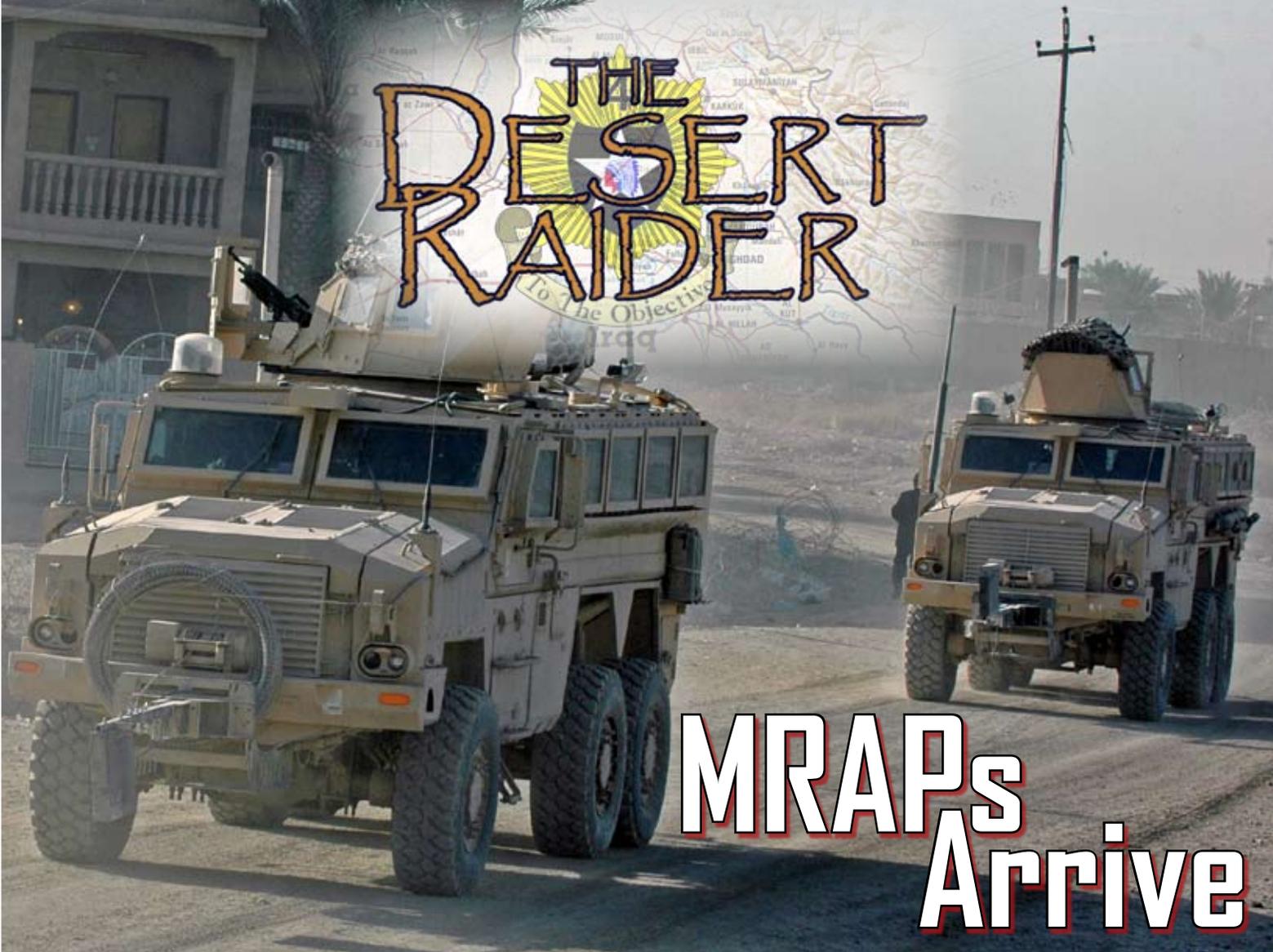


THE DESERT RAIDER



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Col. Jon S. Lehr

Raider 6

Iraqi leaders from the provincial government, Iraqi security forces and tribal leaders.

I ask all of you to remain focused on the tenets of fighting a successful counter-insurgency. We must separate the insurgents from their base of support – the people. Part of that is working with civic leaders and security forces to improve their efficiency in order to gain the trust and confidence of the people. If the government and security forces are not seen as the logical alternative to terror and criminality, we will never succeed here.

Although our non-lethal operations will grow and become more complex, we cannot forget about those opponents that must be captured or killed. Al-Qaida and other insurgent groups are as strong as those we've faced in our previous AO.

We must maintain the high level of discipline, professionalism and lethality that we have thus far if we hope to defeat them. We must continue to bolster the confidence of the people in their government and security forces. We cannot do that if we allow criminals and terrorists to operate unchecked and terrorize the people.

I mentioned last month that we would be reunited with our fellow Raiders from 1-38th Inf. and 2-23rd

Inf., and it has come true. It is a welcome sight to see the brigade whole again! I would also ask you to welcome our new brothers to the fight – 2nd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

These two organizations will be with us for the foreseeable future as we continue our partnerships with the Iraqi security forces and target al-Qaida and other groups that threaten the stability of Diyala province and the safety of its people.

As I look to the future challenges over the next six months, I am confident in our ability to make a difference here in Diyala Province.

We must stay focused and committed to the Iraqis and to each other. The keys to success: leaders continue to rigorously enforce standards; Soldiers continue to show the same determination, professionalism and compassion.

Every one of you remains in my thoughts and prayers. Both Command Sgt. Maj. Troxell and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield.

To the Objective! Raider 6

Raiders,

Welcome to Diyala Province! Your hard work over the last month has allowed the brigade to move and re-establish its command and control infrastructure here at FOB Warhorse and I thank you for the seamless transition.

Many of you have completed – or are nearing completion of – the transition of your new AOs from our counterparts in 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Again, it is your hard work and professionalism that have made this go so smoothly.

Our new AO is vast and complex. Perhaps the biggest change for the leaders in the brigade will be the increased interaction we have with

4-2 SBCT Commander
Col. Jon S. Lehr

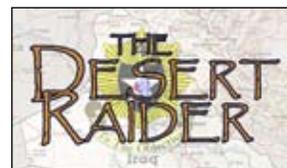
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THE DESERT RAIDER is prepared monthly by the 4-2 SBCT Public Affairs Office, which includes Soldiers of the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Any story or photo submissions should be forwarded to the editor at russell.bassett@4bct2id.army.mil.



On the Cover: Two Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles patrol through the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment's newly inherited streets of Baqouba, Iraq, Nov. 19.

Photo by Spc. John Crosby



Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell

Raider 7

Greetings fellow Raiders and Happy Holidays to you all!

The weather is getting cold and pretty soon the rain will be coming and with it the mud. This will be quite a change from what we have experienced in the last seven months with the extreme heat and dusty conditions.

Speaking of change, that is the topic of my article this month. Change is something that occurs everyday of our lives. We just recently went through a big change by moving from Camp Taji to FOB Warhorse. We now are completely back together again as a brigade. Additionally, we now have the Sabre Squadron from 2/3 ACR with us. Think of the big change for them as they go from training and deploying with their parent regiment

to now being under the control of our brigade.

We also have had several changes in battle space since our arrival here. We have operated in Baghdad and the Northern Baghdad belts and now have complete control of the entire Diyala Province. We also have had several task organization changes within the brigade and several of our company/troops/batteries have worked under different battalion headquarters.

My point to all of this is that since change happens to us constantly as Soldiers deployed in combat we have to expect for change to happen and to condition ourselves for it. My No. 5 of my Raider 7's Big 5 is "remain flexible, the mission and AO can change at any time." How we as Soldiers and units handle change directly affects combat readiness. Soldiers and units that are inflexible to change can demoralize a unit and directly impact battlefield effectiveness. This can also give the enemy an edge in order to target us.

So remain flexible

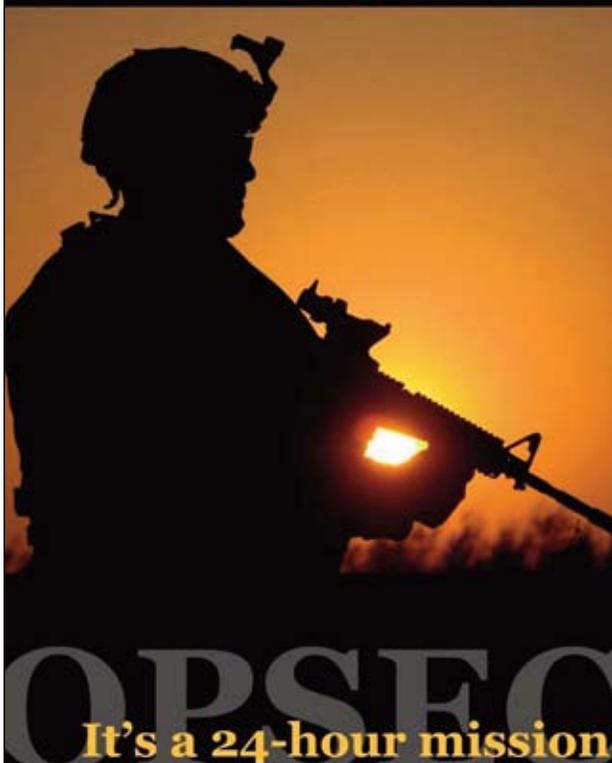


and if changes occur (whether it is the mission or outpost or battle space) be open to it and look forward and not back. We will be better Soldiers, fighters and units because of it.

Thank you all for everything you do everyday and the sacrifices you and your families make everyday. The brigade commander and I are extremely proud of each and every one of you. Please keep our Fallen Raiders and their families in your prayers. I will see you all out on the battle field.

**To The Objective!
Raider 7**

**Protect the Soldiers
protecting you.**



MRAP hits the streets of Baqouba

2-12 FA puts new troop carrier vehicle to the test



A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment patrols the streets of Tahrir District, Baqouba, Iraq, Nov. 18. The vehicle has a V-shaped hull that deflects explosions outward and away from the crew cabin, protecting Soldiers inside.

Story and photos by Spc. John Crosby
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment are undergoing many changes in the middle of their 15-month deployment. They took over a new area of operations during the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division's move from Camp Taji in northern Baghdad province to Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Diyala province. They have also added a new vehicle into their daily operations.

The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle is a new troop transport vehicle designed to give Soldiers added protection in areas where the risk of enemy attacks are high. The Soldiers of 2-12 FA are currently putting the MRAP vehicle to the test in Baqouba.

Like any movement, 4th Stryker Brigade's move from Taji to Warhorse has added additional stress to an already stressful environment. Adding new vehicles that require new tactics and standards of procedure has created even more, but the 2-12 Soldiers are adapting.

"Like any change there is tension," said Capt. Robert Gable, commander of Battery C, 2-12 FA, "but once we

started climbing around on them, looking at them and playing around with them, we found we have more personnel able to affect an event on the battlefield, compared to the Humvee, which carries limited personnel."

MRAPs come in two categories. Category one MRAPs are being fielded to replace the Humvee, and category two MRAPs are replacing the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) and Front Line Ambulances (FLA).

4th Stryker Brigade has received 18 MRAP category two vehicles with more to come. The vehicles are fitted to carry eight dismount troops, driver, truck commander and gunner.

"We're still using the Humvee's," Gable said. "They are some places that the new vehicles can't go due to their sheer size and possibly their weight. We're trying to transfer all of our operations over to the MRAPs and phase the Humvee's out slowly. The MRAPs are simply another means of troop transportation to a mission. They are taking the same role as the Humvee."

In early November, the Soldiers received a five day class on the vehicle at Logistic Supply Area Anaconda. They conducted day and nighttime driver's training, maintenance training and they drilled on how to recover the vehicle if disabled.



“They learned the whole gamut,” Gable said. “They brought that information back with them and trained their fellow Soldiers.”

“We came back pretty competent,” said Spc. Patrick Eisentrout, a licensed MRAP and Humvee driver in Battery C. “It drives similar to the Humvee and uses the same transmission. While the Humvee is comparable to a civilian truck, the MRAP is almost like a school bus.”

The MRAP has ballistic windows surrounding the entire vehicle, giving troops inside a heightened sense of what is going on around them.

“I like that you have more situational awareness on the battlefield,” Gable said. “In a Humvee, you’re confined. It’s hard to look around and see what’s out the window. In an MRAP, you can virtually see 360 degrees with little effort.”

The height of the new vehicle enables Soldiers to see into other vehicles, over walls and provides greater visibility over longer distances, things previously not possible in the Humvee, Gable added.

In Baqouba, 2-12 FA is using the new vehicles to learn their new area of operations.

“We drive them down the streets, looking around, getting the Soldiers used to riding in the MRAP and also getting the locals used to seeing the new vehicles,” Gable said. “Seeing their reactions to this vehicle for the first time is something to remember. They’re looking up at you at about a 45-degree angle.”

The vehicle sits nine and half-feet tall, eight-feet wide and 28-feet long, weighing 48,000 pounds. Its armor is made to withstand landmine and roadside bomb blasts, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire. Its hull is V-shaped to deflect explosions outward and away from its cabin, protecting the crew inside. The seats are fitted with four-point



A Humvee sits in front of its’ future replacement, the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at a 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division joint combat outpost in the Tahrir District of Baqouba, Iraq, Nov. 18. The MRAP vehicle can carry more than 10 personnel.

harnesses for the passengers and five-point harnesses for the driver and truck commander. The seats are made to absorb the shock of explosions, protecting passengers’ spines and necks from injuries sustained during a blast.

“The first time we rolled the MRAP through our new AO, the majority of the people stopped and stared,” said Pfc. Chris Roberts, 1st Platoon medic. “I swear their jaws just dropped. They were awestruck at how big the vehicles are.”

As with anything, the new vehicle has some negative aspects to go with its positives, but the Soldiers are learning to adapt to the changes.

“The doors are difficult to open and close,” said Spc. Diego Uribe-Gonzalez, a Battery C MRAP driver. “The rear door weighs 900 pounds and the driver’s and truck commander’s doors weigh 450 pounds.”

“There is a big difference in dismount time between the Humvee and MRAP vehicles,” Gable said. “But once we learned the vehicle there was none. Dismount time has dramatically decreased. So I see it as simple tactical procedures and learning the system.”

Unlike the Humvee’s armor, which only protects the cabin, the MRAP’s engine and transmission is protected by armor as well, which has created some maintenance concerns.

“Everything is easily accessible accept the engine and transmission,” Uribe-Gonzalez said. “For example, to do an oil change can require up to four Soldiers to access the engine. But say a Humvee is hit by an IED, the whole engine may need to be replaced. In an MRAP, the engine will be OK as long as the blast doesn’t penetrate.”

MRAP passes first IED test

On Nov. 21, an MRAP vehicle of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery was hit by an improvised explosive device.

According to the EOD assessment, the IED was likely a claymore-style device using ball-bearings or re-bar and explosives.

The MRAP suffered some damage, but the IED did not penetrate the vehicle, and the patrol was able to self-recover the vehicle.

One Soldier suffered a minor concussion and was returned to duty.

See MRAP, Page 15



4-2 expands into all of Diyala province

Expansion marks the first time that all 4-2 units are together under one command since before deployment

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., has expanded its area of responsibility to include all of Diyala province, Iraq.

The brigade has taken over the area of operations formerly held by 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, which has redeployed back to its home station at Fort Hood, Texas. 4-2 will continue to own much of its former battle space, which includes northern Baghdad province and western Diyala province.



Photo by Pfc. Kirby Rider
Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell and another 4-2 SBCT Soldier raise the brigade flag during a ceremony symbolizing the transfer of authority from 3-1 Cav. to 4-2 SBCT at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Nov. 23



Photo by Pfc. Kirby Rider

Col. Jon Lehr, commander of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division talks to Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment before giving out coins of excellence to the Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq, Nov. 23. The leadership of 4-2 SBCT visited various combat outposts in their new area of responsibility, which includes all of Diyala province.

“Because the security situation here (northern Baghdad province) and in Diyala province has improved, we are effectively able to expand our area of influence from Baghdad up through Diyala,” explained Col. Jon Lehr, 4-2 commander.

The Stryker brigade’s new area of operations includes the strategically important city of Baqouba. Al-Qaida in Iraq considers the city of approximately 300,000 as the capitol of the Islamic State of Iraq.

This summer, 4-2 SBCT units supported successful operations to clear AQI from Baqouba, and U.S. officials now estimate that AQI has been degraded by 80 percent in the area.

“Baqouba has so much importance to the enemy, and it is critical that we hold onto Baqouba,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell, 4-2 SBCT’s top noncommissioned officer, during a recon of the city Nov. 5 and 6. “We want to continue to empower Iraqi Security Forces and Concerned Local

Citizens so that the threat of AQI and other insurgent groups coming back into this area are very minimal.”

Concerned Local Citizen is the term given by Coalition Forces for local nationals who are providing security in their own areas, including guarding neighborhoods and buildings and manning checkpoints. The U.S.-supported volunteers number more than 67,000 nationwide, according to military officials, and they play a crucial role in providing peace and security throughout 4-2’s expanded area of operations.

“You can’t over stress the importance of CLCs,” Lehr said. “The intent is to find groups of people willing to prevent insurgent extremists from attacking local citizens, with the aim of eventually transitioning these men to legitimate institutions within the Iraqi government, turning them into Iraqi Security Forces, both police and Iraqi army.”

See DIYALA, Page 16

Soldier re-enlists hours after IED injury

*By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

A U.S. Soldier re-enlisted in the Army just hours after being seriously wounded in an improvised explosive attack near Zaganiyah, Iraq, Nov. 13.

Spc. Christopher Hoyt, an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., suffered severe laceration to his legs and torso when an IED went off near him while conducting a dismounted patrol. Two of his fellow Soldiers were killed in the attack.

Hoyt was rushed to the emergency room at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, where he decided to re-enlist for four more years in the Army.

“He said he wasn’t finished,” said Hoyt’s battalion commander Lt. Col. Mark Landes, who re-enlisted the Soldier. “He said, ‘I still have a job to do.’ I’ve never seen the like.”

Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell, the brigade’s top non-commissioned officer, was also on hand for Hoyt’s reenlistment.

“It takes a person of very strong character to go through an incident where another Soldier five feet away was killed and he was severely wounded and still say ‘I believe in what we are doing and I want to stay on the team. I want to support the United States Army and my country.’”

“Spc. Hoyt is the epitome of what a Soldier should be,” Troxell continued. “He is a model for what all men and



Photos by Sgt. Adam Ewing

Lt. Col. Mark Landes, commander, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, shakes hands with Spc. Christopher Hoyt, an infantryman with 2-23rd Inf., during Hoyt’s re-enlistment ceremony Nov. 13 in an Army hospital at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Hoyt was injured when an improvised explosive device exploded near him while on patrol near Zaganiyah, Iraq.

women should be, and that is very patriotic and very selfless.”

Hoyt, whose hometown is San Clemente, Calif., is currently recovering back in the United States.



Spc. Christopher Hoyt swears to defend the United States against all its enemies Nov. 13 at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Hoyt decided to sign up for another four years of service just hours after receiving severe shrapnel wounds to his legs and torso from an improvised explosive device attack.



Ultra 2-1 Cav. clears AQI from a former Magnus Diyala insurgent safehaven

Story, photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Partnering with the Iraqi Army, Coalition Forces killed five al-Qaida in Iraq operatives, wounded three and detained seven individuals during Operation Ultra Magnus in and around Hussein Hamadi village, Iraq, Oct. 28-30.

Soldiers from Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment along with Iraqi soldiers from 3rd Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division swept through the town in southern Diyala province which had previously been an AQI stronghold.

“AQI used the area as a headquarters,” said Capt. Al Bangor, Troop C, 2-1 Cav. commander. “They stored their weapons there, lived on the fringes of the town and from there, they would push their fighters out to conduct attacks. (The local people) have



Soldiers engage AQI operatives who fired on them from trees near an insurgent safehouse south of Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29 during Ultra Magnus.



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment walk away from vehicle they destroyed near an insurgent safehouse south of Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29 during Operation Ultra Magnus. The vehicle was used by al-Qaida in Iraq operatives to conduct missions in southern Diyala province.

lost contact with the Iraqi government for the last two years due to AQI sealing off the area.”

AQI had taken over Hussein Hamadi, an affluent village located 15 miles south of Baqouba and six miles northeast of Khan Bani Sa’ad. AQI had caused all the Shia population to flee, and the remaining villagers were forced to abide by the insurgents extremist laws.

“AQI had setup very strict, fundamentalist Islamic rules,” Bangor said. “The rules were so strict that you couldn’t even smoke in the town. It’s a crime punishable by death. One farmer was arrested for selling his products to a Shia. That was his crime.”

To fund their operations, AQI kidnapped village members and held them for ransom, effectively holding the whole town hostage.

On day one of the operation, the troops conducted an air assault into

two villages directly south of Hussein Hamadi causing AQI to flee north to their stronghold where they thought they would be safe.

During the first day, in the villages of Sayyid Awwad and Abu Seyah, the troops discovered a hut that AQI was using as a prison and torture chamber. They liberated one individual who was chained and had been beaten severely.

The man was kidnapped on Oct. 25 in Baqouba “at a shop by five men in a car, because of my brother who is in the Iraqi Army,” the man said through a translator. “They wanted information and for my brother and me to work for al-Qaida.”

The young man refused to give AQI the information or his allegiance. He stated that he was to stand trial held by an insurgent leader for refusing to help AQI, a crime punishable by death.

“They beat me with cables while holding a gun to my head, but I would



Sgt. David Bokor, Alpha Section team leader with 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav, fires at AQI operatives near an insurgent safehouse south of Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29.

not work for them because I would not betray my brother,” he stated. “These are very bad guys, they do bad things, I would never support them.”

“When we found him he had been beaten severely,” Bangor said. “He had been beaten with ropes and cords, to the point where he couldn’t even get his muscles to move. It took three hours before he were even able to move him.”

Also on the first day, the Soldiers detained an individual suspected of conducting successful sniper attacks against Iraqi Security Forces.

They also brought in a medical team to treat the villagers. Since AQI had effectively shut the area off from the outside, the local populace was unable to provide for their basic sanitation and medical needs.

“We brought in a lot of medicine, focusing on the illnesses caused by the lack of clean water,” Bangor said, noting that the troops treated 78 local Iraqis.

On the second day of Ultra Magnus, the U.S. and Iraqi troops air assaulted in to Hussein Hamadi in the early morning hours, clearing house by house.

Apache helicopters working with the Soldiers engaged three individuals they spotted fleeing the village with weapons. The attack wounded all three and

the ground troops were able to detain them, after treating their wounds.

An unmanned aircraft in the area, spotted two more armed individuals also fleeing the village, and the ground troops fired on them, killing one. The UAC continued to track the second individual, following him to a hut sev-

eral kilometers south of the village.

With the sun coming up, Charlie Battery’s 1st Platoon moved tactically to the hut. When they arrived at what turned out to be an AQI safehouse, at least five armed individuals fled the home.

The troops immediately killed two individuals and then engaged in a 20-minute firefight with the remaining AQI operatives who had fled into the trees. Using rifles and grenades, the troops killed two more and wounded a fifth.

“It was definitely a situation of kill or be killed, and that’s exactly what happened; it was either them or us,” explained Sgt. David Bokor, team leader with 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav. “It was a very high-risk operation. We knew we were going into a hornet’s nest.”

“It sounds weird, but that’s the mission,” agreed 1st Platoon leader 1st Lt. Ron Vineyard. “If we hadn’t killed them, they would have killed us.”

See **ULTRA MAGNUS**, Page 17



First Lt. Ron Vinyard, platoon leader of 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav and an Iraqi army soldier advance up stairs in a home in Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29.

Insert: 2-1 Cav. Soldiers along with Iraqi army soldiers from 3rd Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division run by a burning vehicle Oct. 29 during Operation Ultra Magnus.

Iraqi Stryker Training

U.S. troops prepare Iraqi military to be self-sufficient

*Story and photos by Spc. John Crosby
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

“There will be no walking on my site!” said Sgt. 1st Class Tyroid Weston, a truck driver in the 202nd Brigade Support Battalion, to the new platoon of Iraqi army soldiers, Nov. 6 at Camp Taji, Iraq. “You are Strykers! You are swift and lethal! Do you understand?”

Weston and his team of four other noncommissioned officers with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., graduate a new platoon of Iraqi army soldiers every 10 days from the Iraqi Army Stryker Training Course in Taji. The course is designed to get IA soldiers ready to conduct missions with Coalition Forces in Iraq.

“By the time you complete this course you will be ready to fight, ready to accomplish all you put your mind to and more,” Weston said to the class.

When the IA soldiers reach Stryker training, they are fresh out of basic and not very experienced, Weston said. Occasionally an officer will take the course but the Iraq soldiers are pretty inexperienced overall. The U.S. instructors hone in on the IA soldiers basic skills including uniform, weapons posture, discipline, close combat marksmanship and the concept of team work.

“I see a lot of scared guys who are not sure what to expect,” Weston commented on the platoon’s first day of training. “We don’t brief them on what’s next so that they don’t get complacent.”

“In easy terms, you have to teach them to tie their shoes,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Meader, an infantryman in



Staff Sgt. Ronald Meader, an instructor at the Iraqi Army Stryker Training Course and infantryman in Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment mentors an Iraqi army soldier on proper sight picture as the IA Soldier aims his weapon at a close-quarter targets in Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov. 6.

Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, and Stryker instructor, “but they catch on quick. They’re smart and they’re eager to please. By day four, I think they really catch on to the reality of what they’re training for.”

“These guys are here because they want to make a difference,” Weston said.

“Thanks to the Coalition Forces guys,” said Sgt. Mahdi Abbod Jabbara, 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, said through an interpreter. “They try to give us the best of what they have. They share the best of their military knowledge so that our army can make changes for the better and make a difference here.”

Jabbara spent 17 years in the former

Iraqi army. He has been enlisted in the new Iraqi army for nine months now.

“I joined to defend my country against the terrorists’ army militias and hope to make some changes,” Jabbara said. “We will take our country back from the insurgents so that we can take our families into the city without worry, and our children can go to school.”

“We will take ground from the terrorists and leave our mark on the land,” added Cpl. Jalil Kareem Jasim, an instructor at the Stryker Training Course. “The world will know the Iraqi army is here. Our loyalty is for our country and her people, not any religious cause. I don’t think that any Iraqi wants the darkness in control any longer. It’s time for the sun.”



“These guys are motivated,” said Staff Sgt. Justin Martinez, an infantryman in 4-9 and instructor for the Stryker Training Course. “Word of our training has spread through their battalion. Soldiers of other units try to jump into our course and we have to explain to them that they need to wait until it’s their platoons turn for training.”

Upon completion of the course, IA soldiers receive a certification.

IA troops shrink the certificate down, put their picture on it and carry it in their wallets like an ID card. They are proud to complete this course, Weston said.

The course trains the IA soldiers on everything from uniformity and how to hold their weapons to reacting to incoming fire and classes on the Geneva Convention.

They conduct room clearing drills, reflexive fire drills and marksmanship on the range. They operate in a mock city which they patrol and train in. Platoons must successfully pass evaluation at the end of the course in order to graduate.

“Platoon evaluation incorporates all of their skills into one scenario,” said Sgt. Shawn Warnock, 45th Military Intelligence Company. “They start from the mock, joint combat outpost and patrol the streets. They encounter

people on patrol and need to acquire information on the area. They will need to assault and clear buildings, detain and kill the enemy in accordance with the Geneva Convention.”

Warnock said by the time the soldiers graduate, they will be able to create a mission plan and patrol route using rock drills. They can safely execute and successfully complete their mission in accordance with the laws of war and respect to the local populace.

“Their people are ready to see them in charge and out there on the streets,” Weston said. “They need to be prepared for whatever comes for them. This is the new generation. They are the future of Iraq. They’re ready.”

“The most rewarding part is seeing their sergeants take charge because they normally don’t take charge,” Weston said. “It’s great to see the soldiers responding to their orders. The second most rewarding part is watching them get ready to go on their missions. The look of fear is gone. They look ready to defeat any obstacle that comes in their way.”

“This is the best team I have worked with,” said an interpreter for the U.S. trainers who preferred to remain anonymous, “because they care and they try to share all knowledge. They don’t let soldiers go home without being sure

that they understood everything that day. Sometimes they are tough, but it is to instill discipline and to teach the soldiers to be professional all of the time. We try to unite them without sectarianism. We teach these young men’s minds to protect all Iraqis, not just certain sects. We are all Iraqis.”

Usually within a day of graduating the Stryker Training Course, the Iraqi soldiers receive orders to conduct missions in 4-2’s area of operations, Weston said. They conduct patrols, search for weapons caches and man checkpoints with Coalition Forces.

Upon graduation Weston and his team wait with the Iraqi soldiers for helicopters to pick them up and take them to their missions.

“We do their pre-combat-inspections and talk to them about taking care of each other,” Weston said. “We tell them to look out for the Americans and most of all, win the hearts and minds of their people because they will be watching.”

The day after graduation, Weston and his team received a new platoon and started the process over again.

Weston said the schedule can wear on the trainers as well as the IA soldiers, but he wouldn’t take anything back and he wouldn’t do anything different.

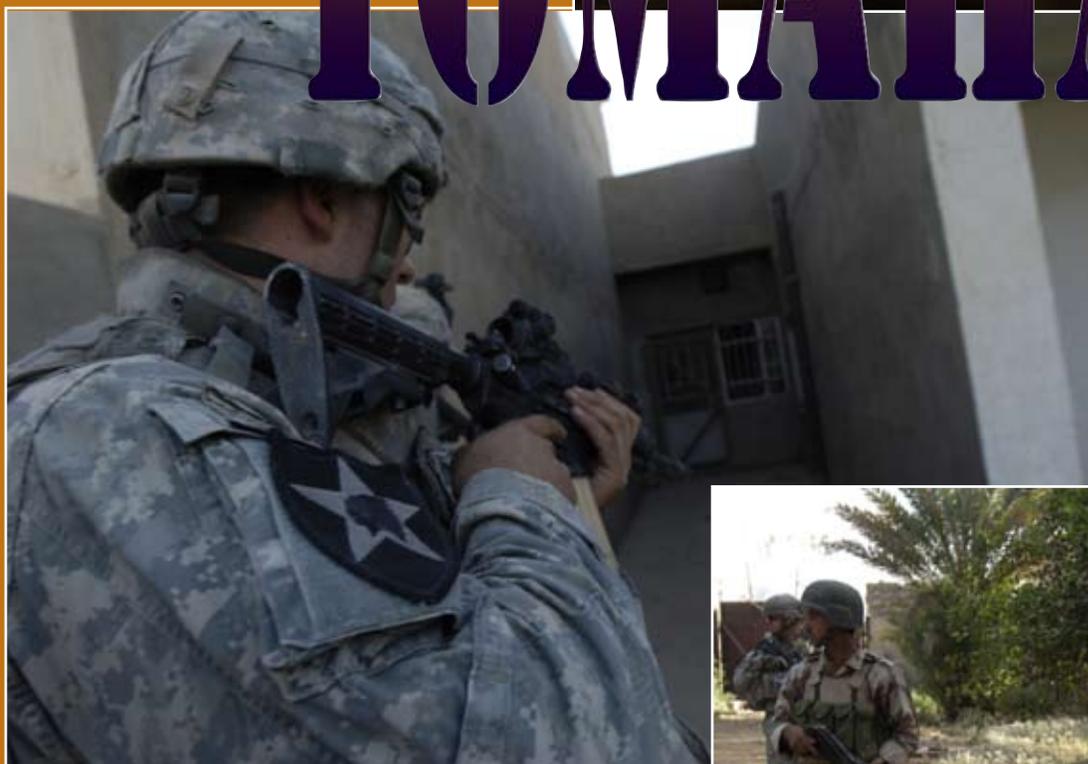
Staff Sgt. Justin Martinez (right), an instructor at the Stryker Training Course and infantryman in Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, demonstrates room clearing procedures to Iraqi army soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 9th Division at Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov. 6.



Staff Sgt. Michael Griffing from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment clears the second story of a house during Operation Tomahawk Hammer Nov. 4 in al Muqdadiyah, Iraq.



TOMAHAWK



Spc. Dustin Paece from Company B, 2-23 Inf. prepares to enter a house during Objective Tomahawk Hammer Nov. 6 in al Muqdadiyah, Iraq.





Staff Sgt. Michael Griffing from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment breaches a door during Objective Tomahawk Hammer Nov. 4 in al Muqdadiyah, Iraq.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Robertson

Soldiers of Company B, 2-23 Inf. and Iraqi Army Soldiers conduct operations to clear anti coalition forces Nov. 4 in al Muqdadiyah, Iraq.

Soldiers of Company B, 2-23 Inf. clear a section of palm groves Nov. 5 in al Muqdadiyah, Iraq. Objective Tomahawk Hammer was a clearing operation to remove anti-coalition forces from al Muqdadiyah.



Combating the not-so supervillains of Warhorse

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When I heard that we were moving from Taji to Warhorse, I must admit that I was elated.

No more long bus rides to get to main post, I thought. No more falling asleep crammed into living areas like sardines in a can. And no more long walks to get to the gym or chow hall.

At first look, Warhorse seemed to have it all: CHUs, everything in easy walking distance and nice office spaces.

What nobody told me about Warhorse, however, is the disturbing amount of not-so supervillains that run rampant around the FOB.

Nefarious scoundrels appear to populate Warhorse at an alarming rate. Some of these disreputable characters I have only heard of, while others I have the displeasure of experiencing firsthand.

One of the worst of the lot is that ill-begotten villain known as the Shower Pooper. This rogue prankster likes to

leave his calling card in the wash houses. Apparently, he gets a perverse thrill from taking his nightly No. 2 in the shower stall rather than the toilet. Nothing ruins a good morning like opening the curtains to a shower previously visited by the Shower Pooper.

Another nasty villain that reportedly stalks the CHUs of Warhorse is the Sucker Punch Bandit. This felonious thug likes to don a ski mask and then knock on a CHU door. When the hapless CHU resident answers the door, the Sucker Punch Bandit slugs them and then high-tails it out of there. With the element of surprise on his side, the Sucker Punch Bandit has yet to be caught.

The Water Hog Gang is not quite as terrible as the previously mentioned not-so supervillains but this group can be worse for morale because so many people are affected by them.

I have yet to take a warm shower on this FOB due to this band of aberrant self-centered people who steal all the hot water.

The most irritating of this lot is Water-Running Teeth-Brusher. Why he deems it necessary to keep the water running full blast while he brushes his teeth, I'll never know.

Another card-carrying member of the Water Hog Gang is the Water-Running Shaver. Apparently nobody ever told him that you only need to have the water running when you rinse your blades.

The gang leader is none other than that person of ill-repute the Long Shower Taker. This guy not only keeps

the water running the whole time he is in the shower, but he stays in there for 30 minutes. Just one visit by the Long Shower Taker can knock out hot water for the next several hours.

Other nasty characters that I have heard of or run into on this FOB are the Loud Music Player, the

Litterer, the Booger Wiper, The Latrine Graffiti Artist and the FOB Goblin.

With so many not-so supervillains on the loose, what's a not-so superhero to do? For starters, we could all be more considerate of others.

Do you think Superman would take long showers if he knew he was stealing all the hot water from the other members of the Justice League? Would Captain America play music loudly if he knew his fellow Avengers needed to get some quality downtime?

Of course they wouldn't ... they don't even exist.

All kidding aside, you don't have to be a superhero to do right by your fellow human beings.

Focusing more on others than you do yourself may not allow you to leap tall buildings in a single bound but it's still pretty darn heroic.

“Do you think Superman would take long showers if he knew he was stealing all the hot water from the other members of the Justice League? Would Captain America play music loudly if he knew his fellow Avengers needed to get some quality downtime?”



Staff Sgt. Samuel Duran, 4th Squad leader of 2nd Platoon, Battery C, 2-12 FA uses an MRAP for cover while scanning rooftops for threats after hearing small arms fire at a joint combat outpost in Baqouba, Iraq, Nov. 18.

MRAP, From page 5

The gunner's turret can also be an issue. It is manually operated as opposed to electronically or hand crank operated, making it difficult to rotate at times during sharp turns Uribe-Gonzalez said. Due to the large size of the crew cabin, the gunner needs to be taller in comparison to the Humvee, in order to reach the crew serve weapon up top.

"Other than that the vehicle drives pretty well on the streets of Iraq," Uribe-Gonzalez said. "We call it a (Ford) Excursion on steroids."

Despite the few drawbacks of the MRAP when compared to the Humvee, the 2-12 Soldiers are very glad to have them.

"Due to their shape and their build, they will provide much more protection for the Soldiers during transport," Gable said.

"It's more comfortable, and the seat harnesses are excellent," Roberts said. "I think they will save lives. As a medic, if I need to work on casualties inside the vehicle I can move around more freely, and use it as an ambulance. Overall I think the vehicles are great. It's great that the Army will pay the extra money for a much safer vehicle. I think it makes some of the guys, at least me, feel a little bit safer."



Soldiers of Battery C, 2-12 FA prepare MRAP vehicles to leave Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Nov. 18. The vehicles are replacing Humvees in areas of Iraq where the risk of enemy attack is elevated.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell, the top noncommissioned officer of 4-2 SBCT, speaks to Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment Nov. 5 in Baqouba, Iraq, during a recon of the brigade's new area of responsibility.

DIYALA, From page 6

“There may be certain individuals that go beyond being able to do that because there is just too much blood on their hands,” Lehr continued, “but I am willing to work with any group that comes forward with true reconciliation on their mind – someone that says I am not resisting the efforts of coalition forces and the government of Iraq to make Iraq a stable, sovereign nation.”

Lehr outlined some of the new challenges that come with expanding into a new area, including increased geographic responsibility, working with Iraqi Security Forces and additional infrastructure rebuilding needs.

“When you think of operating on a piece of ground the size of Maryland, that really paints a good word picture of just the physical difficulties of expanding,” Lehr said.

“Unlike our current AO where we have very little influence over Iraqi Security Forces ... we will have an entire Iraqi Army Division that we will have the ability to shape and influence,

and that’s a good challenge,” Lehr continued, adding, “The third challenge is the condition of the infrastructure, meaning essential services throughout Diyala province.”

Before Baqouba and the surrounding area was cleared of insurgents this past summer, essential services were relatively austere compared to the neighboring Baghdad province in which 4-2 currently operates.

The brigade is gaining several new enablers to help with those challenges, including the State Department’s Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team, the 4-2’s Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team and essential services teams.

The brigade is also in the process of fielding new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles to replace its up-armored HMMWVs.

The MRAP has a V-shaped hull designed to better protect passengers against improvised explosive devices and ballistic threats.

Lehr stressed that the overall strategy of conducting successful counter-insurgency operations will not change

with the expanded battle space.

“Being a counterinsurgent is akin to being a police officer and how a police officer conducts community policing,” Lehr said. “This type of fight requires different skills sets beyond tactical and technical. It requires interpersonal and conceptual skill sets, to understand that along with the lethal operations, diplomacy is what we do down to the lowest level. I think our units across the board have done exceptionally well at this.”

The expanded area of operations marks the first time that 4-2 SBCT will be together as a whole unit since before its deployment in April. Two of the brigade’s battalions, 1-38th Infantry Regiment and 2-23rd Infantry Regiment, have been attached to other units, first in Baghdad and then in Diyala.

“When you organize, equip and train as a brigade combat team and then get in combat and get pulled apart, it hurts,” Troxell said, “but when you get it back together, it feels great. I know our Soldiers are great fighters, and as a team we will be successful.”

ULTRA MAGNUS, From page 9

Inside the hut and on the dead enemy, the troops found several weapons, including three AK-47s, 15 full AK-47 magazines, 1 RPK rifle, two pistols, several grenades and three tubes possibly used for making explosively formed projectiles.

Also found in the hut was a guard roster. U.S. intelligence analysts accompanying the mission believe AQI had setup a 24-hour guard to keep Shia out of the area.

Al-Qaida definitely had a hold on the area,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Tembrock, 1st Platoon sergeant. “The guard roster proved a lot, not just in (Hussein Hamadi) but the two southern towns as well. This whole area is a staging area for attacks into the western area and all of Diyala province for that matter.”

On day three of the operation, the joint forces went back through the town tactically questioning the remaining villagers, trying to gain additional intelligence on AQI activity in the area. They also cleared the palm groves surrounding



First Lt. Ron Vinyard, platoon leader, 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav., throws a grenade at an enemy position south of Hussein Hamadi village, Iraq, Oct. 29 during Operation Ultra Magnus.

the area looking for weapon caches.

“With us working with the Iraq army, I think (the villagers) understand that we are trying to help,” Tembrock said. “We came here and got rid of the bad guys pretty quick. It didn’t take us more than six hours to do it.”

The final tally from the three-day operation included five enemy killed in action, three enemy wounded in action, seven detainees, six improvised rocket launchers, eight AK-47s, one rocket launcher and various other

assorted weapons and ammunition.

Security has improved for the town,” concluded 1st Sgt. Ghafil Mahdy of 3rd Company, 3-2-5 Iraqi Army, through a translator. “We captured lots of weapons and detained several insurgents and improved security for the village. We showed that we are working hard to finish off the terrorists and make the area more secure.”

No U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi troops or Iraqi civilians were harmed during Operation Ultra Magnus.

2-1 Soldiers return from a successful raid on an al-Qaida in Iraq safehouse south of Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29. The Soldiers killed four enemy insurgents and wounded another during a 20-minute firefight at the former AQI safehouse. After the raid, an Apache helicopter destroyed the safehouse with a hellfire missile.



2-12 FA takes over new AO with some new assets

By Capt. Ken Scattergood
2-12 FA

Moving to a new location is never easy, but combine that with combat operations and the challenge of moving several hundred people and the difficulties can be immense. Recently, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment transitioned into a new area of operation near FOB Warhorse.

Preparing for the move began with cleaning and packing equipment and vehicles. The process took several weeks from start to finish and kept many of the Soldiers up late several nights a week. At the same time, operations continued in the Viking AO. As Soldiers dealt with the day to day stresses of operations, they knew that soon many of them would relocate to a new base. For some, the hardest part was packing their bags.

Staff Sgt. Robert Hamrick of Headquarters Service Battery, 2-12 FA said this about packing his personal equipment, "I waited until almost the last moment to pack my stuff. I knew I had to do it, but I really didn't like the idea of moving again to a place that wasn't home."

The old Viking AO was not completely left behind. Soldiers from Battery A, 2-12 FA continue to conduct operations in sector, effectively doubling their area of control. They also provided support and assistance to the rest of the unit departing. As the rest of 2-12 FA packed their bags and prepared to move, Battery Alpha assisted in signing over equipment and providing convoy security as 2-12 FA moved to Warhorse.

Upon moving into FOB Warhorse,



Courtesy photo

2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment got 18 of these new Mine Resistant Armor Protected Vehicles to help keep insurgents off the streets of Baqouba.

Task Force Viking quickly got to work in their new area of operations. As the relief in place with 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment began, 2-12 Soldiers had the opportunity to conduct patrols in sector enabling them to familiarize themselves with their new area of operations. Additionally, 2-12 FA took control of three new Joint Combat Outposts spread out across the eastern sector of Baqouba. These JCOPS function as small operating bases for each of the units within Task Force Viking and allow quick access across the city. Each JCOP is manned with not only coalition forces but numerous Iraqi Security Forces, allowing for a much larger combat force on the ground if needed.

Task Force Viking also has the unique advantage of being organized with the most varied set of vehicles in all of 4th Brigade 2nd Infantry Division. They have successfully integrated M1151 HMWVs, Stryker vehicles, and the newest addition to the Viking team, the Mine Resistant Armor Protected Vehicle (MRAP). With each of these vehicles bringing different strengths to the battlefield,

this not only gives 2-12 additional fighting capacity, but the ability to vary maneuverability and tactical capability against the enemy.

In addition to new towns and people in a new AO, Task Force Viking grew with the addition of the Brigade Anti-Tank Company and a Stryker Company. The new Soldiers from Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment and Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment are a welcome addition and capability for the task force.

1st Lt. Christopher Garceau, TAC-A platoon leader, Headquarters Service Battalion, highlighted one difficulty he had already noticed in the new area of operation, "This AO relative to the previous is more compact and has the potential to become a very dangerous place. In some areas it is hard to turn our vehicles around if we get into trouble."

Though concerns have been brought up with the density and traffic ability of some of the roadways should units on the ground encounter improvised explosive devices or hostile personnel, this threat is partially mitigated by the new MRAPs that units of 2-12 FA will



be using in sector. With much stronger armor and fighting capability than the HMWWV, the MRAP will surely increase the battalion's survivability.

The Soldiers of 2-12 FA have a great deal of experience to bring to their new area of operation. Having already spent more than seven months in Iraq, they have come to better understand the battlefield and are prepared for the challenges this new area offers. This expansion of the Viking AO will also give this unit an opportunity to influence and improve the way of life for many more Iraqi people. As the war in Iraq continues, the Soldiers of Task Force Viking will have the ability to affect more of it for the better.



Courtesy photo

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment patrol in sector with Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. 2-12 FA took over their new area of operations from 1-12.

Physical, mental and emotional maintenance

By 2nd Lt Lancelot Watson
Co. C, 202nd BSB

This is the first installment in a series of articles covering current medical issues affecting Soldiers here in our area of operations and around the Army.

First and foremost, a definition of the aforementioned term is in order. Combat Stress is defined as mental or physical stress that a Soldier might experience from conducting military operations in a war zone.

Combat Stress Control is defined as programs developed and actions taken by military leadership to identify, prevent and manage activities that result in adverse Combat and Operational Stress, see AR 40-216.

It is the Army's and every commander's intention to minimize Combat Stress at all levels as much as possible.

There is a wide range of possible situations which can or will lead to Combat Stress and it is of vital importance that each Soldier notifies his or her chain of command about specific issues or problems as quickly as possible so that they can be expeditiously resolved.

Combat Stress resulting from mental stress includes some of the following situations:

- Soldiers in the deployed area of operations undergoing marital issues and being unable to resolve such issues as he or she is not physically there with the spouse

- Soldiers experiencing financial problems

- Soldiers who have a family member who is ill and not being able to be in the local area to help the family member

- Unable to attend the funeral from the recent death of a family member

- Unable to be with a spouse for the birth of a son or daughter

- Inactivity producing boredom

- Interpersonal conflicts

- Loss of privacy

- Fear and anxiety and hyper-vigilance (increased alertness)

Combat Stress resulting from physical stress includes situations in which:

- The local weather is severe (either too cold or too hot)

- Inhospitable terrain (mountainous and impassable areas, cliffs, precipices)

- High humidity or very dry atmosphere

- Dehydration

- Sleep deprivation

- Malnutrition

- Poor hygiene

- Obesity

- Muscular or aerobic fatigue

- Illness or injury

It is important for all of us to realize that all of us will at some point experience at least one of the scenarios mentioned on the lists above during the course of our 15-month deployment, and each scenario has the potential of distorting our mission focus, vigilance and attention to detail. Much more importantly, help is just around the corner.

Our resident psychologist at the Wagon Master Clinic, Major Brady, located at Building #44 across from the finance office, is available seven days a week from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. by scheduling an appointment at the 202 Battalion Aid Station.

One Team, One Fight. Army Strong.



MEDICAL ALERT



HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

FICI-MD

15 DEC 07

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Preventive Measures Against Cholera and Other Diarrheal Illnesses

- PURPOSE.** To provide Commanders and leaders with awareness of the recent cholera outbreak in Iraq and to provide implementation and enforcement of preventive measures to reduce the risk of cholera and other diarrheal illnesses.
- BACKGROUND.** Since mid-Aug 2007, 16 local national deaths due to cholera have been reported. Cholera is an acute bacterial disease characterized by sudden onset of watery diarrhea, nausea, and profuse vomiting. In untreated cases, rapid dehydration and other factors may cause death. In most cases, infection shows no sign of symptoms but may cause mild diarrhea. The transmission of disease occurs by eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water.
- CURRENT MEASURES.** Water quality surveillance, food sanitation and safety checks, and enforcement of hand-washing after using the latrine, before eating, and before preparing foods, are ways that provide strong protection against the disease.
- DISCUSSION.** Historically, outbreaks of cholera occur regularly in Iraq. Cholera poses little risk to U.S. forces, especially for those U.S. personnel who eat and drink water from approved sources. Rare cases can occur among personnel consuming local food, water, or ice.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - Always wash hands with soap and water before eating and after using the latrine.
 - Eat and drink water from U.S. approved sources only.
 - If mission requires eating foods or drinking water from the local economy, eat cooked foods that are served hot and drink bottled or canned beverages without ice. Avoid eating foods from street vendors. If possible, boil or disinfect water before drinking.
 - Seek medical attention immediately if you have eaten on the economy and experience severe watery diarrhea.
- Points of contact for this alert are MAJ Sueann Ramsey, Chief, Preventive Medicine at DSN 822-7972; email: sueann.ramsey@iraq.centcom.mil or LCDR Bret Moscon, MNC-I Surgeon Force Health Protection Officer at DSN 822-7973; email: bret.moscon@iraq.centcom.mil.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
IAW MNC-I (SJS) Form 1853: A

MEDICAL ALERT 07-05

MEDICAL ALERT

MEDICAL ALERT

MEDICAL ALERT

Easy Sudoku

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

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

SAFETY ALERT



HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

FICI-SAFE

16 DEC 07

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Safety in Transportation, Handling, and Use of Cartridge and Launcher, 84MM M136 AT-4

- Recently, a SGT was training two Soldiers on the proper employment of an AT-4. The SGT thought he was using an expended rocket launcher. As the SGT was going through the firing sequence, the AT-4 discharged; one Soldier suffered head and shoulder injuries. In 2004, a unit armorer was attempting to place an AT-4 in the safe mode when he inadvertently depressed the trigger mechanism; the AT-4 discharged and instantly killed the armorer. An inspection by a Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS) determined that the AT-4's safety lever was damaged, and the weapon could not be properly placed in the safe mode. The inspector also found other AT-4 deficiencies: some launchers were armed, safety pins were missing, and other AT-4s were damaged through transportation and field handling.
- The following precautions must be followed when handling an 84MM Launcher, AT-4:
 - Commanders/Leaders must ensure all personnel are trained to properly handle, operate, and store the AT-4 IAW TM 9-1315-885-12.
 - Ensure any damaged AT-4 is reported immediately and turned in through the appropriate channels.
 - Leaders must be 100% engaged in weapons training: constantly improving weapons efficiency and familiarity.
 - Leaders and individuals must know how to immediately identify and STOP unsafe operations and weapons handling procedures.
 - Leaders and individuals must know how to accurately distinguish live weapons and ammunition from training equipment.
- Our Soldiers and equipment must always be fully mission capable. Attention to detail, proper training, and supervision are paramount to the prevention of accidents.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
IAW MNC-I (SJS) Form 1853: A

SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

Medium Sudoku

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

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.



Hard Sudoku

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

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

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

Sudoku Answers

Solution to Easy Sudoku

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

Solution to Medium Sudoku

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

Solution to Hard Sudoku

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

MEDICAL ALERT



HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

FICI-MD

22 OCT 07

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Rabies Awareness, Prevention, and Risk Mitigation Measures

- PURPOSE.** To heighten awareness of the hazards of contact with animals in the Iraqi Theater of Operations and to emphasize rabies prevention and risk mitigation measures.
- BACKGROUND.** Rabies is a viral infection that attacks the brain and nervous system. Rabies is contracted by animal bites or through saliva contacting broken skin, the eyes, or the mouth. Rabies is mainly present in the dog and mongoose populations in Iraq, but cats, foxes, coyotes, bats, raccoons, and other animals can also carry rabies. In 2007, 2 dogs and 1 mongoose tested positive for rabies following bite incidents. Rabies is 99% fatal once clinical signs appear; there is no effective treatment.
- DISCUSSION.** Rabies is preventable, but prevention must be enforced through strict animal control measures and prompt medical attention following an exposure. MNC-I General Order Number 1 prohibits adopting pets as mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of animal. The Center for Disease Control reports that exposure to rabid dogs is the primary source of human rabies cases and deaths. In the early stages of infection, a rabid animal will appear healthy.
- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RISK MITIGATION:**
 - Avoid contact with animals. If bitten or scratched by any type of animal, immediately wash wound with soap and water. Then seek medical attention.
 - Execute proper waste management.
 - Do not maintain, feed, or care for unauthorized animals. Do not transport unauthorized animals outside of Iraq.
 - Report all animal bites to medical authorities. The earlier you report the incident, the earlier you can receive treatment and prevent rabies.
- Point of contact for this alert is the MNC-I Surgeon's Office, Force Health Protection Officer at DSN 318-822-7972/7973 or VOIP: 243-6533; email: DLMNC-ISURGEONFHP@iraq.centcom.mil.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS



Signature
RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
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MEDICAL ALERT 07-07

MEDICAL ALERT

STAY FOUR DEUCE

This check could be yours

DRAGOON RAIDERS RETENTION TEAM



CAMP WARHORSE
SFC MOORE
SFC MCMANUS
SSG SOWELLS
DSN 318-849-4232
VOIP 773-2071

Laura.r.moore1@us.army.mil

Stop by and see your Career Counselor today for more information.

CAMP TAJI
SSG DAVIS

Danny.joe.davis@us.army.mil



Warhorse Religious Services

- DAILY:** Daily Devotional, time TBD
- WEDNES:** 8:15 p.m. Bible Study at the 2-1 Cav. ALOC conference room
- SAT:** 9 p.m. Ugandan Service at Warhorse Chapel
- SUNDAY:** 8:30 a.m., Gospel Service, Sunday school at Faulkenburg Theater
10 a.m., Gospel Service at Faulkenburg Theater
11 a.m., Protestant Service at Warhorse Chapel
12:30 p.m., LDS Service at Warhorse Chapel
7:30 p.m., Praise Service at Warhorse Chapel

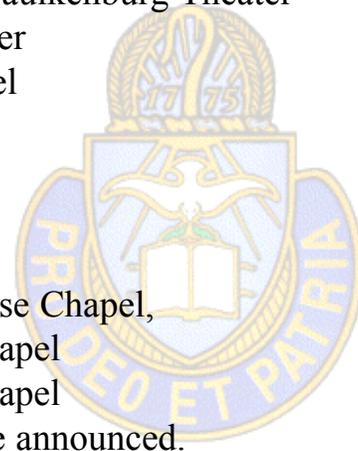
SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- MONDAY:** 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., Reunion Service at Warhorse Chapel,
- THURS:** 6 p.m., Gospel Choir Practice at Warhorse Chapel
- SAT:** 6 p.m., Gospel Choir Practice at Warhorse Chapel
- Catholic Mass will take place 1-2 times a month. Times will be announced.

For further information, contact Sgt. Decker, chaplain assistant NCOIC.

SIPR: benjamin.c.decker@4bct2id.army.smil.mil

NIPR: benjamin.decker@iraq.centcom.mil



SOUNDOFF! ——— Warhorse vs. Taji ———



“Warhorse is a lot dustier and smaller, but things are much closer. There are no two-hour bus rides, so that’s a plus. It seems like it is a lot better than Taji.”

Spc. Thomas Kucera
Brigade Surgeon Section
HHC, 4-2 SBCT



“Warhorse is a lot better because everything is closer and there is no longer a need for long bus rides. The chow is a lot better too.”

Sgt. Kenneth Hawthorne
Combat Engineer
38th Engineer Co.



“Baqouba is a much more dynamic atmosphere and we will have a lot more influence in the over all perspective of Iraq being here, as opposed to being outside of the Baghdad area.”

Capt. Travis Delker
Battle Captain
2-12 Field Artillery



“We have had to take over a whole new area and we have been working 18 to 20 hour days to get the communication equipment running. It is still Iraq though.”

Sgt. Martha Arenas
Communications Specialist
HHC, 4-2 SBCT



PFC Anthony Sausto
May 10, 2007
Co. A, 1-38 IN

SGT Danny Soto
June 16, 2007
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

SPC Nicholas Olson
Sept. 18, 2007
Co. A, 2-23 IN

PFC Aaron Gautier
May 17, 2007
Co. B, 2-23 IN

SPC Zachary Grass
June 16, 2007
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

SPC Donald Valentine III
Sept. 18, 2007
Co. A, 2-23 IN

CPL Jonathan Hamm
May 17, 2007
Co. B, 2-23 IN

SGT Joel Dahl
June 23, 2007
HHC, 2-23 IN

SPC Graham McMahon
Sept. 19, 2007
Co. B, 4-9 IN

PFC Robert Worthington
May 22, 2007
Co. B, 4-9 IN

CPL Victor Garcia
July 1, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

CPL Luigi Marciante Jr.
Sept. 20, 2007
Co. A, 2-23 IN

SSG Kristopher Higdon
May 22, 2007
Co. B, 4-9 IN

CPL Brandon Craig
July 19, 2007
HHC, 4-2 SBCI

CPL David Watson
Sept. 22, 2007
HHC, 2-23 IN

SSG David Kuehl
May 22, 2007
Co. C, 4-9 IN

SPC Rhett Butler
July 20, 2007
Trp. B, 2-1 CAV

SGT Christopher Kruse
Nov. 13, 2007
HHC, 2-23 IN

SPC Mathew LaForest
May 25, 2007
Co. C, 4-9 IN

PFC Shawn Hensel
Aug. 14, 2007
Co. B, 2-23 IN

CPL Peter Schmidt
Nov. 13, 2007
Co. C, 2-23 IN

PFC Junior Cedenio Sanchez
May 28, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

PFC Willard Powell
Aug. 16, 2007
Co. C, 4-9 IN

SGT Kenneth Booker
Nov. 13, 2007
Co. C, 2-23 IN

SSG Thomas McFall
May 28, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

SFC Daniel Scheibner
Aug. 29, 2007
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

PV2 Marius Ferrero
Nov. 18, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

SPC William Crouch
June 2, 2007
Trp. A, 2-1 CAV

SFC David Cooper Jr.
Sept. 5, 2007
Co. B, 2-23 IN

SPC Christopher Nelson
Nov. 18, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

SGT Cory Endlich
June 9, 2007
Trp. B, 2-1 CAV

SPC Joseph Landry III
Sept. 18, 2007
Co. A, 2-23 IN

SPC Jason Lee
Nov. 18, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN



THE MONEY SHOT

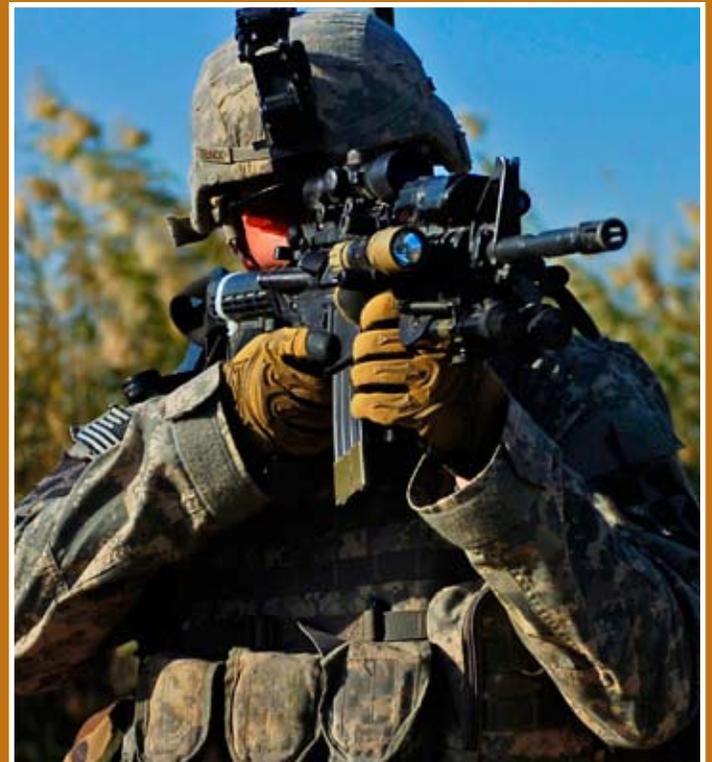


Sgt. Armando Gonzales, Capt. Victor Sutterland and Spc. Paul Sodergren from Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment watch a car approaching a check point in Arab Husan, Iraq, during Operation Lewis and Clark Nov. 5.

Photos by Pfc. Kirby Rider



A Stryker provides security while Capt. Victor Sutterland and Spc. Francis Trunck of Company A, 1-38th Inf. receive a report about a captured detainee in Arab Husan, Iraq, during Operation Lewis and Clark Nov. 5.



Spc. Francis Trunck of Company A, 1-38th Inf. watches movement on a canal in Arab Husan, Iraq, Nov. 5.