



DANGER FORWARD

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April 5, 2010 | Issue 10

US returns bases to Iraqi Govt

By Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA – With the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq and the movement of Iraqi forces into the role of providing all security for the country, bases that have housed U.S. troops over the past several years – in many cases alongside Iraqi troops – are being returned to full Iraqi control.

Three of the most recent were officially returned at the end of March, included one of the largest bases to be transferred to Iraqi control so far, Contingency Operating Station Hunter, in Maysan Province, which was returned March 28.

The COS Hunter return included more than \$2 million of property, including buildings and heating and air conditioning units, according to the papers signed by representatives of both nations.

The other two bases, the Numaniyah Training Center in Wasit Province and Patrol Base Shaibah in Basra Province, included more than \$1 million in property in each case.

Property that is not needed by units leaving the bases is identified and the information considered to see if any other units in theater need it, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth Shuler, from Killeen, Texas, United States Forces-Iraq Basing, Facilities and Environmental section.

If not needed elsewhere, the non-sen-

sitive items – those excluding computers and similar equipment – are transferred to the Iraqi government.

This ensures that the Iraqi troops have what they need at the bases in order to use them effectively, but also serves a practical purpose for the U.S. military, said U.S. Air Force Capt. Vaughn Threatt, a Meridian, Miss. native assigned to the United States Division-South engineering cell. In many cases, given the value of the property, it is actually more affordable to transfer it than to take it back to the U.S.

The returns also serve as testament to how security is improving in Iraq, he said.

“The Iraqi Army, Police, Security Forces are taking more responsibility, and as they do, we’re able to turn over this property because we know that they are capable of doing the mission without as much engagement as they’ve had before with U.S. forces,” he said.

The return ceremonies and receptions that follow also show a lot about the relationship that has developed between the U.S. and Iraqi personnel.

“We really appreciate the help you give, the support you did; you stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all the army, you lost a lot of your people, said Sameer Alhaddad, the representative for receivership of the chief of staff of the Iraqi prime minister at the Numaniyah Training Center return.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey

The Iraqi flag is raised over COS Hunter, following a ceremony that officially returned the base to Iraqi control, March 26.

“This is all appreciated in Iraq.”

Many of the U.S. troops leaving the bases will continue to work with the Iraqi forces in the area, but will be commuting from the few central bases still housing U.S. personnel.

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Danger Seven sends

In the seven years that U.S. forces have been in Iraq, the first hundred days have come to be known as the most dangerous, trying days of a unit's deployment as Soldiers get their situational awareness and adjust from a training environment to a real-world battlefield. As 1st Infantry Division troops reach this significant milestone, I want to thank you for all your hard work so far and ask that you keep it up to make this a truly successful deployment. Some of the best "equipment" you have to make this deployment a success is to your left and right: your battle buddies.

As we get deeper into this tour, remember the simple standards of discipline and remember your inherent right of responsibility to correct Soldiers who may have a lapse in judgment. Noncommissioned officers: this is your duty to yourself, the NCO Corps, and the Soldiers in your charge. You owe it to them to have the intestinal fortitude to correct them when they're walking the wrong path. Soldiers in the ranks of private through specialist: you are all junior leaders. Even if you don't have NCO stripes, don't think you don't have the responsibility to your fellow troops to correct them. You absolutely can, and should, respectfully correct Soldiers around you who are losing sight of the mission at hand.

Keeping an eye on the Soldiers around you includes more than on-the-spot corrections and adherence to the policies and SOPs. It has much to do with observing how they are handling the day-to-day emotional and psychological toll a deployment takes on everybody. If a Troop is acting out of character, don't be afraid to ask the tough questions. "How are you doing? Is everything alright back home?" If "Specialist Squared-Away" is suddenly screwing up, there could be more going on than meets the eye. It is up to all of us as Soldiers and Leaders to have the patience and situational awareness to find out what is going on with that Soldier and to decide if he or she needs help or if it's time to execute some good old-fashioned corrective training. Conversely, if you are having trouble, don't be afraid to seek help. There is a unique strength in asking for help.

In everything you do, remember the Soldiers in your foxhole and take care of each other. Twelve months away from home is a challenge for anybody, but we all deployed together and when the time comes, we will all go back to the states together. Through the combined strength of our troops, there truly is "No Mission Too Difficult. No Sacrifice Too Great. Duty First!"

Now Get After It!



Jim Champagne
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army



Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
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DANGER FORWARD

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- 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.
- 12th CAB
- 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
- 367th MPAD



Stay safe, beat the heat

By Joseph Zelko

USD-S Safety Manager



Soldiers suffer heat-related illness when their bodies cannot properly cool themselves by sweating. Sweating is the body's natural air conditioning, but when a person's body temperature rises rapidly, sweating just isn't enough.

Heat-related illnesses can be serious and life-threatening. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs, and can cause disability and even death.

Yet, these illnesses and deaths are easily preventable.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It happens when the body's temperature rises quickly and the body cannot cool down. Heat stroke can cause permanent disability and death.

Heat exhaustion is a milder, but still serious, type of heat-related illness. It usually develops after a number of days in high temperature weather and not drinking enough fluids.

Heat cramps usually affect people who sweat a lot during demanding activity. Sweating reduces the body's salt and moisture and can cause painful cramps, usually in the abdomen, arms, or legs. Heat cramps may also be a symptom of heat exhaustion.

Because these heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable, people should know who is at greatest risk and what actions can be taken.

Soldiers with prior heat-related injuries are a major at-risk group. However, even those who are young and healthy and have never before experienced a heat injury can succumb to heat if they participate in demanding physical activities during hot weather. Other conditions that can increase your risk for heat-related illness include obesity, fever, dehydration, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug or alcohol use.

How to Prevent Heat-Related Illness:

- Drink plenty of non-carbonated liquids such as water or electrolyte-enriched liquids to replace fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Avoid liquids that have alcohol, caffeine or large amounts of sugar. They will speed up fluid loss.
- If necessary, go to an air-conditioned area. Even a few hours can cool your body's temperature.
- If you feel very hot, cool off by taking a cool bath or shower. Opening a window or using a fan alone may not prevent heat-related illnesses.
- Your uniform will protect you in hot weather. Keep your sleeves down and wear your hat when outdoors.

If you must be in the heat, here are some things you should do:

- Drink plenty of water.
- Avoid physical activity or exercise between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Wear your head gear. Your head absorbs heat easily.
- Put on sunglasses and sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher.
- Rest often in shady areas.

This and other great information to help with risk mitigation can be found at:

<http://1idportal.1id.army.smil.mil/SpecialStaff/DivisionSafety/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

And there is always great information and help for your safety problems at:

<http://bronet/dss/safety/default.aspx>

Do you or a "friend" have a story about how safe habits saved you, or how a lack of them made for a close call? Send it to marc.greene@us.army.mil with your email and snail mail addresses. If your story is picked, we'll send you some cool safety incentives.

Have a suggestion to make *Danger Forward* better? Send a SIPR email to our suggestion box: 1IDPAO SUGGESTIONBOX@1id.army.smil.mil

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

April 6, 1968: Operation Toan Thang I begins. The 1st Infantry Division engages the enemy in the northern half of Binh Dong Province to deny the enemy use of the area as a base for attacks toward Saigon.

This week in OIF history

April 7, 2003: Deployment began for Operation Airborne Dragon, the first ever expeditionary insertion of U.S. armored forces into combat by air. Task Force 1-63's lead elements: M1A1 tanks, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, M113 armored personnel carriers, mortars, and a battalion command post (CP) equipped with satellite communications arrived at Bashur Airfield, Iraq to support the opening of the northern front in Iraq.

This week in 12th CAB history

April 1999: The brigade deployed to Tirana, Albania as part of Task Force Hawk, in support of NATO operation "Allied Force." The task-force consisted of 65 aircraft including UH-60 Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks, AH-64 Apaches, and UH-60 MEDEVAC aircraft.

MPs build relationship with neighbors

By Sgt. Ben Hutto

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

COS KALSU – The mission did not start in the best way possible. Fluid leaked out from under the trail humvee's undercarriage and the vehicle's motor would not start.

In a motor pool back in the U.S., this would not be a problem, but in Iraq, 45 minutes away from any base, it is.

While their platoon mates provided security, military police Soldiers assigned to 252nd Military Police Company, based in Cleveland, Tenn., and currently attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,

3rd Infantry Division, began hitching the broken vehicle to a working humvee.

Hooking up the vehicle took a few minutes, but soon everything was secured and the mission continued. All of this was done under the protective shield of a stable local community.

In past deployments, a vehicle breakdown meant scrubbing the mission and getting back to the security of the base.

"The operating environment isn't what it was like a few years ago," said Capt. Darrel T. Hull, the commander of the 252nd MP Company, the next day. "The Iraqi Security Forces know who we are. We have a good relationship with the people in this area. We have had little to no incidents in that area."

Hull, a native of Norris, Tenn., said that his group goes "outside the wire" frequently.

"We have put a lot of miles on these vehicles," he said.

Yet, they are prepared.

"One of the greatest things about the way we do business is the flexibility we have," he said. "We build recovery drills into our run-throughs, so when things like this happen, it doesn't stop us; It may limit some of things we do out there, but it doesn't shut us down."

The convoy continued toward a small village outside the town of al-Haay. Several weeks earlier, the MPs placed a quick reaction force there overnight. The point of the placement was to enable them to get to al-Haay quickly if their Iraqi Police counterparts called for help during the Iraqi national elections.

"The most eventful thing that happened that night was that we buried an MRAP up to its axel in sand trying to get back there," said Sgt. Carlton Walls, a combat medic from Cleveland, Tenn. "The village elder got a backhoe out there and helped dig us out. It was pretty funny. We are taking some supplies back out there to thank them for the help."

When they come to the village, the Soldiers are greeted with smiles and warm

"American" hellos spoken in a thick Arabic accent. The village children run from Soldier to Soldier asking for candy.

The village elder, an older man in a brown tunic and traditional headdress, asks some men in the village to prepare tea for their guests. It is obvious that they have been here before and are familiar with the people of the village.

Soldiers ask about children who aren't there. They are asked for copies of the pictures they took last time they visited.

Members of the MP company finally open the back of their trailer and start giving away heavy-duty trash bags filled with soccer balls, clothes, food and school supplies. They help the villagers carry large boxes filled with bottled water into mod-

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Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Sgt. Jeremy Bankston, an MP assigned to the 252nd MP Co., gives a bag full of deflated soccer balls to the residents of a small village outside al-Haay, March 21. Soldiers of the 252nd MP Co. brought the supplies to thank the village for its support during the unit's past missions.



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Sgt. Kyle Nicol, an MP assigned to the 252nd MP Co., drinks a glass of tea at a small village outside al-Haay, March 21. Nicol, a native of Ringo, Ga., and his fellow MPs gave the village a variety of supplies, including bottled water, clothing, food and soccer balls.

Al-Kut welcomes fish and meat market

By Sgt. Matt Hayes

1st Bn, 10th FAR, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

AL-KUT – Since March 2008, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team, along with U.S. forces and Iraqi Security Forces at Contingency Operating Base Delta near al-Kut, has been working to establish economic stability in the region by giving local merchants sanitary places to sell their meat and fish.

With the establishment of a new \$5 million fish and meat market, a major step has been taken toward meeting that goal. The 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, hosted the grand opening March 20 of the joint project between the U.S. government and the city of al-Kut.

The building is completely under the control of the city, and the Wasit PRT hopes the market will remain a symbol of friendship to the city for years to come.

The project involved numerous man hours to design and build, including time invested by the Wasit PRT, Army Corps of Engineers and the Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 10th FAR.

Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, deputy commanding general for support, 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South, attended the grand opening.

“I can recognize this step in progress,” Dragon said. “These buildings were built by Iraqis for Iraqis.”

The buildings offer a hygienic environment to store and sell meat and fish – as well as a generator – in order to create more jobs and enhance business development in the city.

U.S. forces in the province will continue to monitor the market and assist alongside the Wasit PRT to ensure the people will have the best chance to use the project to its fullest capacity.

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Bn., 10th FAR., have provided security to the PRT throughout the past five months of the construction, ensuring the PRT could remain focused on the project.



Photo Sgt. Matt Hayes

Latef Hamad Alturfu (center), Governor of Wasit Province, cuts the ribbon at the opening of the al-Kut fish and meat market with the assistance of Matt Weiller (far left), incoming Wasit PRT team leader, Mohmud Abd Alraraa Tlal (second from left), chairman of the Wasit Provincial Council, Kevin Blackstone (third from left), outgoing Wasit PRT leader, and Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon (third from right), deputy commanding general for support, 1st Inf. Div., March 20.

During the grand opening, Soldiers and commanders of 1st Bn., 10th FAR, could see clearly the end result of everyone's hard work and dedication.

The gift to the city of al-Kut was not overlooked by the governor of Wasit Province, who attended the event, along with many other key leaders. Many of those leaders received awards for their continued efforts and strong partnership with U.S. forces.

“Any time two groups of people work together and the outcome is successful, it only strengthens the relationship,” said Capt. James Bertolino, battalion projects officer, 1st Bn., 10th FAR.

Bertolino said he has great optimism for the future of the people of Wasit Province, and that the stronger the relationship between U.S. forces and the ISF, the bigger the projects can be.

“If you look around, you see a strong security presence representing a variety of Iraqi Security Forces partnered with our units,” said Lt. Col. Shaun E. Tooke,

commander, 1st Bn., 10th FAR. “We are able to conduct projects like this because of a safe and secure environment in Wasit Province.”

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id



Photo Sgt. Matt Hayes

Kevin Blackstone (right), the outgoing Wasit PRT team leader, and Matt Wiler (second from right), incoming team leader for the Wasit PRT, enjoy a meal and discussion with the Governor of Wasit Province, Latef Hamad Alturfu (far left), after the official ribbon cutting and turnover of the al-Kut fish and meat market March 20.

Soldiers celebrate Women's History Month

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – Soldiers gathered at the Contingency Operating Base Basra Town Hall March 26 to celebrate Women's History Month with an event that focused on the important contributions women have made that are sometimes forgotten.

"This year's theme is 'Writing Women Back into History,'" said Lt. Col. Leslie Alford, 1st Infantry Division inspector general, the guest speaker at the event.

"The implication, and the reality, is that over the years, women have been instrumental in some pretty significant issues and events," said the Jacksonville, Texas native.

According to Alford, in 2009, women comprised 15.5 percent of the Army. Broken down, their numbers accounted for 13 percent of enlisted, 8.9 percent of warrant officers, and 17.2 percent of commissioned officers.

As part of her address, she recounted experiences where she felt discriminated against because of her gender, but Alford

said she was only fueled by the experiences to push on in her military career.

"I saw no reason why I should sit on the sidelines and watch other people do what I wanted to do," she said, "I believe that's what drove many of our women predecessors. They were trailblazers because something needed to be done, and they knew they could do it."

"Women are just people," Alford said, "With natural abilities, with burning ambition, with innate interests and curiosities, with dedication to ideals they hold dear to their hearts and have no bearing on what gender they happen to be."

The event also recognized notable women in music from the past 50 years with a performance from the 1st Inf. Div. band.

Afterward, Soldiers socialized and enjoyed cake decorated with the Women's History Month theme.

Spc. Elizabeth Peterson, of Decatur, Ala., a vocalist with the 1st Inf. Div. band, said the event was important in acknowledging the progress of equal rights, specifically in the U.S. Army.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Lt. Col. Leslie Alford, of Jacksonville, Texas, 1st Inf. Div. inspector general, speaks during the Women's History Month event at the COB Basra Town Hall, March 26.

"It's important because we were so restrained in how we could serve," she said, "It's good to be able to say, 'Look how far we've come.'"

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Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Soldiers with the 1st Inf. Div. sing the "Army Song" during the Women's History Month event at the COB Basra Town Hall, March 26.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Spc. Elizabeth Peterson, a 1st Inf. Div. band vocalist from Decatur, Ala., sings during the Women's History Month event at the COB Basra Town Hall, March 26. Part of the ceremony acknowledged notable women in music from the past 50 years.

First liturgical service celebrated

By Sgt. Jason Kemp
1st Inf Div, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The first liturgical Protestant worship service ever held at the Contingency Operating Base Basra chapel took place on Palm Sunday, March 28.

“Soldiers come from a variety of faith traditions, and we have some that come from traditions such as Lutheran, Anglican, Episcopalian or Reformed, who are used to several different types of things in worship that are distinct, and we are trying to incorporate those things into this worship service,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Mallard, 1st Infantry Division Chaplain.

Liturgical services have roots in Catholicism and follow many of the same styles of worship and traditions such as communal prayer, reading and hearing the word, a response of confession, weekly celebration of the Eucharist and the following of the church calendar.

“Our worship is based off the church calendar. So we will be following the lectionary and base our preaching off of that,” Mallard said. “The church calendar follows certain colors and themes throughout the year in accordance with numerous other traditions around the world.”

The Church Year is a series of holy



Photo by Sgt. Jason Kemp

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Barry Malone, COB Basra hospital chaplain, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Mallard, 1st Inf. Div. chaplain, begin the Palm Sunday liturgical Protestant worship service with the processional, March 28, at the COB Basra chapel.

days and seasons that mark the passage of time throughout a year-long cycle. The Christian calendar is organized around two major centers of “Sacred Time”: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany; and Lent, Holy Week and Easter, concluding at Pentecost. The rest of the year following Pentecost is known as “Ordinary Time,” from the word ordinal, which simply means counted.

“It really is tied to Lutheranism, that

arose out of Germany or Anglicanism, which arose out of England. Then, with the founding of our country, those denominations or traditions came to America,” Mallard said.

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Photo by Sgt. Jason Kemp

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Barry Malone, COB Basra hospital chaplain, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Mallard, 1st Inf. Div. chaplain, conduct the celebration of the Eucharist during the first liturgical Protestant service on COB Basra.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Kemp

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Barry Malone, COB Basra hospital chaplain, conducts the celebration of the Eucharist during the first liturgical Protestant service on COB Basra.

Medics apply healing hands

By Spc. David Dyer

3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav Regt PAO

COS ZULU – The call for aid came early in the evening of March 28. an Iraqi officer needed help from U.S. Soldiers in treating a burn victim. What made this particular request unusual was that the patient was a 2-year-old girl.

Maj. Mohammad Ghassan Mohammad, operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 32nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, made the call to B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, and the U.S. Soldiers responded.

“When she arrived [at Contingency Operating Station Zulu] we thought that she was covered with third-degree burns,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Goodner, a native of St. Petersburg, Fla., one of the medics who assisted with treating the child.

“Once inside, we found that she wasn’t burned as badly as we had thought,” he said. “What we initially thought were burns were actually grounds from coffee or tea.”

Her family reported that the child, who is named Rqiah, was burned when she fell



Photo by Spc. David Dyer

Adel Mohammed Mriosh, of al-Swarah, smiles at his 2-year-old daughter, Rqiah, after she has been treated by medics from B Troop, 3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav. Regt., March 28, at the COS Zulu aid station. Rqiah suffered burns she as a result of an accident the day before.

down and upset a kettle of scalding tea.

Once Rqiah was cleaned up by the medics, they were able to identify and treat her burns.

“The burns covering her face made me concerned for her eye at first,” said Pfc. Skylar Humburd of Fort Madison, Iowa. “Kids are the worst thing to see over here. When you see a kid suffering, it is terrible.”

The unpleasant task of cleaning the burns was emotionally challenging for everyone involved.

“Some of the things that we have to do in treatment are not always pleasant” said Spc. Daniel Conklin of Battle Creek, Mich. “When we treat children, it becomes a great deal more personal for us.”

During the treatment, Sgt. David Branshaw, of Chandler, Ariz., sang Jimmy Buffet songs to soothe Rqiah.

“I have three children at home and I find that singing, even if they don’t understand the words, helps to distract them,” he said. “I guess my father instinct kicked in.”

The medics, who operate as part of the operations of 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat

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Photo by Spc. David Dyer

Sgt. David Branshaw of Chandler, Ariz., a medic in B Troop, 3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav. Regt., bandages the burns of Rqiah Mriosh, of al-Swarah, March 28, at COS Zulu.

Soldiers throw in chips for charity

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – With cold poker faces that belied their warm hearts, service members gathered March 25, at the Contingency Operating Base Basra USO, for a Texas Hold 'em benefit tournament to raise money and awareness for the nonprofit organization Operation Ward 57.

“Right now, Ward 57 is the ward in Walter Reed [Army Medical Center] housing all the veterans who have lost either limb or eyesight in their going to Iraq or Afghanistan,” said Staff Sgt. Christian Hamilton, logistics noncommissioned officer with the 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment.

“When we came over here to Iraq, I tried to figure out a way to make an impact and try to contribute to the Ward,” said the Pittsburgh, Pa. native. “And we decided to come up with this little poker event.”

The USO hosted the “Hold 'em For Heroes” tournament and helped publicize the event.

Although poker is a game without teams, the 90 tournament participants were nevertheless playing for the same cause, Hamilton said.

“We’re all service members and we’re all in that situation – at any point in time we could find ourselves up on the ward as well,” he said. “I think that for us, here, it’s about raising money and improving life for those Soldiers living up on the ward.”

Anyone from COB Basra was welcome at the tournament and every player received a prize before leaving.

Prizes were donated by both companies and individuals, including the NFL’s Seattle Seahawks.

The Palace, a casino in Lakewood, Wash., held an event in conjunction with the tournament at COB Basra.

The casino had two tables dedicated to the event and raised



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Maj. Thomas Clair, of Junction City, Kan., 1st Inf. Div. Engineering Cell section officer, and Maj. Joe Hatch, of Kingman, Ariz., 1st Inf. Div. assistant fire support coordinator, play a hand of Texas Hold 'em during a poker tournament held at COB Basra March 25 to raise money and awareness for the nonprofit organization Operation Ward 57.

about \$1,000.

According to Hamilton, \$2,885 was raised by night’s end at COB Basra – \$1,955 in cash and \$930 in online contributions.

Hamilton says that poker is a popular game among service members, but the game itself is not what brought out so many participants.

“I think it’s actually just the cause,” he said, “A lot of people donated more than the \$20 that we asked, so I think it’s really just the service members helping each other and recognizing the other service members on the ward who have sacrificed and they’re here to support them.”

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Team, 3rd Infantry Division, expressed hope that their contact with Rqiah would not end with the initial treatment.

“We are going to ask that she come back every day, for the next few days, so that we can change her dressings and monitor her burns,” said Goodner.

Rqiah’s uncle, Sadeq Mohmoed Mriosh, said he was glad they treated her.

“Thank you, I cannot express it enough,” said Sadeq.

Yet, the medics themselves were grateful for the chance to help.

“I love my job, but it makes me feel especially great when I can help a child,” Humburd said.

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Photo by Spc. David Dyer

Pfc. Skylar Humburd, of Fort Madison, Iowa, B Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., tries to distract Rqiah Mriosh, while Sgt. David Branshaw, of Chandler, Ariz., also B Troop, puts the finishing touches on the dressing that will protect her burns from infection, March 28, at COS Zulu.

Security is detachment's business

By 1st Lt. Josh Kelly

1st Bn, 77th AR, 4th BCT, 1st Armd Div

COB ADDER – As the U.S. Army assumes a larger advise-and-assist role in Iraq, Iraqi and American commanders meet frequently to coordinate operations and cultivate relationships.

In the southern provinces of Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Basra, a group of specially trained Soldiers, known as the Personal Security Detachment, part of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment “Steel Tigers,” ensures that the battalion’s leadership can move freely on the Iraqi roads.

The detachment’s main mission in Iraq is to transport the regiment’s command group around its area of operations safely and efficiently.

“The mission is simple – move to the vehicles at a predetermined time, start our preparations, and go where we are told,” said Staff Sgt. William Scavuzzo, a Newfield, N.J., native and personal security officer for the battalion commander.

Each vehicle crew has its own set of responsibilities, and whether preparing the truck or the weapon station, each Soldier’s job is just as important as the rest.

Being proficient at these tasks is vital to a successful mission.

Because most of the detachment troops have been doing this job for their entire deployment, preparation goes quickly and smoothly with very few problems.

While Soldiers prepare, noncommis-



Photo by 1st Lt. Josh Kelly

Lt. Col. James J. Gallivan, commander, 1st Bn., 77th AR, from Boston, Mass., and Capt. Patricia Watkins, commander, Co. F, 121st Brigade Support Battalion, from St. Petersburg, Fla., meet with Shaykh Mahmoud in the Dhi Qar Province. The PSD, HHC, 1st Bn., 77th AR, ensures that leaders arrive safely for key meetings such as this.

sioned officers focus on mission planning and inspections. This helps to ensure a safer, more secure mission.

“During the pre-mission checks and inspections, the NCO’s looks to ensure load plans are straight, weapon systems are clean, gear is squared away, communications are up and all sensitive items are accounted for and properly secured,” said Sgt. Landon Ames, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Steel Tigers’ PSD, Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

1st Bn., 77th AR, from Wickenburg, Ariz.

“Once these checks are complete, the crews move to position and the mission is ready to get underway,” he said.

The PSD transports and protects the Steel Tigers’ command group while traveling to a destination in order to conduct key leader engagements with local Iraqi Security Forces leaders and provincial government officials.

They travel open highways, city streets and desert trails to reach their destinations. After several months working with the same Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units, the PSD has formed relationships with their Iraqi peers.

With the responsibility of moving key personnel at any given time, the PSD must always be ready to roll-out at a moment’s notice. Staying flexible and alert is essential for any Soldier, but the same holds true for an effective PSD Team.

The PSD Platoon has completed over 600 tactical movements and will continue working throughout the operational environment until the battalion’s mission is complete.



Photo by 1st Lt. Josh Kelly

El Paso, Texas native, Spc. Jerry Barrera, PSD, HHC, 1st Bn., 77th AR, demonstrates first aid techniques to ISF personnel. The battalion is deployed with 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

For more from 4th BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Sgt. Carlton Walls, a combat medic assigned to the 252nd MP Co., hands boxes of bottled water to a resident of a small farming village outside al-Haay, March 21. Soldiers of the 252nd MP Co. used the village as a staging point during the Iraqi national elections.

MP, from page 4
est homes.

“When we needed a place to set up for the elections, we didn’t just roll in there and take over that area liked we owned it,” said Hull. “We approached the village and asked for permission up front. They respect things like that.

“Sometimes it is much easier to bridge cultural differences with basic human kindness. You take off the uniforms, burhkas, dishdashas, and vests and we are all just people,” he said. “Common courtesy transcends language a lot of the time.”

The village elder acts pleased with what has been brought to his people. He attempts to give the Soldiers a goat in return. After a short debate about how great it would be to have a mascot, the Soldiers respectfully decline. The elder is insistent, however.

“Please tell him we will come back later this week,” said Sgt. Jeremy Bankston, a military policeman from Rossville, Ga., to his interpreter. “Ask him if he will cook it for us so we can eat it with everyone here.”

This answer seems to please everyone, but tea arrives before the Soldiers are allowed to leave. All the Soldiers partake in

a glass of the piping-hot sweet tea that is such a staple of Iraqi hospitality. A few are even talked into having two.

“After turning down a goat, I guess we

shouldn’t say no to chai,” joked Bankston.

Hull saw the offer as a good sign that his company has done a great job in establishing meaningful relationships with the local populace - particularly with that village.

“After bringing them things, they felt obligated to give us something in return,” explained Hull. “That is how this culture works. A goat is worth about three hundred dollars around here. That isn’t something to sneeze at. They were really trying to give us something of value to them. These are poor farmers. I think it shows how much they think of our guys.”

Hull, who has deployed before, said he believes that his unit’s current mission has been a meaningful experience for everyone involved.

“We have quite a few older guys and I think our leadership has driven how important relationships are over here,” he said. “Our guys just took that and ran with it. They are very aware of the culture and how important the community is over here. They respect it, and it has kept us safe over here.”

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit
www.facebook.com/3hbct3id



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

As Sgt. Sterlin Wright (middle), an MP from Dyersburg, Tenn., steadies the tow bar of a disabled humvee, Sgt. Jeremy Bankston, (left) an MP from Rossville, Ga., and Spc. Keegen Webb (right), an MP from Chattanooga, Tenn., guide the tow vehicle back on a road outside of al-Haay, March 21. The three Soldiers, all members of the 252nd MP Co., from Cleveland, Tenn., were on a humanitarian mission to deliver supplies to a small farming village near al-Haay.

Memorial honors three slain officers

By Sadie Gurman

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH - At first their eyes were dry, even as bagpipes wailed and a police chaplain spoke of their enduring heartache.

But the moment honor guards emerged with photographs of the three fallen officers' stoic faces, grief washed through the crowd of police, their families and friends.

The tears during Friday's remembrance seemed as fresh as those shed a year ago for Officers Paul J. Sciuлло II, Stephen J. Mayhle and Eric G. Kelly. But this time, the tears broke for laughter as mourners tried to celebrate the officers' lives without dwelling on their deaths.

Relatives and friends told of their humor, their family pride, their devotion to police work. Outside the Zone 5 station in Highland Park, hundreds of officers and dignitaries, children and retirees gathered in the warmth of a brilliant sun and recalled happier times, though the shadow of the shooting in Stanton Heights loomed.

"What happened on that date to me is still unfathomable, incomprehensible, unimaginable and reprehensible," the Rev. John Welch said, encouraging the crestfallen not to let the incident hold them captive as the anniversary renews a pain that none could say has vanished.

One by one, a host of speakers offered their own tributes over the hum of afternoon traffic. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl asked the crowd to remember the officers each day for years to come. Fraternal Order of Police President Dan O'Hara said he was grateful for the community's overwhelming support. Police Chief Nathan Harper said that, in passing, the officers left behind a "recipe for living" that calls for daily doses of gratitude, peace, patience and brotherhood.

"We have come to know that these were three distinctive yet extraordinary men who were great beacons of light that were ex-

tinguished much too soon," the chief said. "It is important that we do not give in to the sadness we feel today."

Anthony Walls said his cousin, Officer Kelly, would play in Sunday softball games, heading to the field after his overnight shift. Officer Michael Gay said he was an inspiration during the rigors of police academy.

"He said, 'The only person that can make you quit is you,'" he recalled.

Special Agent Eric Zarren recalled Officer Sciuлло, his brother-in-law, as a "ringer," who excelled on the athletic field and at home from the time he was a 14-year-old to the time he first wore the uniform.

Officer Aaron Fetty spoke of Officer Sciuлло's quick wit.

"You want to express your apologies, and you want to say how much you care, but you can never find the right words to put together," he said. "Nobody can ever have the right words."

And Officer Mayhle's wife, Shandra, fought tears as she said that "fallen hero" doesn't fully describe "the husband who made my life complete."

"He loved me unconditionally, supported me unwaveringly and teased me mercilessly," she said. "On April 4, 2009, Stephen showed the world, with those of us that knew and loved him already knew, that he was a man to be respected, admired, but most of all, celebrated."

The service ended with the unveiling of three small memorial pillars outside the doors of the station, bearing images of each officer in bronze. The three appear together on a fourth marker, along with a message:

"This memorial stands to remind all who enter of the ultimate sacrifice made by Zone 5 officers on April 4, 2009. May their spirits guide and guard us against all who would seek to do us harm."

Pittsburgh is home to Staff Sgt. Christian Hamilton, 1st Bn. 377th FAR, featured on p. 9

Michigan enjoys record high temps

Annie Martin

Battle Creek Enquirer

BATTLE CREEK, Mich - Colleen Martin walks about 4 miles every day through Battle Creek's Riverside Park, and Thursday's unseasonable sunshine made her trek a little brighter.

"I could take this all year long, but I love living in Michigan too much with the four seasons," the 48-year-old said.

Martin was at the park with four dogs in tow. She's hoping the weather will hold

out until next weekend, when she's taking her Girl Scout troop on a camping trip.

Wednesday's high of 78 degrees tied the old record and Thursday's high of 79 degrees in Grand Rapids broke a 1948 record, said Brandon Hoving, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids.

"To look at tying or breaking a record three days in a row, that's pretty impressive to do that," he said.

Battle Creek residents took notice Thursday afternoon. Martin was one of

a couple dozen walkers, bikers and joggers at the park just after 1 p.m. Future sisters-in-law Alisha Hantz, 27, and Emily Downey, 24, chatted in the parking lot at the park after an hour-long walk. Both used their days off from work to enjoy the sunshine.

"We take it when we can, that's for sure," said Hantz, a first-grade teacher at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary School. "And I'll be back tomorrow."

Battle Creek is home to Spc. Daniel Conklin, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., featured on p. 8

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

April 5, Issue 10

Legal

(VOIP 858-4098)

Legal Assistance Office

Mon. – Fri.
0800-1800
Sat.
0800-1700

Trial Defense Services

Mon. – Sat.
0900-1130
1300-1700

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

Religious Services

(COB Basra Chapel)

Protestant

Sundays

Contemporary Worship

1000

General Protestant

1130

Gospel Worship

1400

Liturgical Protestant

1700

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

0830

Saturday Vigil Mass

2000

Mon-Fri Mass

1130

Jewish

Friday
1800

Orthodox

Easter Service

April 6 Basra Chapel
1800

LDS

(COB Basra House of Prayer)

Sundays
1400 - 1500

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

Regular

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Wednesdays
2000

Gospel of John

(RIVRON MWR - Camp Alpha)

Wednesdays

1800

New Believers

(COB Basra Chapel)

Thursdays

2000

Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Mondays
1900

The Truth Project

(308th MWR tent)
Wednesdays
1900

AA

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursday
2000

Wild at Heart

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Fridays
1900

Holy Joe's Coffee

Mon.-Sat.
0600 - 2200

Special Events This Week

Bench Press Competition

April 11
Main Gym
Start Time 1300
Eligible: All Authorized
MWR Users
POC: math.wagner3@
iraq.centcom.mil

1st ID Band

Every Saturday
1900 at Echoes

Special Events Coming Up

Day of Remembrance Observance

(COB Basra town hall)
April 14
1900

Desert Heat Poetry Lounge

(USO Theater)
April 17
2000

8K Holocaust Remembrance Run

April 17

COB Basra

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Poster/Essay Contest and Pledge Campaign

Essay and poster submission April 14
Pledge Submissions can be sent throughout month of April
POC: MSG Miskevich
thomas.miskevich@iraq.centcom.mil
VOIP 858-4450

Times & programs **Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher classes**

(Fire Station 1, across from D-Main)
Wednesday @ 1000
- All unit Fire Wardens are required to submit the USF-I Task Force Safe Fire Safety Checklist to the fire chief monthly. This form can be taken to either fire station or emailed to Mike White, mwhite@sallyport-global.com. For an electronic copy, email Mike White.

- Fire extinguisher exchange and re-service program: Expelled or unserviceable extinguishers can be brought to either fire station for exchange or reservice. We also have a limited number of extinguishers to hand out.

March Madness on the COB

March 27 - April 20, every Wednesday and Saturday at the main gym courts

- 18 teams
- Battle to elimination
- Prizes provided by Harley Davidson and other businesses on COB Basra.

"Hopefully, we give the Soldiers something to do and a memorable event."

- Master Sgt. Darwin Nealy
senior medic, 1314th CA Co.
and tournament organizer.

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



Hint for this week: Where the buffalo roam

Each week, look for a new brain teaser here, with the answer in the following week's Danger Forward.

Solution for last week: Medium size

Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

A look around USD-S



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Iraqi Col. Nazih Abd Al-Amir Fahad Al-Hakami, commander, Iraqi Air Force Squadron 70, is given a tour of the U.S. Navy operations area by Cmdr. Troy Bauder, executive officer, Patrol Squadron One (VP-1), March 23, at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Nazih was visiting as part of a preliminary site orientation for the pending move of Squadron 70 to COB Adder from COB Basra.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

5		9		7				3
		8	6					2
1					3			
			9		7		4	6
		3		8				1
6	5		3					
		6					9	
	8			2		6		5
	9		7		1			

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_003.html