Company

SPC JUSTIN GRAY
563rd Military Police Company

SFC CHRIS SCHUR
203rd Military Police Battalion

STAFF SGT JEFF PARKER
57th Military Police Company

SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
49th Military Police Brigade

SPC ZACHARY ROBISON
203rd Military Police Battalion

SPC DAVID CLOER
543rd Military Police Company

SPC JASON FOX
563rd Military Police Company

SPC ROBERT FRANZEN
543rd Military Police Company



UPARS!

Unit Public Affairs Representatives!
Contact 1st. Lt. William Marquez,
49th MP Brigade Public Affairs Officer,
to get your photos on our next issue!
NPRI 847-2814
william.marquez@mnd-b.army.mil

HEROES

The 49th Military Police Brigade proudly salutes its Soldiers for accomplishments, heroics and dedication to missions

SPC JOSEPH GIAMBRONE

206th Military Police Company

Spc. Joseph Giambrone, from Buffalo, New York, has been an essential asset to 1st platoon's mission.

On Nov. 19, 1st squad was struck by an improvised explosive device on its way back to Contingency Operating Base Basrah. Spc. Giambrone, without any help from his leadership, realized the danger involved and took initiative to set up a medical evacuation landing zone and prepared for possible casualties.

Spc. Giambrone organized his fellow Soldiers and assigned them tasks such as preparing the litters and placing VS-17 panels and chemical lights where needed. Spc. Giambrone's positive attitude and ability to adapt and overcome in a variety of situations is an example for other



Sentinels to follow. Spc. Giambrone truly lives the Army Values.

PFC. JESSE MCDOWELL

546th Military Police Company

While on a Feb. 28 mission with 2nd platoon, an 18-month old male patient was presented to Pfc. McDowell.

He made the decision to perform life saving procedures on the patient. This decision was made solely for the peace of mind of the parents of the infant that were present at the scene the entire time.

Pfc. McDowell constantly treated the patient for more than 45 minutes until care was transferred over to a civilian emergency medical technician.



HEROES OF THE WEEK (See Pages 9-13) is a program led by the 49th Military Police Brigade command sergeant major. All units are encouraged to nominate a Soldier for his/her outstanding accomplishment, sacrifice and dedication to duty. Contact your chain of command for further information.

Spc. Christopher Merritt is assigned to 3rd squad, 2nd platoon.

He is an outstanding Soldier, one who shows his dedication to his fellow Soldiers, by sharing his time and knowledge.

Spc. Merritt has conducted more than 300 military police combat missions to include: Counter indirect fire, quick reaction force, police tactics and training to key leader engagements and providing security at local Iraqi Police stations.

Spc. Merritt's dedication and knowledge of his job has been a great asset to his platoon and has set a standard for other Soldiers to achieve.

SPC. CHRISTOPHER MERRITT

57th Military Police Company



PFC. EDWARD HOROCHIWSKY

543rd Military Police Company

Pfc. Edward Horochiwsky is from Philadelphia and is a gunner in 1st squad, 3rd platoon.

Pfc. Horochiwsky is an experienced Soldier and a complete professional. He always sets the example for his peers. Pfc. Horochiwsky serves as the platoon electronics warfare specialist. He is proficient with the ANRITZU MS2711D spectrum master analyzer that is used to test DUKE V3 and CVRJ systems during every platoon mission preparation.

He never misses a mission and performs this extra duty with minimal supervision. He is also credited for conducting additional physical training routinely with Soldiers in his squad. He is continuously sought out by fellow gunners for his knowledge base and proficiency on his weapons systems. Pfc. Horochiwsky goes the extra mile and displays a positive attitude on a daily basis.



354th Military Police Company

STAFF SGT. DOUGLAS GLENN

Staff Sgt. Douglas "Cookie" Glenn is a cook and Military Police corrections officer and hails from the "Hawkeye" state of Iowa. The mild mannered noncommissioned officer is the 354th's well kept secret in the operation section.

Although his office is nestled in the distant corner of the TOC, his unsung duties combined with his tenacity to accomplish the mission make him well deserving to be nominated Hero of the Week.

Staff Sgt. Glenn's multitude of tasks consist of the daily tracking of the PSMR report and data collection, the tracking and recording of the four district headquarters, two emergency response battalions and 14 local police stations. He also produces story boards and slide



presentations for battalion command update briefs.

Staff Sgt. Glenn also manages to leave the confines of his office to gather training data that he shares in his weekly reports. His tenacity, honor and integrity have made him stand out from his peers and be noticed by the senior leaders of the section.

CPL. RAYMOND RADER

Cpl. Raymond Rader is a team leader and native of St. Charles, Missouri. He is currently serving as acting squad leader. Cpl. Rader was selected for this position over other sergeants in his squad because of his ability to lead and attention to detail.

During his first mission as acting squad leader, Cpl. Rader's squad encountered an explosion force projectile which struck the first vehicle of their convoy. He immediately cordoned off the area, had the squad perform their 5-25 meter searches while ensuring the welfare, safety and security of his squad.

He coordinated with the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to assist in maintaining security in minimal time while checking with all Soldiers and civilian occupants of the vehicle for injuries from the blast. His pre-mission briefs and checks prior to rolling that day en-



sured that the squad knew exactly what to do in the event of this happening and allowed everyone to move as a coordinated effort.

His ability to stay calm under pressure was a reassurance to all personnel involved and ensured that training was not forgotten in the heat of the moment.

PFC. TREVOR SMITH

Pfc. Trevor Smith, from Webster Groves, Missouri, is currently assigned to 2nd platoon. Pfc. Smith's normal duties consist of being a driver and a force protection specialist.

He conducts pre- and post-perimeter walks at his Iraqi Police compound. Pfc. Smith goes above and beyond his scope of duties that would put most noncommissioned officers to shame by taking it upon himself to cross train other Soldiers who are put into his squad to fill in for a day. He will introduce them to the IPs at the station and treat these Soldiers as part of his team.

Pfc. Smith has also built lasting relationships and a rapport with the IP's at his station in his eagerness to learn the Arabic language and his genuine concern to better the station to which he is assigned. Pfc. Smith's attitude



is always on target and even though he is a young Soldier with much to learn, he is the first to volunteer and the last to quit. His tenacity, honor and integrity have made him stand out from his peers and be noticed by the senior leaders of the platoon as a quality future leader.

Hall of Heroes for the 49th Military Police Brigade

SGT ROBERT JOHNSTON

203rd Military Police Battalion

SGT Robert Johnston is the assistant convoy commander for the 203rd Military Police Battalion Police Transition Team security squad. In addition, Sgt. Johnston is the truck commander for Enforcer 1-2 which is also the primary navigation vehicle for all PTT movements.



Since becoming the assistant convoy commander, Sgt. Johnston has planned all of our routes, taken point on the majority of our missions and executed his duties flawlessly. Sgt. Johnston set the bar high for himself but has consistently maintained the pace he established.

Sgt. Johnston was also nominated and participated in the 17th Fires Brigade and 49th MP Brigade Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board, both of which were a valiant effort despite being deployed.

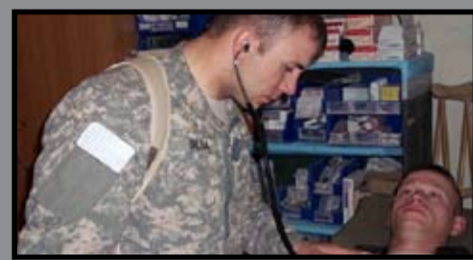
Sgt. Johnston continues to display his flexibility and versatility as a Warrior and is a tremendous asset to any team. He has proven himself an outstanding NCO and demonstrated his potential as a leader.

SPC. SAMUEL SILVA

252nd Military Police Company

Sp. Samuel Silva has taken charge of combat lifesaver recertification course for the entire company. Not only has he done his normal routine by going on missions with the platoons but conducted these classes to the highest standards.

Sp. Silva is always looking for new ways to improve himself physically and mentally. He encourages his peers and subordinates to push themselves to the highest standards



and is always willing to help wherever he can.

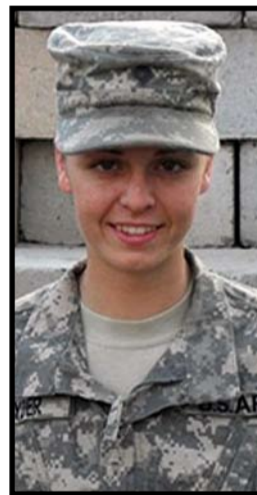
SGT. KELSEY SNYDER

354th Military Police Company

Sp. Kelsey Snyder, from Jerseyville, Illinois, was enrolled as an SMP in the ROTC Program when the alert was given for the 354th to deploy. She resigned from the program in order to serve with her fellow Soldiers on this deployment and has proven herself to be a valuable asset.

Sp. Snyder can usually be found in the motor pool preparing her vehicle long before the rest of the Soldiers to ensure that it is mission ready.

In addition, Sp. Snyder is always willing to lend a hand to



those needing assistance to get their equipment ready. She has organized the receipt and distribution of much needed school supplies and some candy to the local children who gather around at her Iraqi police station and also to one of the police officers there who has children.

Sp. Snyder is the first to step up and take on additional tasks and responsibilities for the squad. Her hard work, selfless service, and dedication to mission, are an example for other Soldiers to follow.

SGT. MATT VARTAN

543rd Military Police Company



Sgt. Matt Vartan, from La Crescenta, California, has done an outstanding job. He has continued to demonstrate outstanding technical knowledge in the mechanic field. In previous weeks, he has been mentoring Iraqi Army mechanics. While working with the Iraqi Army he has assisted them in repairing six patrol vehicles. They have replaced flywheels, starters, seatbelts, lights, gas pedals along with other routine maintenance to keep the vehicles mission ready.

Sgt. Vartan has embraced this mission and has forged a good working relation with the IA mechanics. He has also served as a mentor for the less experienced Soldiers on the maintenance team.

SGT LANCE KULBE

66th Military Police Company

Sgt. Lance Kulbe diligently tackled the most critical of post-Transfer of Authority issues by increasing the connectivity level of the 66th with the Forward Operating Base Warhorse landowners and improving the company communications by a factor of 10. Sgt. Kulbe exercised patience with multiple agencies in order to provide the 66th with the best communications available within the company footprint.

His efforts have greatly increased the ability of the 66th to communicate across the battle space and to connect to vital 3rd/2nd Support Brigade Combat Team assets on FOB Warhorse.



SPC LUKE HECK

354th Military Police Company

Sp. Luke Heck, from Columbus Junction, Iowa, was a volunteer cross-level from the 339th Military Police Company to fill a position as an MP. Upon arrival to the unit, Sp. Heck quickly integrated himself into his team and began to stand out as a Soldier that went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure mission success.

Sp. Heck's role in the platoon was a gunner for the Police Transition Team that frequently visited and trained the Iraqi Police of District Headquarters. His primary responsibilities were the initial security of the vehicle movement to and from mission site, vehicle preparation, and weapons maintenance.

Although Sp. Heck's primary responsibility was as the gunner, he could always be found in the motor pool with his driver working on their vehicle to ensure its mission readiness. Sp. Heck always had a smile for everyone and a quick joke or story to make others smile with him. His hard work and dedication to mission make him an example for others to follow.

Sp. Heck's dedication to duty and selfless service were what made him stand out among his peers. A sense of urgency and pride in his work led to mission completion of all tasks.



SGT JENNIFER TRUJILLO

57th Military Police Battalion

Sgt. Jennifer K. Trujillo was presented a coin by Maj. Gen. Howard Bromberg, the Fort Bliss, Texas, post commander on Jan. 6. She was selected by her chain of command because of her outstanding work ethic and countless hours spent in the motor pool. Sgt. Trujillo is responsible for the care and maintenance of 18 military police platforms that go through rigorous combat patrols every day. She is currently a college student and attends classes online through Central Texas College.

Sgt. Trujillo is an outstanding leader that all junior noncommissioned officers should strive to follow.



SGT. TIMOTHY MCCRAVEY

252nd Military Police Company

Sp. Timothy McCravey performs his normal duties as a gunner to the highest standards as well as volunteering his time with the unit's electronic warfare officer. He has taken the extra time to ensure his knowledge of this sophisticated system works properly to do its job which is saving our soldiers lives.

Sp. McCravey is always looking for new ways to improve himself physically and mentally. He encourages his peers and subordinates to push themselves to the highest standards and is always willing to help wherever he can.



SGT ANDREW BURGETT and CPL. TIFFANY DEERING

543rd Military Police Company

Sgt. Andrew Burgett serves as a squad leader and Cpl. Tiffany Deering serves as a team leader in 3rd platoon. These Soldiers epitomize what it means to be a leader in today's Army on the battlefield.

These leaders competed alongside 42 other noncommissioned officers and commissioned officers in the 543rd leader's certification. They were tested on areas ranging from weapons proficiency to complex blue force tracker and radio tasks.

Sgt. Burgett and Cpl. Deering were the only NCOs in the company who obtained 100 percent "GOs" on each task

with the accompanying performance measures. In addition to the technical proficiency they showcased in this event, the two display daily their understanding of the unit's mission.

From key leader engagements at their Iraqi Police stations to conducting ISR patrols, terrain denials to protect the forward operating base and indirect fire response force missions, Sgt. Burgett and Cpl. Deering ensure their Soldiers are prepared.

They emphasize proper pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. They also provided mission briefs that include even the smallest of details. Not only are

they war fighters, but they are caring and compassionate leaders who spend all their available time training and developing their subordinates.

Whether it is Sgt. Burgett's NCO developmental program for his team leaders or Cpl. Deering's proficiency evaluations for her Soldiers, their commitment to the Soldiers in their charge is unmatched.

They provide sound, timely and informative counseling to their Soldiers, which has directly contributed to the overall professionalism and discipline in the unit. If you are looking for an example of today's NCO, look no further than these two extraordinary leaders.

PFC. JAIMIELYN FAMA

546th Military Police Company

Pfc. Jaimielyn Famaw, a native of Panama City, Florida, has been with the 546th Military Police Company Red Dragons since August 2009. While on a Feb. 8 mission, with the 3rd platoon "Punishers," her medical knowledge was put to the test.

A Soldier was injured in a non-battle related incident. The gunner in her truck sustained an injury to his hand which required immediate treatment. Pfc. Famaw's quick thinking and expertise in the medical field led to a successful treatment and Soldier recovery.

These actions ensured no further injury to the Soldier, as well as a successful completion of the mission.



Sp. Forrest Heath, a native of Stuttgart, Germany, was deployed to Forward Operating Base Kalsu from December 2007 until March 2009. Sp. Heath has been stationed with the 546th since July 2009.

In January, upon his return to FOB Kalsu, Sp. Heath was patrolling Main Supply Route Tampa during the Transfer of Authority with the 563rd Military Police Company.

During Operation Intercept, Sp. Heath and his team, in the lead truck,

an up-armored Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected vehicle, stopped at Checkpoint 17 to ensure there was no suspicious enemy activity.

The team began movement to continue their patrol but they were hit with an improvised explosive device. Sp. Heath and his fellow comrades from the 563rd sustained minor injuries. Yet Sp. Heath has stayed motivated and dedicated to the mission and to his Soldiers to ensure their needs are met and the mission is complete.

SPC FORREST HEATH

546th Military Police Company



SPC. JAMES ROBERTSON

203rd Military Police Battalion



Spc. James Robertson is a member of the 203rd Police Transition Team security squad where he currently performs duties as the .50-caliber gunner for Enforcer 1-4, which is the primary aid and litter vehicle for the element. Since joining the security squad, Sp. Robertson has performed duties as a driver and gunner, and has done so in extraordinary fashion. Sp. Robertson continuously demonstrates his flexibility and versatility, as a warrior, on a daily basis. He is a model Soldier and a tremendous asset to any team.

PFC. LUIS DIAZ

546th Military Police Company



Pfc. Luis Diaz, a native of Guaguas, Puerto Rico joined the Army in June 2008. He graduated from the US Quartermaster School as a 92-G (cook). Pfc. Diaz is working on correspondence courses and completing his bachelor degree. He was selected to serve as the unit mail clerk. Pfc. Diaz is proving to be a valuable asset by bringing morale and happiness to the company when he picks up and delivers mail. He has worked very diligently to set up and organize an area in which mail can be distributed.

SPC. JASON WANG

543rd Military Police Company

Sp. Jason Wang is from Santa Clara, California, who is assigned as Charlie team driver, 2nd squad, 2nd platoon.

In February, Sp. Wang conducted a 100 percent accountability inventory and shortage annex inventory.

He takes pride in his job by ensuring the truck is fully mission capable by conducting a preventive maintenance check. Once he has ensured that his vehicle is ready, he ensures his gunner is prepared for mission and the weapon is up. During the mission Sp. Wang helped a sergeant identify individuals who would benefit from CERP which would improve the village's quality of life.

Sp. Wang also helped with the shortage annex by inventorying the property and checking the equipment.

Sp. Wang can always be depended on to accomplish every task above standard. He is constantly volunteering and is always willing to help his fellow Soldiers in preparation for missions, or any other tasks around the base.



SGT. ERIC DONALDSON

543rd Military Police Company



Sgt. Eric Donaldson served as the acting platoon sergeant for first platoon, 543rd Military Police Company. He was entrusted over senior squad leaders to fill the role during his platoon sergeant's leave based on his demonstrated level of responsibility. Bottom line up front he gets it done!

He managed to meet all suspenses to both company operations cells, conduct physical fitness training, process his platoons end of tour awards, and conduct his terrain denials and key leader engagements.

Despite the fact he is relatively new to the Army, Sgt. Donaldson reacts and conducts himself with a level of professionalism and competence far beyond his years. There is no doubt he is a valued member of the Army team and his potential is truly unlimited.

SPC. NATHAN BRADLEY

543rd Military Police Company



Sp. Nathan Bradley from 1st platoon is a Soldier every leader wants in their unit. He is relied upon heavily for his vigilance as a gunner during every mission, from counter indirect fire to key leader engagements at the Iraqi Highway Patrol.

Sp. Bradley also understands the importance of maintenance in the fight. He is often the dirtiest and last to leave the motor pool on maintenance days. He has established himself as a peer leader and often can be found helping his fellow Soldiers during mission preparation or day to day activities.

He has been a welcome member of the Warhawk team. With the upcoming Iraqi general election, Sp. Bradley will do his part at proposed polling site inspections by recording and observing site potential force protection vulnerabilities.

CPL. BRIAN WALKER

206th Military Police Company



Cpl. Brian Allen Walker first joined the Navy in 1994 and became a Gunners Mate and a military policeman. He served four years before leaving the Navy in January 2007. He then enlisted with the Colorado Army National Guard and served one year before going into Individual Ready Reserve.

Cpl. Walker was called to duty in 2009. Without hesitation he left his job on the Sheriff's Department and his family behind. He reported to Fort Benning, Georgia on May 10, 2009 for re-orientation and then spent two weeks at Fort Leonard Wood for a skill refresher. He then joined the 206th at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he became a team leader for 2nd squad, 3rd Platoon. Once arriving in Iraq his duties grew to include being a member of a Quick Reaction Force squad (QRF) for the city of Basrah which operated out of the Basrah Operations Command (BaOC). Now Cpl. Walker is a team leader on a Police Transition Team (PTT), training the local Iraqi Police on proper technique, skills, and handling of weapons.

Cpl. Walker's level of dedication to his soldiers is unsurpassed. He maintains the high level of motivation by treating his Soldiers with respect and a positive attitude. After being called back to duty in an IRR capacity, Cpl. Walker still maintains a positive attitude. Cpl. Walker serves as a model for motivating Soldiers. He gives 100 percent of himself on any assigned task.

49th Heroes ...

SGT. CASEY CHAMBERS

203rd Military Police Battalion

Sgt. Casey Chambers is currently as a gunner for the 203rd Police Transition Team security squad. Although he has performed duties as driver and gunner, during our deployment, he is presently the truck commander for Enforcer 1-3 and primary recovery vehicle for the Enforcer 1 element.

In addition, Sgt. Chambers has performed duties as both driver and gunner for Enforcer 1-1, the convoy commander. He is a model Soldier and continues to demonstrate his versatility on a daily basis. Sgt. Chambers was recently rewarded for his actions by being promoted to sergeant and has stepped up to the challenge.



STAFF SGT. TONY BEHEL

203rd Military Police Battalion

Staff Sgt. Tony Behel is a Police Transition Team member and team leader, truck commander and assistant convoy commander. Since being deployed Staff Sgt. Behel has been an integral part of the establishment of the PTT team. He has served as the lead instructor for numerous PTT related training events. Additionally, Staff Sgt. Behel has also performed duties as a truck commander, driver and gunner with the security squad on several occasions. Furthermore, Staff Sgt. Behel was selected to be the noncommissioned officer in charge on the detainee release operations supported by the 203rd. Staff Sgt. Behel recently completed the second of two riot control courses for the Iraqi Army military police at Camp Wessam, Iraq in conjunction with the Marine Corps' MITT. Staff Sgt. Behel continues to display his flexibility and versatility as a Warrior and is a tremendous asset to any team. Staff Sgt. Behel has proven himself an outstanding NCO and demonstrated his potential as a leader.



SGT. RYAN BAUMGRATZ

543rd MP Company

Sgt. Ryan Baumgratz is from Saint Mary's, Pennsylvania; he is a team leader in 1st Platoon. Sgt. Baumgratz has been instrumental to the platoon's success during the company layout of equipment identified as early release. His attention to detail and organizational skills allowed himself and three Soldiers to complete the meticulous layout with minimal supervision. He shows consistency in his abilities as a non-commissioned officer and sets the standard for his peers to follow.

He spends countless hours with his Soldiers, which is evident in the camaraderie of his team. His Soldiers amplify his motivation and determination, ensuring mission completion to the highest standards.

SGT. MATT SEVERINO, CPL. ADAM JOSEY AND PFC. AUSTIN LUSE

546th Military Police Company



Sgt. Matthew Severino, Cpl. Adam Josey and Pfc. Austin Luse are all assigned to the 1st platoon "Vipers." During this deployment to Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, they have been counted on many times for their expertise in carpentry. All three have been dedicated and given up much of their personal time in the construction of a guard shack for 1st platoon's Iraqi Police Training Academy, a platoon weapons rack, several podiums to be used by the Iraqi Police during their classroom instructions, shelving in the company mailroom, as well as the total construction of a new platoon office. Sgt. Severino, Cpl. Josey and Pfc. Luse's dedication to the professional grade completion of these projects, and their willingness to work long hours to get the job done have contributed greatly to the company's mission.

SGT. PETER EICHEN

543rd MP Company

Sgt. Peter Eichen is from Beachwood, New Jersey and is the Alpha team leader for 2nd squad, 3rd platoon. Sgt. Eichen is an outstanding leader and a steadfast and dependable team leader. Sgt. Eichen efficiently completes all duties of the squad leader with enthusiasm. He keeps his Soldiers informed and ensures all of their needs are met. Sgt. Eichen has also been tasked with a mission with a short suspense. He was put in charge of the polling site reconnaissance mission for the recent Iraq national election. He conducted map reconnaissance, planned, and executed a mission to answer to the 203rd Military Police Battalion. Sgt. Eichen used all tools available to him to ensure his missions were thoroughly planned prior to execution. Sgt. Eichen does not let any detail go untouched.

SPC. MARTIN POLK

57th Military Police Company

Spc. Martin Polk is a food service specialist and assigned as the PLL noncommissioned officer in charge.

He assumed the role, a position above his pay grade and outside of his military occupational specialty. Spc. Polk volunteered to take this position to free up and PLL clerks to assist in the turn in of equipment, greatly helping the company's retrograde mission. He assisted in the input of 16 vehicles into the SAMS-E box in anticipation of the company's detached platoon leaving COS Hunter to re-join the rest of the Company at COS Garry Owen. On top of learning and fine tuning his knowledge of his new job Spc. Polk was also selected as the 57th's Soldier of the Month. Spc. Polk is a Soldier who leads from the front and always takes initiative.



SPC. OSBED BETANCOURT

206th Military Police Company

Spc. Osbed Betancourt, 26, from Bronx New York is a Military Police Soldier with 3rd squad, 3rd platoon who graduated from Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in Sept. 2007 and had initially joined the 442nd Military Police Company in Jamaica, New York.

In early 2009 he volunteered for this deployment to Basrah, Iraq with the 206th Military Police Company. Upon graduation from basic training and advanced individual training, he was awarded the Army physical fitness badge for a perfect 300.

Spc. Betancourt is now serving as a gunner and an active member of the quick reaction force stationed at Basrah Operations Center. He has demonstrated himself as an exemplary Soldier. His knowledge of physical fitness and the warrior tasks and drills exceeds the standard.

SPC Betancourt has been an outspoken proponent of maintaining a high level of physical fitness within the squad, setting up a nutritional calculator and an intense work out regime which has allowed him to achieve seven percent body fat. His dedication has inspired Soldiers to follow him into PT excellence.

During the regular work day he sets the standard with his high work ethic. He is always one of the first to volunteer for details. He quickly fills in for ill or injured Soldiers without being asked.

Spc. Betancourt's keeps a positive attitude toward all tasks. "The trick to staying positive is keeping in my mind why we are here. That I am a lucky man and how can I feel negative when I know I am doing so much positive," he said.

His expansive knowledge of all weapon systems and vehicles that are utilized by this platoon are used every day.

"What keeps me driving on everyday is remembering why I am here, and being surrounded by my best friend's every day. It's a real motivator," Betancourt said.

CPL. STEPHANY YOUNGS

546th Military Police Company

CPL Youngs, a native of Watertown, New York, has been with headquarters since Sept. 2008. Cpl. Youngs, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist, was chosen above her peers and several other human resource specialists to support the 546th as their only personnel actions clerk.

The commander and first sergeant instill full trust and confidence in her ability to independently operate the personnel section within the Company.

Cpl. Youngs, without any formal military occupational skill (MOS) training, has self taught herself to uphold and set high standards for others to follow.

Taking on a new area of expertise, Cpl. Youngs has been open minded to learn and broaden her knowledge in an area outside of her military occupational specialty.

Cpl. Youngs has designed many different spreadsheets, rosters and tracking systems utilized by the Company.

Additionally, Cpl. Youngs has corrected financial problems, processed many awards, noncommissioned officer evaluation reports and promotions.

She also has taken immediate actions to correct any other personnel actions.



PFCs. WILKINSON, KACKMAN, SPC. CARUANA and CPL. RODRIGUEZ

57th Military Police Company

On March 7, Pfc. Wilkinson, Pfc. Kackman, Spc. Caruana and Cpl. Rodriguez all received a coin of excellence from Command Sgt. Maj. Pandey for their dedication and hard work. Over the past eight months these Soldiers have conducted more than 200 missions in the Southern Maysan Province of Iraq at COS Hunter. Cpl. Rodriguez also recently re-enlisted to continue his military service in the Military Police Corps.



Checklist to redeployment success

By **CAPT. CHARON CAMARASA**

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Wondering about how to build your section, company or battalion's redeployment logistical plan? Wonder no more! The talented G-4 team of the 49th Military Police Brigade has developed the "G4ORCE Checklist to Redeployment Success."

The list was built by a special logistical force comprised of several supply/logistics subject matter experts managed by Maj. Donnie M. Miller, the brigade G-4.

This checklist can be used as a working tool to manage and improve the efficiency of redeployment preparations. In addition to this reliable tool, this article includes 49th Headquarters-Headquarters Company commander Capt. Edward Bombita's bag of tricks containing ideas about his unit's redeployment plan.

Don't Stay Behind. "The earlier the better," said Capt. Bombita.

He tells us all about redeploying HHC equipment. He began the arduous task by requesting that all staff sections turn in their non-mission essential organizational equipment and

TPE lists no later than Feb. 10. His intent is to identify MTOE equipment shortages early and turn in his consolidated roster to the G4 by NLT the end of this month.

One of his other tricks is to take advantage of the Early Retrograde Equipment (ERE). This program allows units to ship non-essential equipment back to home of records early. The catch is that the unit must place the request via G4 channels 75 days prior to redeployment and cannot miss the deadline.

In regards to vehicles, Capt. Bombita says, "if you are not using them, turn your vehicles in early." He plans to ship non-mission essential organizational equipment back home as soon as possible.

Take advantage of the G4-ORCE power and great advice given by Capt. Bombita. Place these items in your tool box and suggest that your units implement this checklist into their logistical redeployment plan.

DO NOT FORGET: All units must have completed 40 percent of TPE turn-in no later than 30 days prior to redeployment, 80 percent by 15 days prior to redeployment and a 100 percent of TPE hand receipts must be turned in to the G4 no later than 10 days prior to redeployment.

Redeployment logistics plan

- * Review G4's BDE FRAGOs (Refer to FRAGOs Operation Clean Sweep 0003 & 0150, CLVII Turn-In 0035, and CLVII Amnesty 0175)
- * Conduct 100 percent inventory of ALL equipment (Validating all serial numbers, component listings and shortage annexes)
- * Coordinate with TPB, RPAT, DRMO, Sustainment BN for MPAT Team, and other special agencies for their local SOP and procedures. Establish a partnership! (The earlier, the better)
- * Request disposition instructions for Non-Mission Essential (NME) equipment via TPE Planner FRAGO 0099, utilizing Enclosures A-C
- * Contact Capt. Lipscomb 49th MP BDE movement officer for guidance on Transition Board 150 days from BOG
- * Schedule an appointment for turn-in of CLV Ammo to ASP/AHA 60 days out (Appointments are encouraged).
- * Identify NME Org/HS equipment, and either set aside or request Early Return of Equipment 75-120 days from BOG.
- * If you are trying to take TPE property to your home station, you will need to submit a packet consisting of a Request, MTOE depicting Auth/shortage, and a detailed justification of how your unit and the U.S. Army would benefit from approval of this action. These packets are due to the G4 no later than 150 days from BOG. Units will NOT redeploy with TPE, unless officially approved by the USF-I J4/HQDA.
- * Contact the mayor cell for a pre-motor pool HAZMAT inspection and a date for final inspection.
- * Request code-out/turn-in of Army-owned organizational property from Sustainment BN/DRMO that we are instructed to take to home station unless otherwise informed. We can turn-in all NMC equipment here.
- * Continue performing Maintenance on all equipment since it may be transferred to a sister unit.
- * Reconcile and close out your FOO Account no later than 20 days from BOG.
- * Submit complete FLIPL packets no later than 30 days from BOG.
- * Begin packing your HS equipment utilizing proper blocking and bracing materials IAW DA 5748R.
- * Conduct walk through with customs agents, seal containers, and submit TMRs via local Movement Control Team or BDE Movement Officer
- * Turn in assigned Equipment (that which has not already been turned-in).
- * E-mail copy of all clearance documents/validation memos per the published redeployment FRAGO received to the BDE PBO. (Upon receipt, Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, 49th commander, will sign a clearance memo).



Maj. Miller: "This operation is greater than any one individual or unit and many thanks and accolades of support go out to the all 49th MP BDE units and my Soldiers who make me look good in the G4-ORCE Team."

The 49th Military Police Brigade's G4-ORCE team: Chief Warrant Officer John Ferrara, Master Sgt. Michael Dawson, Master Sgt. Maria Preston, Maj. Donnie Miller, Sgt. Jefferson Austrie, Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Marquette and Master Sgt. Abdul Mohamed.

Heroes

SPC MICHAEL BRUNNER
543rd Military Police Company



Spc. Michael Brunner is signal support system specialist, assigned to headquarters platoon. He is from Phoenix, Arizona, and is an outstanding Soldier who can always be counted on. He has performed at a high level and continues to do an excellent job as the acting communications sergeant.

He has taken the initiative and ensured that all communication trackers were updated and has conducted well organized layouts with all supporting documents available during the weekly 100 percent sensitive items inventory and the cyclic inventory.

Spc. Brunner has also done an outstanding job supervising and conducting weekly checks and services of all communication equipment in more than 20 combat platforms as well as efficiently managing three other personnel resulting in all tasks being completed on time.

CPL JERMAINE MARSHALL
543rd Military Police Company



Cpl. Jermaine Marshall is from Newark, New Jersey. He is assigned as a team leader in 1st Platoon. Cpl. Marshall is a dedicated Soldier with unlimited potential. He has recently completed the TF 1/15 INF team leadership course.

The tough rigorous course here on Forward Operating Base Echo was given by the 1/15 INF and focused on teaching young non-commissioned officers about training and leadership. His ability to meet and exceed any standards of performance was crucial to his success during the course.

Cpl. Marshall performed flawlessly; representing himself, his platoon and company with the highest level of professionalism. CPL Marshall's attention to detail and dedication to mission accomplishment has set himself above his peers; proving him to be a reliable and trustworthy asset to the platoon.

SPC PAUL MAXWELL
543rd Military Police Company



Spc. Paul Maxwell is from Detroit, Michigan and is the driver for bravo team, 3rd squad, 3rd platoon. Spc. Maxwell is an exceptional driver. He is constantly assisting other drivers both during mission and on the Forward Operating Base.

Spc. Maxwell has been an asset to an inexperienced squad. The majority of the Soldiers in his squad are ones with little to no military experience. He has trained the other drivers on the ASIPS radios and blue force tracker system. Spc. Maxwell uses his past combat experiences to ensure the other drivers are driving tactically and they know the tactical procedures to make them successful.

In a squad that is short two team leaders, he is always the Soldier to set himself above his peers and take on additional responsibilities to help out the noncommissioned officers.

SPC ZACHARY RYNO
206th Military Police Company

Spc. Zachary Ryno, from Ceres, Calif., was called up by the Army from Inactive Ready Reserve after serving with the California National Guard as a Military Police officer. Starting out as a member of 2nd squad, he conducted several Police Transition Team missions as a gunner and also utilized his skills as a California police officer to help train the Iraqi Police on various tasks. He was then transferred to 3rd squad where he quickly adapted to his new role as a force protection specialist. He has dutifully and diligently carried out his tasks and has also served on Basrah's quick reaction Force, rolling out on several missions to lend aid to units that had been attacked by improvised explosive devices and indirect fire.

One such attack was on the Basrah Operations Center, when the outer perimeter was hit with a rocket. Spc. Ryno reacted swiftly, ensured that the Soldiers in his tent were accounted for and responded to the vehicles in short order. From there he took a position as a gunner providing security for the point of origin site and also the point of impact site as well. Spc. Ryno has also taken a role as a junior leader in the squad. He has helped to ensure that standards are met. He assists others when it comes to cleaning up.

Spc. Ryno has also been helping increase the morale of the platoon in any way he can. Recently, he set up a "Mustache March" cycle that motivates Soldiers to grow a mustache for the fun of it for the month of March.



OPSEC OPSEC OPSEC

I heard him.
I listened to everything.
I heard him laugh.
I heard him joke.
I heard where he's going.
I waited.
I killed him.
I'm laughing now.
And now I'm listening to you.

OPERATIONAL SECURITY. It's serious business.

Guard units help each other and assist Iraqi democracy

By 1ST LT. WILLIAM MARQUEZ
49th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD – As millions of Iraqi citizens voted in their nation's parliamentary elections following multiple attacks intended to scare them from going to the polls, a National Guard troop from the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of Tennessee, with the assistance of the guardsmen of the 301st Chemical Company of Kentucky, helped ensure that this historic vote was brought to the attention of the world and a world leader was brought to Iraq's voters.

On March 7, the Soldiers of the 278th and the 301st secured the escort of Ad Melkert, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Iraq (SRSG), to a voting site in Central Baghdad. Along with Melkert, the 278th and 301st escorted news crews from the Cable News Network (CNN) and from the popular Middle East news agency, Alarabiya.

Prior to the day of the mission, to ensure success, the 301st and the 278th traveled to the polling site the SRSG would visit. During this reconnaissance, they made sure their routes were correct and their security plan made sense. On the day of the mission: they prepared vehicles, gave a mission brief, linked up with the SRSG's security coordinator, and escorted the SRSG to the designated polling site. Once the SRSG spoke to Iraqi voters and poll workers at the voting site, the 278th and 301st escorted him to a press conference near Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC). Safely escorting the SRSG to his press conference marked the end of the 301st's mission in Iraq and the beginning of the 278th's mission.

This security mission to support Iraq's

national elections was the conclusion and culmination of a ten day Relief in Place (RIP) between the 301st Chemical Company and the Troop from the 278th. For approximately ten days, the Soldiers of the 301st Chemical Company worked closely with the Soldiers of the 278th to ensure they were prepared to successfully takeover responsibility for securing the transport of the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and officials of the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMI) to different Baghdad venues.

Although the Soldiers in the two units began operating together in Iraq, Cpt. Arthur Richards, commander of the Troop from the 278th, began communicating with the commander of the 301st, Cpt. Travis Huber, when Huber began mobilizing his company twelve months ago. "Cpt. Huber has been great. I contacted him when he was at Camp Shelby, and stayed in touch the whole time. I've not been blindsided by anything," said Richards. "They've gone out of their way to make the transition easy. I could not ask anything more from them."

Cpt. Gary Barr, the senior officer from the 301st who participated in the security convoy, is confident that the 278th will continue providing excellent support to UNAMI officials. "We are here for them. My group did a lot of good over here, and I'm positive the 278th will do a fine job," said Barr.

Regarding the performance of the 278th on the day of Iraq's elections, Staff Sgt. Michael Dement, a 301st veteran of more than 100 personal security detail missions in Baghdad, was impressed. "Today's mission was the most important mission I've been on, during this deployment. The 278th did a very good job. It was a great way to end our tour," said Dement.

There's love on the roof



Soldiers from the 218th Military Police Company sparked a mission on Feb. 11 when Spc. Joseph Cabana asked Spc. Kyla Bartlett to marry him.

It was a different type of engagement than the MMTs of Al Anbar are used to. He brought her up to the rooftop of the district headquarters and gave her his nametape, saying, "I want you to have this."

Cabana then got down on one knee, and asked her to marry him. Though apparently

surprised, Spc. Bartlett immediately agreed. Even in this war torn land, with signs of poverty and destruction all about, it is proven that love can still flourish.

These two Soldiers have worked together on countless missions, and have now signified that they are going to take their teamwork to the highest personal level: marriage.

Though they dated for some time before they came on active duty, they decided to seal their relationship on the rooftop of the Hadiitha District Headquarters.

CRIME TIME

SEXUAL ASSAULT is a crime.

It can happen to men and women of all ages.
Sexual assault is intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or the abuse of authority when the victim does not or cannot consent.
Rape, nonconsensual sodomy and indecent assault are all forms of sexual assault.

Crime victims have a right to:

- * Be treated with fairness, dignity and respect for one's privacy
- * Be reasonably protected from the accused
- * Be notified of court proceedings
- * Be present at public court proceedings unless the Court determines otherwise for good cause
- * Confer with the attorney for the Government in the case
- * Restitution, if appropriate
- * Receive information regarding conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender from custody

CONTACT LTC BARBARA MCPHAIL IF YOU'VE BEEN A VICTIM OR WOULD LIKE INFORMATION TO PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT:
NIPR 847-3194
SIPR 242-7211
barbara.j.mcphail@mnd-b.army.mil

354th Soldiers visit Basra youth school

By SSG AMANDA KOBERNICK
MND-B-Southeast

BASRA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Michael Hale, 3rd platoon 1st squad of the 354th Military Police Company based in St. Louis MO; and his squad prepped for a mission to their assigned Iraqi Police station and for a visit to a girls school across the street from the station.

The squad checked their vehicles, weapons, ammunition and water supply. Staff Sgt. Hale lined up his Soldiers to check all of their personal equipment and then gave the mission brief.

However, there was one final thing they performed before rolling out: A prayer.

Sgt. Perkins, a team leader, led the squad in prayer on this day. They were going to their assigned Iraqi Police station to oversee the police's training and overall performance.

But once there, the squad found another mission. Just across the street from the station is a girls' school. The squad they relieved introduced them to the school.

The Iraqi Police escorted the squad to the school. During a Jan. 2 visit, the girls were a little shy around the new Soldiers. They have been visited by Soldiers before, but they were not sure of these new ones at first. The commander of the 354th, 1st Lt. Angela Smith, met

with a couple of the teachers and students on a very rainy day. She said a few of the older girls came up to her and spoke in English. English is a part of the school's curriculum.

The squad made plans to return to the girls' school with supplies. They enlisted the help of School Age Child Care (SACC) from Spc. Craig Mathew's hometown of Pacific, MO.

The chaplain of the 203rd Military Police Battalion, Capt. Black, also gave supplies to the squad. Those supplies were given from other schools in the U.S.

The squad returned a few weeks later with supplies for the girls. This time the atmosphere was much different. It was a sunny day. And as soon as the squad walked in the gate, the girls came running out to greet them.

The amount of supplies brought was not near enough for all the girls at the school. There are about 1,200 students. The squad plans on enlisting more help from families and schools back home and visit again in a few weeks with a trailer full of supplies.

One of the girls stood out among the rest. Her name is Fatitama. She was the squad's favorite. As soon as she's seen, a special feature about Fatitama jumps out. Fatitama has one very bright blue eye in contrast with her darker skin, black hair and one brown eye. She was shy at



US Army photos/STAFF SGT. AMANDA KOBERNICK



TOP: Girls at the school greet Soldiers. LEFT: Cpl. Jason Heim smiles with Fatitama, a young student who was the 354th's "favorite" that day. RIGHT: Spc. Zacari Pytelski and some local boys in the parking lot outside the Iraqi Police station before leaving the station for the day.



first, but then she walked up to the Soldiers and held their hands when they met.

In the lot by the Iraqi police station where the squad posts, there

were also a lot of children greeting Soldiers when they arrived. The children sometimes swarm the squad. They wanted their pictures taken and to see if Soldiers brought them

anything. Spc. Sara Brewer ensured she had a supply of candy to give to them when they visit, but the children mostly just wanted to shake hands and talk to the Soldiers.



US Army Photo/SGT SUZANNE HICKS

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Sgt. Andrew M. Burgett, a native of Muncy, Penn., is shown during Operation Good Neighbor, at the Iraqi Police District Headquarters in Afak, Iraq shortly after setting up proper 360-perimeter security for Warhawk 3-2, an ODA team and two Iraqi police advisors. Sgt. Burgett has proven to be one of 543rd Military Police Company's most outstanding team leaders who is called upon by his leadership to take on any mission.

During 3rd platoon, 2nd squad, squad leader's absence, Sgt. Burgett competently filled the slot during platoon operations on Forward Operating Base Echo, as well as on a mission to Neffer. He embodies the professionalism and integrity outlined in the noncommissioned officer creed. His squad leader can rely on him for any tasking.



US Army Photo/SPC GOINES

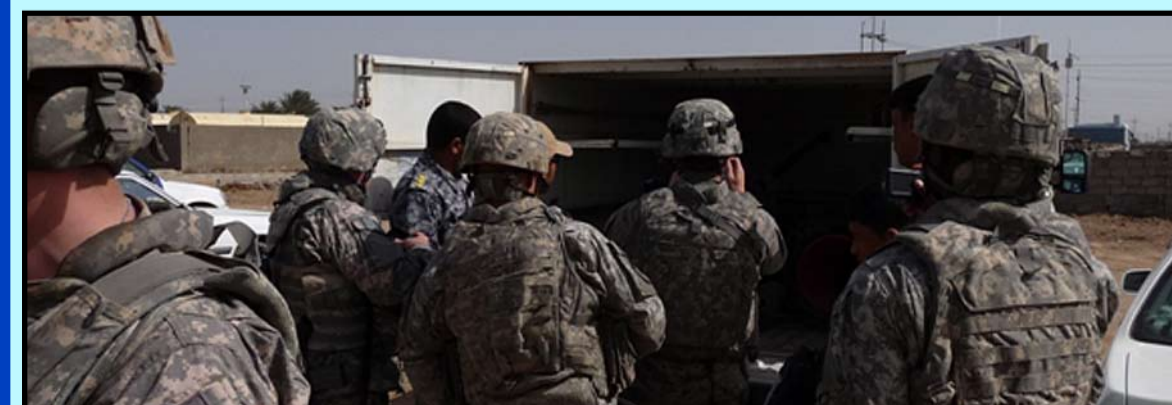
AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Members of 1st squad, 3rd platoon, 543rd Military Police Company are depicted conducting an ISR mission within the Warhawk Operational Environment.

The squad was tasked to reconnoiter several local national shops that could qualify for micro-grants in an effort to stimulate the economy and reduce monetary insurgent influence throughout the area. This type of mission offers the opportunity to interact with Iraqi citizens in a combined effort with the Iraqi Police.

Micro-grant recipients are eligible for funds up to \$5000, which are being used to hire contractors who will improve the structure and capabilities of the identified shops. The Soldier pictured here is Staff Sgt. Casey Olson conducting an initial assessment of numerous local national shops in Neffer, Iraq.



AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Sgt. Matthew L. Helgeson, a native of Dexter, Mich., is shown ground guiding his vehicle prior to mission. Sgt. Helgeson is a great asset to 1st squad, 3rd platoon "Punishers". Sgt. Helgeson teaches and mentors his Soldiers on doing maintenance on their vehicles and equipment. Sgt. Helgeson also has the distinction of being the oldest Soldier in the entire company. At 48 years young, he still goes the extra mile to take care of his Soldiers.



AMARAH, Iraq – on Feb. 20, members of 3rd platoon, 57th Military Police Company along with Air Force Explosive Ordnance personnel conducted a key leader engagement and equipment inventory at the Maysan Provincial EOD headquarters. The inventory was conducted to assess their ability to properly function using current equipment, and to identify new equipment that could be used to help them better handle future situations.

U.S. Army Photo/SGT STEPHEN FRY

IPs learn from 218th



U.S. Army photo/ SPC JERALD BRUCE

By CPL DONALD HELGEMO

218th Military Police Company

KIRKUK, Iraq – The Soldiers in 2nd platoon, 218th Military Police Company trained approximately 100 Shurta at four different stations on unarmed self defense. Each Iraqi Police Station was provided a demonstrational class, along with a hands-on portion, giving the Shurta the opportunity to practice what they had learned and observed. The trainers rehearsed unarmed self defense tactics, pressure points, positive control and rules of engagement.

All of the Shurta showed a genuine interest in learning new techniques that will improve their skills as police officers, aiding in the overall security and protection of themselves. The Shurta performed several practical exercises as a check on learning. The Shurta were given a scenario in which they had to maintain positive control, protect themselves as well the other Shurta in the scenario. The practical exercises were observed by the leaders of 2nd platoon, whom informed the Shurta of the dangers that can occur and areas they did well on.

139th ends Police Transition Team mission

By SGT KENNETH BINCE
49th Military Police Brigade

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – An end of mission ceremony for the 139th Military Police Company, 317th MP Battalion, 49th MP Brigade, was held here at the West Combo MWR (morale welfare & recreation) facility Feb. 10. The Fort Stewart, Ga. based MP company, 'Archangels', officially ended its year-long deployment, which began Feb. 26 by furling the unit's guidon before a standing room only formation of Soldiers.

FOB (forward operating base) Normandy was the home for the MP company throughout its primary mission as a Police Transition Team that trained Iraqi Police, before it moved to Joint Base Ballad for equipment turn in, early January.

Immediately following the invocation by Capt. Rob Haskins, 317th MP Battalion chaplain, 1st Lt. Dane Hiltner, 139th executive officer, spoke of the unit's mission saying, "The unit's (PTT) mission consisted of training, assisting, and advising over 5,000 Iraqi Police counterparts in full spectrum police operations in order to prepare them as the primary security force within the Diyala provinces' cities villages and locales."

"The 139th was responsible for an area of operations spanning over 8,000 kilometers (4970 miles), which included nine of the Diyala provinces, 16 police districts, four joint



US Army photo/SGT KENNETH BINCE

communication centers, 48 local police stations and five detention facilities," said Hiltner.

Hiltner continued, as he named off a long list of accomplishments that were attained during the unit's deployment saying, "The 139th validated two police districts, conducted over 1,200 combat patrols, as well as 40 company logistic patrols."

"Effectively completed over 700 combined training events, 900 key leader engagements, 100 community-policing patrols and 30 com-

Capt. Jeremiah Furnia, commander of the 139th Military Police Company, furls the unit guidon as 1st Sgt. Dewayne Miller, first sergeant, prepares to case it during an end of mission ceremony at Joint Base Ballad, Iraq.

bined checkpoint operations," said Hiltner.

Along with their PPT mission, the 139th also supported 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Teams as well as nine maneuver battalions in the area of criminal investigations, Iraqi rule of law, police intelligence operations and detention facility operations, said Hiltner.

After the ceremony, Capt. Jeremiah Furnia, 139th MP Company commander, who is on his third deployment, expressed that the outstanding successes of the unit were a credit to his Soldiers, and on an additional accomplishment achieved by the 139th saying, "None of our accomplishments would have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of my Soldiers. While working with our Iraqi Police partners, we helped create weekly and monthly training schedules, which were followed through and completed."

Sgt. 1st Class Waymon Smith, 139th headquarters platoon sergeant and a native of Elberton, Ga., said, "Even though this unit was newly formed in late 2007, about 90 percent of the lower enlisted came here straight out of AIT."

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq – Spc. John Boserker of 3rd platoon, 354th Military Police Company, demonstrates proper search techniques with Spc. Bryan Becker during a training class for Iraqi police officers. With the assistance of interpreter Saleem, Spc. Boserker stresses the importance of thoroughly checking a suspect and ensuring the officers safety at the same time.

US Army Photo/ STAFF SGT. FARON HURD



Psychos: First platoon of 571st MP Company

About halfway through our Operation Iraqi Freedom mission and the 1st platoon Psychos of the 571st Military Police Company continues to prevail.

The platoon has been through a variety of missions, showing its true flexibility. Many people might believe that the conflict in Iraq is over

and there is no longer a threat to be perceived from the country. However, the members of 1st platoon have yet to become complacent.

With the elections taking place March 7 and a possible change in political ideologies, the platoon understands the threat is still there. Therefore, with the passing of each

day, the Soldiers prepare themselves mentally and physically for the challenges ahead.

With strong and dedicated squad leaders like Staff Sgt. Robert Green, Sgt. Shawn Collins and Sgt. Jason Lukas, the platoon has been able to handle, plan and coordinate any mission the company assigns to us.

One anonymous Psycho says, "Great things come from great people. That is why 1st platoon can handle the sometimes strenuous mission set the company assigns to us."

The platoon leadership also stresses promotion and development with the Soldiers. The platoon stands above the rest, with Sgt.

Ricky Hayden being selected for Soldier of the Quarter.

The platoon has tried to lead from the front with extra-curricular activities as well. The company soccer team, made up of Sgt. Davis, Sgt. Bittle, Spc. Ritchie, Spc. Piedra, 1st Lt. Fairman, and Spc. Dow did well without much practice.

Stationed in Kalsu, 546th establishes quick reaction force



FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – The 546th Military Police Company's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) was established earlier this year after the unit relieved the 563rd.

The purpose of the QRF is to assist and react to any action that the United States forces may need help in a timely manner. The QRF is rotated weekly between two squads from two different platoons; 3rd platoon's "Punishers," and 2nd platoon's "Guardians." Each platoon knows that reaction and response times could mean the difference between life and death. There have been certain measures put in place to accelerate the response time.

Soldiers have taken an old temporary incoming personnel tent and turned it into the QRF on call location. During the allotted time when they are "on call," Soldiers can be found cleaning weapons, performing vehicle preventive maintenance checks and reviewing rules of engagement. Sometimes the Soldiers will get a quick video game of Call of Duty in.

All QRF vehicles are staged by the Soldiers next to the QRF tent. They are completely geared up and ready to roll at a moment's notice. These dedicated Soldiers are prepared to assist any unit, at anytime and anywhere.



'Vipers' open Iraqi training academy

FOB KALSU, Iraq -- With great dedication and pride the 546th Military Police Company's 1st platoon "Vipers" guided by 2nd Lt. Madison and Staff Sgt. Tripp took the pleasure of opening up the first Iraqi Police Training Academy on Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

The "Vipers" spent countless on and off duty man hours working around the clock to ensure that the academy would be ready for the first Iraqi Police Training Course on Feb. 8. What is even more impressive is that it was all accomplished within a two week period.

Along with setting up high speed training environment classrooms that were once used as old overflow tents for coalition forces, the Vipers constructed an area where the academy graduations would take place. This area is equipped with seating to accommodate visitors and an elevated platform from which the trainees receive their graduation certificates.

First platoon also used its finest artist to paint an image of the American and Iraqi flags crossed together with the scripture "working together to build a better Iraq" which is written in Arabic.

The purpose of the academy is to provide the Iraqi Police with the proper training to handle situations that may occur within their Police duties. This training provided will go a long way to ensure a more stable, peaceful Iraq in the years to follow.

While on FOB Kalsu the trainees must abide by rules to ensure safety and accountability. Soldiers assigned to the front gate of the academy ensure no Iraqi trainee leaves the compound without an escort and that no one enters without being properly signed in.



US Army Photos/STAFF SGT AMANDA KOBERNICK

BASRA, Iraq – Sgt. Heath Theriac of 1st platoon, 3rd squad of the 354th Military Police Company, talks to local children outside the 354th's assigned Iraqi Police station. While a couple members of the squad worked inside, the rest of the squad stayed outside for security. The local children greeted the Soldiers and asked many questions. Sometimes they got the Soldiers to join them in games.



COB BASRA, Iraq – Spc. Bryan Becker of the 354th Military Police Company helps sets up a communication antenna. Spc. Becker and other members of the 354th headquarters section worked on a dusty, hazy day to get this critical task accomplished. This was necessary to provide the operations section with better communication with squads out on missions.



CONTINGENCY OPERATING STATION HUNTER, Iraq – Members of 3rd squad, 2nd platoon, 57th Military Police Company, pass out of comic books and back packs near a small local village off of Alternate Supply Route Austin which is in the southern Maysan providence.

US Army photo/STAFF SGT. FRANCIS ESTES

IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE

OPERATIONS SECURITY

IT'S SERIOUS BUSINESS



U.S. Army Photo/STAFF SGT. TONY BEHEL

BASRA, Iraq – Members of the 203rd Military Police Battalion Police Transition Team provided riot control training to Iraqi Army military police officers assigned to Camp Wessam in Basra.

Staff Sgt. Tony Behel, Spc. Akeo Belyeu and Iraqi Police advisor Clint Praslicka trained 10 students on various aspects of riot control

including use of the baton and shield as well as crowd control formations. Students attending the class consisted of various ranks including officers and enlisted personnel.

This course extended four days and was conducted jointly with the Marine Corps' MiTT who is partnered with the Iraqi Army personnel assigned to Camp Wessam.

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DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Pfc. Christina Henriquez pulls security from a tower at the Diwaniyah Iraqi highway patrol headquarters. United States forces visited the station to conduct Iraqi Police training and conduct a key leader engagement. A major part of the patrols to IP stations is establishing joint security positions with Iraqi security forces in order to provide training and mentorship. Pfc. Henriquez is assigned as a driver to 1st platoon, 543rd Military Police Company.

US Army Photo/SGT MANUEL WONG

Military Police Regimental Association

By **COMMAND SGT. MAJ. (ret) TONY MCGEE**

Military Police Regimental Assoc.

As 2010 begins its second quarter, the Military Police Regimental Association (MPRA) remains ready to assist our members as well as Military Police Soldiers and their families around the globe.

We had a very successful 2009 thanks to all of you and your generous support. Our memberships continue to grow as we near a record 7,000 while our legacy programs continue to flourish. Brick and bench sales are underway for this year's installment of the Military

Police Regimental Walkway and dedication of the second statue is on track.

We published the 2010 Scholarship application instructions in January. Scholarships will be awarded in May. The Fort Leavenworth Chapter of MPRA will stand up in the very near future with several other local chapters moving forward. The MPRA staff and board are extremely busy working to grow our association and determine how to best serve our Soldiers and their families.

We are all very excited about the upcoming first ever MPRA Day in Las Vegas! We were notified re-



cently that the Mayor of Las Vegas, Nevada has proclaimed Dec. 19 the

Military Police Regimental Association Day. We hope that this is the first of many lasting relationships that MPRA fosters with the communities near duty locations of our Soldiers. Thanks to Warren Sessler and the leadership of the Las Vegas MPRA Chapter for their hard work, support and professionalism.

The local chapter membership incentives have been published and the winners will be announced in August 2010 with the intent to recognize the winning chapters during the 69th Anniversary Regimental Week Local Chapter Luncheon. We anticipate friendly competition from all of the local chapters to win

their particular categories and we look forward to seeing you here at the Home of the Regiment in September.

Look for many new items in the gift shop in 2010 and if you haven't already, take a look at the new MPRA website at www.mpraonline.org. Take the time to provide feedback on what you'd like to see or need from MPRA. I look forward to hearing from you.

I also encourage each of you to take time out to remember the men and women around the world who are in harm's way. Keep them and their families in your prayers as we wait for their safe return.

Basra operations center remains mission focused



BASRA, Iraq -- With the recent personnel movements taking place at the Basra Operations Center (BaOC), the need for remaining squad-sized elements from 2nd and 3rd platoon to cross train became evident.

With fewer Soldiers living on the BaOC but the same basic positions still needing to be filled 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it has become a combined effort of two squads from the two platoons to run the show.

Squad leaders Sgt. Nessia and Staff Sgt. Boodoo met to learn the ropes of Quick Reaction Forces' duties. Taking a day to meet with 3rd platoon, the two squads went over battle drills that may be needed in a real life situation while also learning how the QRF gun trucks are set up and properly loaded for every possible mission.

Then Staff Sgt. Boodoo gave a refresher on the use and deployment of the blue force tracker system which allows all US Forces to stay in direct contact with each other by sharing real time locations, situation reports and any information that may be mission critical. Staff Sgt. Boodoo used 3rd platoon's firsthand knowledge of the city and of the possible missions that 2nd platoon could face to educate the Soldiers.

Later in the day a British convoy needed a security detail to Contingency Operations Base Basra, so the two squads used this as an opportunity to get real time mission training accomplished.

While escorting the British personnel, Staff Sgt. Boodoo simultaneously showed the Soldiers possible routes through the city, past point of origin sites, possible landing zones and other points that may be integral to the QRF mission.

Now that 2nd platoon is helping to pull the QRF shifts it allows 3rd platoon to take part in the force protection mission, maintaining security of the BaOC. Both squads now depend on the other to accomplish the daily tasks needed to maintain the security, integrity and safety of the Basra Operations Command and the city of Basra which is home to more than 1.2 million people.



FOB KALSU, Iraq - While conducting a Feb. 25 mission during Operation Interception, the 1st platoon Vipers, 3rd squad, 546th Military Police Company, came upon a head-on collision on Main Supply Route Tampa.

The squad immediately brought its convoy to a halt and began to administer aid to three local nationals.

Using an axe and their bare hands, the Soldiers were able to open the doors and administer first aid to the victims. Some of the injuries that were treated during this time were a broken leg, multiple lacerations, and contusions. Medical care was provided to the local nationals until the Iraqi Police arrived on the scene and rendered assistance. The victims were then transported to the nearest hospital and the squad continued on with its previous mission.



U.S. Army Photos/1ST SGT. COLEMAN

MAYSAN PROVINCE, Iraq - On Feb. 28, Staff Sgt. Miller of 3rd platoon, and Spc. Fields (bottom), a medic of headquarters platoon, 57th Military Police Company, re-enlisted in the United States Army as they fly over the Maysan Province in a Blackhawk. The re-enlistment was conducted by 1st Lt. Hoffman while in-flight.



Spc. Field above raises his right hand as he states the oath of enlistment.



US Army Photo/SPC SCOT HOIFELDT

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ECHO, Iraq - Sgt. Johnny Tillman, a native of Hilo, Hawaii, is shown conducting training for the Iraqi Police. Sgt. Tillman is partnered with and has assisted in training Iraqis on unarmed self-defense, apprehension of subjects, and dismounted patrol tactics. Sgt. Tillman is a team leader assigned to the 543rd Military Police Company.

Top tax tips for military personnel

With the start to the new year behind us, it is time to once again plan ahead for tax season. With the exception of those serving in combat zones or stationed outside the U.S., most military personnel and their families must file taxes by the traditional April 15 deadline.

As usual, there are a number of unique credits and deductions available to servicemembers. This article will focus on the deductions available to military families for 2009. All information in this piece is based on information supplied by the IRS in the Armed Forces Tax Guide. For further clarification or for additional deductions, as well as information on available tax credits, you should refer to this document.

It can be found online here: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf>.

Gross Income

Military servicemembers receive many different types of pay. For tax purposes, it is important to identify the types of pay and allowances that can be excluded from your gross income. These exclusions generally include: living allowances, moving allowances, travel allowances, combat zone pay, and death allowances. Excluded items are not subject to tax, but may have to be shown in your tax return.

Combat Zone Exclusion

If you are a member of the Armed Forces serving in a designated combat zone, then you can exclude certain pay from your income. The month for which you receive this pay must be a month in which you either served in a combat zone or were hospitalized as a result of wounds, disease, or injury obtained while serving in the combat zone. You need only serve for one or more days in a month to qualify for exclusion for the entire month. A few examples of pay types eligible for exclusion include:

- Active duty pay earned in any month you served in a combat zone
- Imminent danger/hostile fire pay
- A reenlistment bonus if this extension occurs in a month you served in a combat zone

- Pay for accrued leave earned in any month you served in a combat zone
- Portion of any student loan repayment made for the year while serving in a combat zone

It is important to note that retirement pay and pensions do not qualify for combat zone exclusion. In some cases, service outside a combat zone can be considered service in a combat zone if the Department of Defense designates it in direct support of military operations in the combat zone, or if the service qualifies for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

Retirement Contributions

Generally, you can deduct some portion of the contributions you make to your traditional individual retirement account (IRA) for the year. However, if you or your spouse were covered by an employer-maintained plan at any time during the year then not all of these deductions may be eligible. According to the IRS, Armed Forces members (including reservists on active duty for more than 90 days during the year) are considered covered by an employer-maintained retirement plan. Keep in mind that military personnel qualify for additional time to make contributions to an IRA. It is also important to note that even though combat pay is nontaxable, you must calculate it as part of your limits on IRA contributions and deductions of IRA contributions.

Sale of a Home

You may not have to pay tax on all of the profit realized from the sale of your main home. A deduction of up to \$250,000 of gain (or \$500,000 if married, filing jointly) is generally available upon the sale of a main home in 2009. A main home is one defined as having been lived in as a primary residence for more than two years. You may also be able to exclude gain from the sale of a home that was used as a rental or business property as long as it meets certain ownership test criteria outlined by the IRS. You cannot deduct a loss from the sale of your main home.

Moving Expense

If you are a member of the Armed Forces on active

duty and you move because of a permanent change of station, then you are entitled to a deduction for reasonable unreimbursed moving expenses related to travel and the cost of moving household goods and personal effects.

Travel expenses

You are able to deduct un-reimbursed work-related travel expenses when you are traveling away from your permanent duty station. You cannot deduct expenses related to travel overseas when you are stationed there, or when you are traveling for personal reasons. You are considered away from home when you are away from your permanent duty station for longer than an ordinary day's work and you need sleep or food. Eligible expenses include business-related meals, lodging, laundry, and business phone calls. If you are a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces that must travel more than 100 miles away from home in connection with your service, then you can deduct your travel expenses as an adjustment to income.

Transportation expenses

The costs of traveling from one workplace to another, attending a business meeting away from your regular workplace, or traveling away from home overnight can be deducted from your income. However, the expenses of commuting to your regular place of work are not deductible. For reservists, if a meeting of a reserve unit is held on a day of regular work, then related travel expenses are deductible.

Uniform expenses

Generally, these are not deductible, except when regulations prohibit you from wearing uniforms off duty. In this case, you can then deduct the un-reimbursed cost and expense of upkeep of the uniforms. According to the IRS, examples include:

- Military dress uniforms and utility uniforms that you cannot wear when off duty
- Articles not replacing regular clothing such as insignia of rank, epaulets, and swords
- Reservists' uniforms if they can only be worn while performing reservist duties.

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A run for Haiti

California Soldier in Iraq organizes race for earthquake victims in Haiti

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – At first Sgt. Jefferson Austrie opened his wallet to see what he can give to a Haitian friend.

But then he opened his heart.

Austrie, an automation specialist with the 49th Military Police Brigade deployed here for Operation Iraqi Freedom, devised a better plan. He united brigade Soldiers and organized a fundraising effort to draw more attention to the current devastation in Haiti. With Austrie taking lead, a Haiti Relief 10-kilometer Fun Run will be held April 24 along Camp Liberty's lakes and rivers.

"I just want to show that I care," said the Tracy, Calif. resident. "A friend contacted me and said that he needed help. I've been watching the news and I know how bad it is over there. So I just wanted to do something to help."

Sgt. Rico Boliva, says Austrie, is an Army noncommissioned officer stationed in Ger-

many but born in Haiti. The pair met when Austrie deployed with the 49th for OIF in 2005. Boliva contacted his friend shortly after the earthquake.

A 7.0 magnitude quake rocked Haiti on Jan. 12, devastating the capital city Port au Prince and killing more than 150,000. Hundreds of thousands are homeless even today.

Race proceeds will go directly to the American Red Cross, says Austrie. Red Cross volunteers will be at the event accepting entry fees and donations.

Various military units, American civilian agencies and local contractors occupy Camp Liberty. The base's Morale, Recreation and Welfare (MWR) office often sponsors races and hundreds attend. Turnout could topple previous races since this is for a much-worthy cause.

Austrie continues searching for sponsors in Iraq and home in California. Runners will receive T-shirts for their participation. And the base's Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) agreed to provide prizes for a raffle.



US Army photo/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

To help the people of Haiti, Sgt. Jefferson Austrie of the 49th Military Police Brigade is organizing a fundraiser for servicemembers and civilians at Camp Liberty, Iraq. A 10-kilometer Fun Run will be held April 24, with all proceeds going to the American Red Cross. Austrie, a Dominica native who resides in Tracy, Calif., was contacted by a Haitian friend who requested help. Haiti was devastated Jan. 12 by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

"We're going to continue getting this event ready. Again, every cent we raise will go directly to Haiti," he said. "It's important. There are people over there who need our help. There are families that need a home. There are children who need proper care. We just

got to do something to help them."

Austrie was born and raised in Dominica, an island southeast of Haiti. He's been a California National Guardsman for 10 years. On his desk in Iraq is a jar reserved for funds for Haiti. Come April 24, he may need more of them.



March Madness

College basketball's best take centerstage this month

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- The month of March means one thing to college basketball fans: Crunch time.

The nation's best universities are locked in a 64-team playoff that will determine an overall champion in Division I men's basketball. The yearly and popular NCAA tournament concludes April 5 in Indianapolis when a national champion will be declared among the 64 top squads.

Perennial powerhouses Kansas, Kentucky, Duke and Syracuse are top seeds in their respective divisions. Duke mentor Mike Krzyzewski has the Blue Devils back in the limelight after winning the tough Atlantic Coast Conference title at 29-5. Krzyzewski extends his basketball knowledge since he led the United State's gold medal squad in the 2008 Summer Olympics. He is the winningest active coach with 859 victories. Duke is trying to win its first title since 2001 and fourth overall.

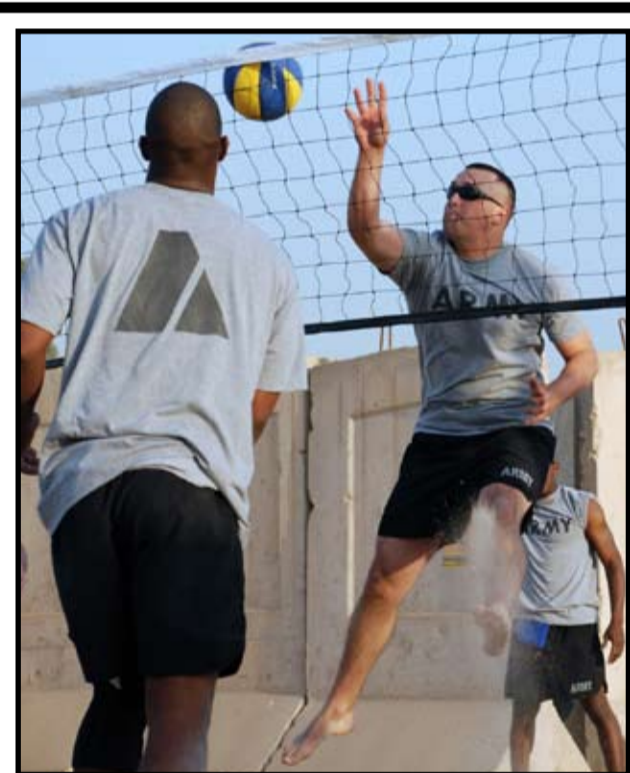
Syracuse, 28-4 overall and champions of the Big East conference, must rebound from a surprising 91-84 loss to Georgetown during the Big East tournament. But the Orangemen are led by the nation's leading scorer, Wesley Johnson.

College basketball is synonymous with Kansas and Kentucky. Kentucky owns seven national crowns, second only to UCLA with 11. Kansas has three championships, the last coming just two years ago. Kansas had one of its best years ever. It only lost one Big 12 conference game (finishing 15-1) and going 32-2 overall. Likewise, Kentucky finished 32-2 and won the Southeastern Conference.

The defending champion, North Carolina, didn't even make it to the NCAA bracket after a disappointing finish. The Tar Heels ended 16-16 overall and 5-11 in conference play.

The NCAA bracketing allows "smaller" schools a chance to advance. It will be interesting to watch schools such as Murray State (30-4 overall, 17-1 in conference), Siena (27-6, 17-1), Butler (28-4, 18-0) and Oakland (26-8, 17-1) fare against the premier basketball institutions. No small school has ever won the NCAA tournament since the 64-team playoff format started in the 1980s.

So prepare for incredible basketball competition as all NCAA tournaments are. And let the clash of the titans begin.



US Army photos/SPC HANNAH STROUD

217th host tournament for Sexual Assault awareness

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Allday, platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon, 217th Military Police Company, and fellow platoon members, Spc. Tavaris Mitchell and Spc. Christopher Diltz, attempt to return a serve. Watching is Spc. Ryne Burns.

Spc. Ryne Burns of the 217th stationed at Camp Liberty, Iraq, returns a serve during a February volleyball tournament to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention training.

Mean streaks on the line in upcoming UFC bouts

Popular welterweight George St-Pierre highlights the Ultimate Fighting Championship card on March 27 when he takes on British fighter Dan "The Outlaw" Hardy in the first of two featured bouts.

St-Pierre will attempt to extend his reign as the welterweight champion and continue his six-fight winning streak.

Former heavyweight champion Frank Mir looks to become only the second man in UFC history to win the championship three times. Mir takes on number one contender Shane Carwin in the other featured bout.

UFC 111 takes place at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

On March 21, UFC 110 takes place with another competitive fight card. Light heavyweights Brandon "The Truth" Vera and Jon Jones battle in the main event.

Vera will attempt to redeem a tough loss in his last fight. Vera lost by unanimous decision to UFC icon Randy Couture at UFC 105.

Jones is one of UFC's up-and-coming fighters. Just 22 years young, Jones can reach the sport's limelight with a win over Vera. Jones is an amateur wrestler turned mixed martial artists. His advantage is an unusual 84-inch reach.

Vera is a Brazilian Jujitsu prodigee which is the same fighting art taught in U.S. Army self-defense schools.