

THE RAIDER

Tribe

November 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 2



*Making a Veteran
on Veterans Day*

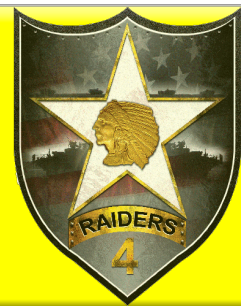


"To The Objective!"

RAIDER 6

COLONEL JOHN NORRIS

4SBCT COMMANDER



Fellow Raiders, Families, and Friends of the Raider Brigade,

This past month we celebrated “Make a Veteran on Veteran’s Day.” This was an idea conceived by our Command and Operations Sergeants Major. Their goal was to recognize not only the veterans that have deployed before but to welcome and indoctrinate the new Soldiers who were becoming veterans for the first time. November 11 was filled with many different ceremonies all around western Baghdad. One common theme was prevalent in them all; Raider Soldiers had 2nd Infantry Division Combat Patches placed on their right shoulders. Around 4,000 Raiders will forever be linked to the historic 2nd Infantry division and enter an exclusive club. Less the 0.5 percent of our population can claim to be Veterans of an overseas war. I was humbled to be in their presence. They join the Veterans of the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War who can say they defended this great country from foreign enemies.

Lakewood City Council held a very nice Veterans Day event before their City council meeting on Monday, November 9th. I was honored to deliver a video message to Mayor Richardson, the council and citizens of Lakewood. The support that they, the community, and our Adopt-a-Company Partners continue to show the Raider Brigade is overwhelming. A day does not pass where Sandra, or one of my commanders, tells me about

great events and support that the families back home are receiving. From FRG Halloween parties, to crime prevention classes, to care packages, to simple letters; all these things help to strengthen the Raider brigade and its families and let the Soldiers know that the spouses are being cared for.

This support is very important as we approach the first major holiday of our deployment. Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate and give thanks for all the blessings we have received. We will make every effort to make Thanksgiving enjoyable and memorable to the Raiders in Iraq. The dining facilities have plans to go all out, with the 702 BSB helping to facilitate the feast, along with many units holding football games and many other activities. I will make sure that the photos and videos are shared with our families back home.

Our Iraqi Partners will be celebrating during this time as well. This year it so happens that a major Islamic Celebration falls over the same days as the Thanksgiving holiday. Many of our Iraqi brothers and sisters will be celebrating the Hajj which is the time for Muslims to make their pilgrimage to Mecca. During this seven day period our partners will be having many festivals, family gatherings, with the main course being sheep, instead of turkey.

Our relationship with our Iraqi Counterparts continues to strengthen. Iraqi Army and Police units continue



to share information, conduct combined operations, and distribute humanitarian aid to the local people. Together in the past month we have successfully secured the Baghdad Business Expo, deterred car bombs, found a number of improvised explosive devices and caches. This unity of effort is working and will lead to successful elections and a peaceful future for Iraq.

I thank each member of the Raider Tribe for their hard work and dedication to the cause. Keep up the good work.

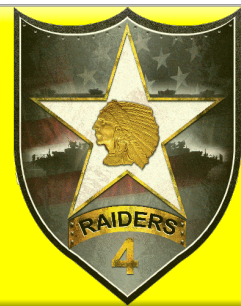
Raider 6

“To the Objective!”

RAIDER 7

CSM JEFFREY HUGGINS

4 SBCT COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



Raiders,

I am proud of you! Your hard work and determination thus far have shown that the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade are committed to seeking out the enemy with our Iraqi partners.

In the past month, we have continued to hunt the enemy, denying them safe havens, and providing irreversible momentum towards a safer and more prosperous Iraq.

Your accomplishments thus far have been recognized this month by the commanding generals that have visited. The all said the same thing: "Keep up the good work!"

You were also recognized on Veterans Day during patching ceremonies held throughout our operational environment. I had the privilege to attend many of these ceremonies, and for the roughly 1,200 of you for whom this was the first time donning the combat patch, I was honored to witness you take your place in history.

But this is just the beginning, and our deployment is far from over.

The enemy is a battle-hardened foe, determined to commit spectacular attacks with massive loss of life. Their goal is to destabilize the country and show the citizens of Iraq that the ISF are unable to protect them.

Working with our allies, we will stop them.

Make no mistake, as we progress with our mission it will not get any easier.

Our enemies will grow more desperate, and as we continue the drawdown of U.S. Forces the standard of living you know now may not remain the same.

But through hard work and continued vigilance we will be successful. Failure is not an option.

Remember:

BE SAFE...

BE SMART...

And when required... BE LETHAL!



Raider 7

Col. John Norris
4-2 SBCT Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins
4-2 SBCT Command Sergeant Major

Capt. Christopher Ophardt
Public Affairs Officer
Sgt. Bryce Dubee
Public Affairs NCOIC
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On the cover:

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

Graphics by Damon Godinet
Special thanks to Mr. Godinet for creating the cover to The Raider Tribe October cover and graphics





Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

Col. John Norris (right), commander of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, places a combat patch on the sleeve of Spc. Niomi Wright, a Portland, Ore. native from the brigade's personnel office during a ceremony, Nov. 11.

Raiders earn combat patch

**Story by Sgt. Bryce Dubee
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.**

BAGHDAD – All across western Baghdad, Soldiers from the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division took time, Nov. 11, to make an adjustment to their uniform; adding the distinctive Indianhead patch of the 2nd Inf. Div. to their right sleeves.

The Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service, commonly known as the “combat patch” is authorized for wear right

sleeve of the uniform by Soldiers to denote their participation in combat operations.

Roughly 4,000 troops from Fort

across western Baghdad and north, to include the city of Taji. Of those Soldiers, approximately 1,200 received their first combat patch on Wednesday.

“This patch is never coming off of this uniform,”

-Pfc. Jason Jerome

“This patch is never coming off of this uniform,” said Pfc. Jason Jerome, an Aniston, Ala. native assigned to 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment. “I’m really proud of it.”

Units within the brigade all held their own patching ceremonies with Soldiers

Lewis-based brigade combat team arrived in Iraq in the beginning of September, conducting operations

See **CEREMONY**, page 5

amassing in front of rows of Stryker armored vehicles, around a large metal anvil and even at a nighttime bonfire.

At a small ceremony held in front of the brigade headquarters, Soldiers representing every battalion received their patch from Col. John Norris, the brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins, the brigade command sergeant major.

"It is, indeed, my honor to stand amongst you heroes, put your combat patches on, and welcome you to a very, very elite club," said Norris, after the ceremony.

Spc. Niomi Wright, a Portland, Ore. native from 4th Brigade's personnel office said that it felt "surreal" to be in Iraq and receive her patch.

"It's exciting. I never thought I'd actually deploy," she said.

Pfc. Joel Pasqualucci, from Pla-



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division observe their battalion motto and "Keep up the fire" during their patching ceremony, Nov. 11 on Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam, on the western outskirts of Baghdad.

centia, Calif., said he feels that earning the patch will help in his military career, as a sign of experience.

"I think it represents everything that you're doing here," he said. "It's [not just] a patch."

History of the 2nd Infantry Division "Indianhead" patch

The 2nd Infantry Division "Indianhead" patch is one of the most recognized unit emblems in the U.S. Army because of its distinctive design and 78 years of proud service by warriors.

The origin of the patch goes back to the earliest days of the division's history. While training with the French in 1917, Col. Herringshaw of the Service and Support Supply of the 2nd Infantry Division noticed that the French trucks were marked with symbols representing the unit which it belonged. He sponsored a contest among his men to design a symbol for his trucks. There were three winners: first prize winner was a design featuring an Indianhead; second prize went to a plain white star and the third prize is lost in history.

The colonel was not completely satisfied and it is believed that, by chance, he combined the two symbols of the white star and Indianhead and liked what he saw. Some theories say that the single star represents the state of Texas, while others claim the star is from the American Flag.

Regardless, the design was sent to the command headquarters for approval. Brig. Gen. Omar Bundy, division commander, not only approved the symbol, but also ordered it put on his staff car. The size and shape of the patch changed in October 1918 when Maj. Gen. John A. LeJeune, the new division commander, decided the color of the cloth behind each patch should represent the different divisional units. After World War I, the background of the patch was adopted from the design on the American Shield. In World War II, it finally took the shape, size and color it has today.

Information provided by www.2id.korea.army.mil

Make a Veteran

Raider Soldiers receive combat patches



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – A bonfire rages as 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, Soldiers wait to receive their 2nd Infantry Division combat patches.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division stand at attention after receiving their combat patches in a ceremony at HHC headquarters.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division stand show off their combat patches after a ceremony at the 702nd BSB motorpool.

Photo by Capt. Wendy Stull, 702nd BSB, 4SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.



On Veterans Day

at ceremonies in western Baghdad Nov. 11



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner, MND-B PAO

(Below) BAGHDAD – Pfc. Johnathon Hall, an automatic rifleman receives his 2nd Infantry Division combat patch from Sgt. Ryan Cope, a squad team leader here, Nov. 11. Both Soldiers are with Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.



(Left) BAGHDAD – Lt. Col. Michael Lawrence (left), commander of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, salutes Pfc. Larry Doyle, of Warren, Ind., after awarding him the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge and his combat patch at Camp Taji, Nov. 11.

(Below) BAGHDAD – Lt. Col. Richard Heyward, commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Griffin, both with 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, put combat patches on their Soldiers at Camp Stryker, Nov. 11.

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.





MANCHU 6

Lt. Col. Mark Bieger

4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment Commander



To the Warriors and families of the Manchu Battalion,

The Manchus are off to a phenomenal start here in this deployment to Iraq.

Collectively, we have deployed through Kuwait, occupied two joint security stations and quickly begun combat operations in support of our Iraqi Partners, the 24th Iraqi Army Brigade, and the people of this area. We have performed our duties extremely well – with strength, discipline and honor.

We have made a positive impact every single day.

At times, it is difficult to quantify that impact and measure the results of our efforts. One could look at the continued stability in the area, the performance of our Iraqi partners and the controlled level of violence. One could look at the business that are showing signs of improvement, or the coordination between the Army and the Police, or the Iraqis continued efforts to build a functioning democracy. One could look at the eyes of an Iraqi teenager, child or father.

There are many measures an outsider could use to measure that impact – and most of them are extremely positive. I choose to look at something else. I look at our Soldiers.

I look at the way they carry themselves, the way they seek individual and unit improvement and the way they conduct their missions in the

streets and villages of this part of the country. I look at the way they treat each other, the way they treat the Iraqi citizen and the way they respect their fellow Soldiers in the Iraqi Army. I look at the way they maintain their individual discipline over a six hour patrol or the way they ensure that their sector is covered, always. I look at the way they guard our perimeter from a stone tower or the way they stay long after the day is over and clean their rifle, preparing for the next day's mission. I look at the reenlistment ceremonies, the promotion ceremonies and the awards ceremonies.

I watch these brave Soldiers, who

“We have made a positive impact every single day.”

-Lt. Col. Mark Bieger

willingly risk their lives in the service of their nation. These men and women who have said goodbye to their families for the first, second, third or fourth time. And I am truly in awe. These Soldiers are heroes – and they are the true measure of success. Their individual performance, commitment and sheer determination are what make this



battalion successful.

We just finished two combat patch ceremonies at our respective stations on 11 and 12 November, Veteran's Day. It was an appropriate time to honor those that are serving today and the thousands that served before. It gave us all an opportunity, by the heat and light of our bonfires, to reflect on our place in our great Army and the prestigious history of the 9th Regiment.

We have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving - our health, our families back home and each other. I am truly thankful and privileged to serve with and for the incredible Soldiers of this battalion – and I am extremely proud to call myself a Manchu.

Manchu 6
“Keep Up the Fire.”



IA led joint patrol protects Aqur Quf

**Story by Staff Sgt.
Mark Burrell
MND-B PAO**

BAGHDAD – On a dusty road in northwestern Baghdad, Sgt. Kegan Cline kneels beside a wall, resting his M-14 sniper rifle as a group of Iraqi girls in blue school uniforms walk by, giggling and pushing each other, Nov. 3.

The Worcester, Mass. native, smiled briefly and nodded at the girls, knowing that his presence, combined with Iraqi Army Soldiers, allows the girls to walk around safely.

“It feels great that we’re here serving a purpose,” said Cline, assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. “These kids can go to and from school without fear and that the community sees two organizations working together as one is a great thing.”

Since arriving a few months ago in Aqur Quf, a rural area in northwestern Baghdad, U.S. troops have worked with IA Soldiers on a daily basis to help keep the area safe.

“It’s a good thing that the U.S. forces support us and we work together and the community sees that,” said IA Capt. Nomas Mohammed Hussein. “These people just need somebody to hear their concerns and understand them.”

In order to do that, the American and Iraqi Soldiers patrol the area on

foot, interacting with the people face-to-face and giving the locals a different perception.

“Many of the people think that when we dismount our vehicles, we just arrest people, but that is not true,” explained Hussein. “We want to show them that now we are here to talk to them.”

The Soldiers move from farmhouse to farmhouse allowing Nomas and the other IA Soldiers time to playfully ask the children their names and talk to the adults about the local security situation.

“These patrols are important because it’s time for us to leave [Iraq] soon, so we let the IA do a lot more of the talking, like today,” said 1st Lt. Mike Slapik, an infantry platoon leader from West Bridgewater, Mass.

As Nomas spoke at length to

the men of the house at each location, Slapik stood back and listened to the conversations through his interpreter.

“Everybody’s going to tell you it’s safe, but when you sit down with the people, they’ll want to tell us more information,” Slapik explained. “You have to stay and talk for an extended period of time to get a feeling for how they feel.”

The Soldiers listened to concerns about clean water and jobs. Slapik explained that they cannot fix most of these problems immediately.

“It’s good to show that we’re not going to solve all their problems, but that they have to go through the local system they’ve established,” added Slapik, stressing working within the system the local government has created.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO

Sgt. Kegan Cline, from Worcester, Mass., takes a knee against a wall with his M-14 sniper rifle as Iraqi girls in blue school uniforms walk home during a joint patrol in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 3.

See MANCHUS, page 11

Many of the local people come to the Soldiers with problems that need to be solved at their local governance level.

“It’s a detective’s job basically,” continued Slapik. “It’s not a short turn-around, finding bad guys is a long legal process with multiple witnesses and arrest warrants issued through a judge. We like to make sure the local people see that process, so there are actually results.”

The biggest thing that Slapik and his Soldiers want to show the local populations is that American forces are simply supporting the IA, as they are the ones in charge now.

One local area man has noticed a difference in the area thanks to this relationship.

“It’s better when the U.S. and IAs work together,” said Ali Nafe Juwad. “The situation here was very bad a year ago, but it is better today because of the work the Americans and IA do



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO

Iraqi Army Capt. Nomas Mohammed Hussein (right), looks at a local man's identification card while on a joint patrol with 1st Lt. Mike Slapik (middle), an infantry platoon leader from West Bridgewater, Mass., in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 3.

together.”

After tea is over, Slapik and his men wait on what Hussein wants to do next. The Iraqi captain broke into a thin smile as he ruffled the hair of a little girl, then shook hands and decided the patrol was

finished.

After a day of meeting many familiar faces, the Soldiers climbed back into their vehicles, knowing that they left the area a little safer and with a little more information than they had a day before.

Military Transition Team



Photo by U.S. Army

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CONSTITUTION, Iraq – Soldiers with 6th Iraqi Army Division demonstrate their driving skills and techniques and for the 6th IA Div. military transition team and local Iraqi media, Nov. 6.



Photo by U.S. Army

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CONSTITUTION, Iraq – Maj. Shayne Mullins, from 6th Iraqi Army Division military transition team, advises his IA counterparts on future operations in and around the Baghdad area, Nov 6.



Photo by U.S. Army

BAGHDAD – A 6th Iraqi Army Division officer hands out backpacks at Al Walaa school, Oct. 26. The Iraqi Army, in conjunction with the 6th Iraqi Army Division military transition team, have participated in multiple school supply drops around the city.



VIKING 6

Lt. Col. Kevin Murphy

2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment Commander



Rock Soldiers, families, and friends,

The battalion continues to do great work in Baghdad, partnering with the 54th Brigade of the 6th Iraqi Army Division.

Assault Battery, based 'downtown' at Muthanna Airfield, partners with the 1st Battalion, 54th Brigade. Together, they are responsible for a diverse collection of neighborhoods that includes many embassies, ministries, shopping districts, and one gigantic mosque.

Chief Battery, based at Camp Liberty, partners with the 2nd Battalion, 54th Brigade, and is responsible for a mix of industrial and residential areas that includes several large highways, a prominent hospital, and a mostly deserted island in the middle of Baghdad.

Fierce Company is partnered with the 3rd Battalion, 54th Brigade, and occupies the strategic center of the brigade area of operations, home to many homes and shops, but also the busiest highway interchange in western Baghdad.

Day or night, the Vikings can be found patrolling the streets with our Iraqi partners, or meeting with a key local leader to make life better for the residents of Baghdad.

It is hard work, but not without rewards and great personal satisfaction.



“Day or night, the Vikings can be found patrolling the streets with our Iraqi partners, or meeting with a key local leader to make life better for the residents of Baghdad.”

-Lt. Col. Kevin Murphy

Barbarian Battery rounds out the area, partnering with the 4th Battalion, 54th Brigade, and is responsible for a densely populated area adjacent to Camp Liberty, that includes a popular market and a horse racing track.

The Viking area of operations is the most densely populated area in all of 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., and it is never a dull place.

the battalion.

As we begin the holiday season, please know that your Vikings are standing guard against the enemies of freedom, and proud to be American Soldiers.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great work done by Headquarters Battery. If there is one element that has to bring its “A”-game every minute of every day, it's the battery that never sleeps: HSB.

Whether it's ordering supplies, running communications, or controlling the whole show from the battalion tactical operation center, HSB gets it done everytime. They truly are the heartbeat of

**Viking 6
“Vikings!”**

U.S. Forces Donate Medical Supplies to Yarmouk Hospital

**Story by 1st Lt. Robert Hockman
2nd Bn., 12th FAR,
4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.**

BAGHDAD – The Soldiers with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division provided much needed medical supplies to Yarmouk Hospital in Baghdad.

Dr. Jumam, a hospital director, supervised as the medical supplies were transferred from a military truck.

“We are very grateful for these surgical supplies,” he said.

That was all the thanks troops from Battery B needed as they downloaded

the pallets to the awaiting hospital workers.

“It’s a heartwarming mission,” said one 2nd Bn., 12th FAR Soldier. “This is the kind of thing that makes you proud to be a Soldier. It reminds you that this mission in Iraq is all about helping the Iraqi people to help themselves.”

When the last box was unloaded and taken into the hospital, it was obvious by the smiles and waves that this delivery would leave a positive impact on Yarmouk Hospital and the Battery B Soldiers who brought it.



Photo by Sgt. Alejandro Borrego, Battery B, 2nd Bn., 12th FAR
Dr. Jumam (left), a hospital director, poses with a Raider Soldier during a humanitarian aid mission to provide Yarmouk Hospital with medical supplies. Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division assisted in the aid and provided security at the event.

Earning “the patch” on Veterans Day

**Story by Sgt. Joshua Risner
MND-B PAO**

BAGHDAD – On a gravel-strewn area on Camp Taji, not long after sunrise here, Soldiers of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, gathered.

As the leaders came down, Soldiers fell into formation to be recognized for the awarding of the shoulder sleeve insignia for former wartime service; simply known as the combat patch.

“In about three hours, it’s going to be the anniversary of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when the guns fell silent at World War I,” said Capt. Dennis Grinde.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner, MND-B PAO

Capt. Dennis Grinde (left), shakes the hand of Spc. Ronald Cargill after awarding him the Purple Heart, Combat Medic Badge and combat patch at Camp Taji, Nov. 11.

“The patch that you guys are wearing was worn in World War I and worn in every combat operation since. That signifies something. That identifies you as someone who belongs in the 2nd Infantry.”

As Grinde continued, the Soldiers listened intently while being told of the significance of that day and their own place in history as veterans of the United States Army.

“Now you’re a veteran, you’re special,” said the Grand Forks, N.D. native to his Soldiers. “Wherever you decide to go, forever, now you’re a veteran of the United States [Army]. That’s something to be proud of.”

The sentiment reverberated through those present and the words sank in with the weight of a dozen generations of American warriors who had come before them.

One of those new warriors, Pfc. Larry Doyle, an infantryman, received a Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman’s Badge in addition to his combat patch today.

Doyle admitted the recognition carries a great feeling, but he is humble about the honors bestowed upon him.

“I came in wanting to make this a career, wanting to do 20 years, so it is a great honor,” he said. “I didn’t ask for it, but it comes with the job.”

When the command of “Fall out” was sounded, the recently patched combat veterans dispersed to go about the day’s duties in service to their country. They had entered the hallowed ranks of those who had fought and served before them, and of those who are honored every year.



When crashing is part of the plan

Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

**Story by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.**

BAGHDAD – Focused on his task, Pvt. Richard Jarus, guided a small unmanned aerial system in circles around a landing area near the brigade headquarters on Camp Liberty, Nov. 7.

Steering it into a straight line, he used the hand controller to tell the RQ-11B Raven to quickly lift its nose into the air, causing it to stall and crash into the ground; pieces of the SUAS scattering among the rocks. The landing was a success, by a Raven pilot's standards.

When the Raven "crashes", its pieces are designed to fly off, dispersing energy among them, to keep from harming the main body of the SUAS, said Jarus, a native of Hanover, Penn.

Soldiers from every battalion in the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team,

2nd Infantry Division had new equipment training (NET) with the Raven during the brigade's rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., but most of the Soldiers who attended review training that day hadn't flown the bird in country before, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Wayne Grimes, of Fort Lewis, Wash., a brigade Raven master trainer.

This training provided an opportunity to build the Raven pilots' confidence and evaluate their efficiency with the device. It also reinforced the skills they already learned as well as some tactics, techniques and procedures that they didn't necessarily learn during NET.

It's important to have extra time to execute flying techniques is to remind them of the skills they

learned in previous training on Fort Lewis, said Grimes.

"It's so perishable since they just learned it."

The Soldiers know that they might not have many opportunities to fly the Raven, so they took full advantage of what the training day had to offer by asking questions and continually working on flying the SUAS.

"The guy I went to training with [changed duty stations], so it's just me and it's hard to [fly the Raven] by yourself," said Jarus, who explained that since he's the only Raven-trained Soldier in his platoon, he may not get to fly it as often.

Grimes told a story about how he has flown a Raven alone, and how many others have had to do the same.

Training ended with everyone laughing and cheering as the Raven hit the ground one last time, another perfectly imperfect landing.



ROCK 6

Lt. Col. John Leffers

1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment Commander



Rock Soldiers, families, and friends,

Task Force Rock continues to be busy and moving toward a long term partnership with our Iraqi Brothers. Additionally, ongoing projects continue in the battalion footprint to not only improve our work environment, but also to set the next unit up for success.

TF Rock has accomplished many achievements in the past 30 days with new opportunities arising daily, especially with the upcoming elections around the corner.

Members of the staff have established a rapport with key leaders within the Iraqi Army and are providing mentorship with an emphasis on intelligence gathering and operational planning.

Attack Company conducted Operation Kickball. This was a joint operation with the Iraqi Army to hand out soccer balls and school supplies.

Chaos Company, in conjunction with Maj. Barkdull (BN Surgeon), has been assessing the local population regarding medical care to bolster the partnership and show concern for their well-being.

Chaos Company just recently opened a new soccer field and children's playground area in the White Gold area of Abu Ghraib.

Bayonet Company continues to build their close relationship with the Iraqi Police at the JCC.

The Brigade Patch Ceremony took place on Nov. 11. This marked another historical moment in the Rock Battalion as several Rock veterans were in attendance as non-veterans earn the honor to wear the 2nd Infantry Di-

vision Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service.

TF Rock continue to work hard with our Iraqi partners to make Abu Ghraib more stable and secure for the Iraqi people to live normal and peaceful daily lives.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a happy Veteran's Day.



"Your selfless service and countless sacrifices for this battalion and great nation of ours do not go unnoticed."

-Lt. Col. John Leffers

Thank you for your continued support of all the Rock Soldiers and their families.

Your selfless service and countless

sacrifices for this battalion and great nation of ours do not go unnoticed.

The enduring support of our families will allow our Soldiers to continue to focus on accomplishing our mission and returning home safely.

Rock 6
"Rock of the Marne!"

Cav. Soldiers patrol banks of Euphrates

Story by Capt. David Franklin
2nd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt.,
4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Bandog Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, working with Iraqi Army, executed a joint search Nov. 15 for suspected weapons caches along the Euphrates River.

The squadron has three priorities for its role in Iraq: building civil capacity, partnership and transition, and establishing security.

The mission began before sunrise when Soldiers from Bandog Troop, rendezvoused with their Iraqi counterparts at their headquarters. Before heading out, the commanders of the two forces went inside to discuss patrol routes.

Outside the headquarters, Sgt. 1st Class Bill Stanford, the Troop B platoon sergeant, engaged local Iraqi shopkeepers.

U.S. forces had been facilitating the dispersal of small business grants to the local economy.

“Micro-grant money is for helping build the local economy,” said Stanford.

One shopkeeper had applied for a small business grant 2-3 months ago. The money will go to make small improvements within the overall quality of the shop.

“We can put in lights to reduce the chance of stealing,” said Stanford.

The shopkeeper was pleased at this approach.

“We can buy more products and have more options,” said the shopkeeper.

Nearby, a Soldier launched a Ra-



Photo by Capt. David Franklin, 2nd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.

Spc. Quentin Robin, a Belleville Ill. native, now with Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, utilizes an ANPSS-14 mine detector to search for suspected weapons caches.

ven, a small unmanned aerial system. The remote-controlled drone is designed to provide reconnaissance for the patrol.

The two patrols met in open fields before the banks of the Euphrates River, Iraqi and American Soldiers marching together along the river.

One Soldier carried what appeared to be an old style mine sweeper. It was actually an advanced sensor for explosive detection.

During the patrol, Iraqi and American Soldiers encountered local farmers who were happy to see the two forces working together.

During the patrol, they encountered very old water pumps. The rusted-over machines were left behind by the British Empire as gifts to the local Sheiks nearly a century ago.

After several kilometers, the Iraqi

commander directed the patrol into a nearby palm grove. Nestled within the trees were the remnants of an Al-Qaeda stronghold. It had been a training ground by the terrorist organization nearly three years ago. All that remained were broken walls and rubble.

While no weapons caches were found during the mission, the American and Iraqi Soldiers are not deterred.

“Whether we find anything or not, the people will see us working together,” said the Iraqi commander.

Relations between American and Iraqi forces have been questionable in the past, but this mission made a statement about the future. American and Iraqi forces are working together. After years of conflict, terrorism, and unrest, things have become quiet that may be a sign of a brighter future than previously imagined.

Burn Notice stars visit Iraq

**Story by Spc. Luisito Brooks
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.**

BAGHDAD – Stars from the USA Network’s spy drama “Burn Notice” visited Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division on Nov. 12, at Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam, on the outskirts of western Baghdad.

Stars Jeffrey Donovan and Bruce Campbell toured local bases to support the troops deployed to Iraq and to promote their show “Burn Notice”, in which Donovan plays a spy who was “burned” by rivals and left stranded to work as a private investigator in Miami.

“I heard that the show was pretty good, so I can’t wait to see it for myself,” said Pfc. Daniel Lee, a Cincinnati native.

For Spc. Peter Jank, from Burbank, Ill., the visit was especially exciting as the two actors stepped in to hold the U.S. flag during his reenlistment ceremony.

“I requested that just Lt. Col. Mark Beiger conduct the ceremony, but when I heard that Bruce Campbell and Jeffrey Donovan were going to be there, I wanted them to be a part of the ceremony, so I was glad they were both there to hold my flag,” said Jank.

The stars also got a taste of the military dining experience, partaking in a meal with Manchu Soldiers at the base’s dining facility.

“The food here is very good and it fills you right up,” said Campbell, best known for his role as the chainsaw wielding character Ash in the “Evil Dead” films as well as numerous cam-



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

(Above) Lt. Col. Mark Bieger (center left), the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment commander, stands with Spc. Peter Jank, a Chicago, Ill. native, while Bruce Campbell and Jeffrey Donovan, cast members from the television show “Burn Notice”, hold the U.S. flag, Nov. 12, at Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam, Iraq.

(Right) Spc. Andrew Nuemann (left), a Bemidji, Minn. native, shows off his drawing of Bruce Campbell, depicting the actor in his role as Ash, from the movie “Army of Darkness”. “It is like looking into a mirror,” said Campbell, during a visit, Nov. 12, to Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam, Iraq.

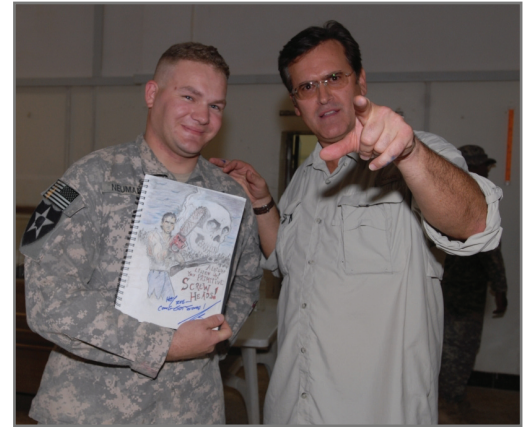


Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

eos in the “Spiderman” movies.

However, before the cast members were even able to finish their meals, Soldiers had already begun lining up in anticipation to meet them.

Many of the more devoted fans brought cameras, DVD’s and pictures to be signed, with one Soldier, Spc. Andrew Neumann, even carrying a hand-drawn picture of Campbell as Ash.

“I have seen every single one of his movies,” said Neumann, a

Bemidji, Minn. native.

The cast members stayed several hours visiting with Soldiers before leaving to continue on to their tour before finishing up the day at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

They left smiles on the faces of many Soldiers, creating lasting memories for those they met deployed in a combat zone.

“I just want thank you guys for all the hard work you do, and as you guys say, ‘KEEP UP THE FIRE!’” yelled Campbell.



BLACKHAWK 6

Lt. Col. Richard Heyward

2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment Commander



Troopers, families, and friends of the Blackhawks,

Our mission in Iraq has now reached its second month.

We continue building our partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces while tackling new challenges in a nation at a critical turning point in its history.

Unfortunately, on Oct. 25, violent extremists attacked downtown Baghdad, killing more than 150 innocent people in an event that gained international media attention.

Our Soldiers have engaged local leaders to mitigate the limited unrest created in the face of this terrorist act, and have assisted requests by the Government of Iraq to identify these terrorists and the networks that support them. While the threat remains, Iraq has improved dramatically since our last deployment.

In partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces and local government, we will not allow the evil actions of a few to dictate the future of this country.

The Blackhawk Team works nonstop to integrate the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police. Our positive relationship with our Iraqi counterparts continues to improve.

In the past month, the entire squadron reinforced training basic Soldiering skills and will look to address more advanced training requirements in the coming months. The Iraqi Soldiers are motivated and eager to demonstrate

their capability to secure their country. I comment frequently to our team on how much the ISF look like us in combat uniform and how they improve daily during execution of their missions.

On that note, combined Task Forces and independent operations by the Iraqi Army and Police consistently identify weapons caches and disrupt other hostile plans before the terrorists have a chance to act. The Iraqi Security Forces are clearly in the lead and their actions greatly help to mitigate the threat against the Iraqi population and assist in safeguarding themselves and American Forces.

We find ourselves less frequently involved as arbitrators in local politics as we continue to encourage Iraqis solving Iraqi problems. The key to success is the well-being of the Iraqi people and we are establishing the framework for civil-military projects. These include clean water systems, schools, and money to help build local businesses. Blackhawk Troopers meet with Sheikhs, local government officials, and citizens to better our understanding of the populace, and we often partake in friendly meals and lengthy conversations.

Our Soldiers are doing an outstanding job facilitating the security and stability of this country. It is an honor and privilege to see our men and women serving with such



humility and professionalism to bring hope to a people who wish for a better life.

As always, we would like to thank our Blackhawk families. Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin and I can never adequately express our gratitude for your support on the home front. You are foremost in our thoughts and we know that your great work at home allows us to focus on our mission in Iraq. Our leave cycle begins in November and I know our Blackhawks look forward to spending time with their family and friends as we rotate on leave over the coming months.

Blackhawk 6
"Out Front, Blackhawks!"

Forge medical team meets with 6th IA counterparts

Story by 1st Sgt. Ramiro Cantu
702nd BSB, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – In a highly anticipated meeting, leadership from Company C, 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division Surgeon Cell, met with the 6th Iraqi Army Division Surgeon to discuss opportunities to develop a partnership between the two medical teams.

The 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. team was escorted to Forward Operating Base Constitution by Staff Sgt. Richard Martone with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Martone, a member of the military transition team, currently serves as the 6th IA Div. medical noncommissioned officer.

Once there, Capt. Michael Perreault, the 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. brigade surgeon led the discussion with Lt. Col. Murthadha, the 6th IA Div. surgeon.

Over the hour-and-a-half-long meeting, both sides discussed medical assets and capabilities, concerns regarding training and medical supplies, and various partnership opportunities for the future. Possible partnership ideas included shared clinic visits so that each other's counterparts could see how the other does his or her job and medical training opportunities for Iraqi Army medics to help build on the medical training they've already received.

An IA physician, 1st Lt. Bader, also attended and will be working hand in hand with 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Ramiro Cantu, 702nd BSB, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.

Capt. Chris Staley (second from right), a physician assistant with 702nd Brigade, and Capt. Michael Perreault (far left), the 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. brigade surgeon, attend a joint medical conference with the 6th Iraqi Army Division. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Ramiro Cantu, 702nd BSB, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.)

Soldiers in all partnership activities.

After all the business was concluded, everyone was treated to a hot cup of Chai tea. Personnel from both sides shared and enjoyed lighthearted conversation about families and careers. While Lt. Col. Murthadha spoke some English, most of the conversation was translated by an interpreter. However, 1st Lt. Bader both understood and spoke English. To wrap up the meeting, photos were taken to commemorate the event.

Since this meeting, Soldiers from 6th IA have visited Camp Liberty to work with medics from C Co. during sick call operations. This partnership will continue and grow over the duration of the brigade's deployment with the help of leadership from both sides.



RAIDERS

“TO THE OBJECTIVE”

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM '09-'10

Preventive Medicine

**Story by 1st Lt. Karin Osborne-Frey, preventive medicine officer
702nd Brigade Support Battalion**

Preventive medicine, as an Army activity, concentrates its efforts on the potential threats to the health of Soldiers and involves behavioral modification by units and individuals. If it is done well – nothing happens. Therefore, it is difficult to persuade those unfamiliar with its mission that any changes are needed.

However, preventive medicine, in war, has been around for a long time.

Through history, those conquerors, who could march a large army and maintain that same force over extended periods of time and long distances from home, were ultimately the victors of many battles. Preventive medicine has even played a key role in the founding of our own country.

During the Revolutionary War, our first president, General George Washington, recognized the need for it and the difficulties in promoting it.

“It is extremely difficult to persuade Soldiers that cleanliness is absolutely necessary to the health of an Army. They can hardly believe that in a military state it becomes one of the necessities of life. They are either too careless to pay attention to the subject, or they deceive themselves by reasoning from cases, that are by no means similar.”

He went on to lament that Soldiers, being young and in good health, assume that their health is a static condition, that will not change no matter what they do to themselves or what health risks they endure as a result of being in a war-time Army. He said that the problem was that they did not see the battlefield different than being at home, where living conditions were far less crowded and generally better.

Washington stated that Soldiers should wash their hands frequently, throw food waste far from camp, and bury human wastes deep into the ground. He ordered that they be “particularly attentive to their own person,” with respect to hygiene and included the changing of socks and shirt every two days.

It is clear in the body of his work on the subject that he knew quite well it was the invisible and seemingly intangible threats – diseases - that did the most damage to an Army. He was concerned that his Soldiers not breathe “fouled air,” nor allow “persons as has sores or diseases in their skin,” to be housed with those who did not.

Today, as then, his lessons are still as strong. Food wastes still rot and more quickly in this climate, drawing flies and rodents easily. Chemical and hardstand latrines are cesspools of disease if not kept clean and in good repair.

Keeping hands and clothes clean help stop the transmission of diseases between people.

Thus, it is through education that we defeat most of the diseases and non-battle injuries associated with an Army at war.

So remember, especially when you go “outside the wire,” first and foremost, it is incredibly important to monitor the state of your own health as a means by which you can avoid some of the worst things life has to offer...diseases uncommon at home. Some of the most basic activities like “policing up” your “AO” have incredible health benefits to you and to your Army community. There are good reasons for hand washing stations before you go into the dining facility, emptying garbage cans regularly, reporting broken toilets and cleaning gym equipment after you use it.

“Whoever proves too obstinate, or too slothful to obey this command, may expect to be punished with death, or suffer under some dangerous disease.”

-General George Washington’s broadside: Instructions for Soldiers in the Service of the United States Concerning the Means of Preserving Health: of Cleanliness

*This one time
at an Army
camp...*



Courtesy photo

(Fig.1) Indications of a problem: A homemade, “rack” of fly ribbons grace the rear exit of a field kitchen, dish-washing area. The source of the flies, at first, was unknown, but it was clear there seemed to an abnormally large population in the area.



Courtesy photo

(Fig.2) The source of the problem is discovered: Approximately six feet away from the “fly rack” (see previous picture), was a low, brick wall. Personnel from the field kitchen decided that the easiest method of disposal for leftover food was to hoist it up, over the wall, and dump it down the other side – where it could not be seen. Out of sight was not out of mind when the fly population resulting from this improper garbage disposal technique began to plague the dining facility and the rest of the camp.



Aztec 6

Capt. Dennis Grinde

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment Commander



Tomahawk Soldiers, families, and friends,

Winston Churchill once said, "The only thing more difficult than fighting a war with allies, is fighting a war without allies."

The first time I met with Col. Abbas was in early October 2009, in Sab Al Boor, northwest of Baghdad. He is a battalion commander whose lively and cheerful demeanor masks the huge burden of defending a large part of Baghdad. Like many Iraqi soldiers, he served in the 1980's during the war with Iran, and later during the invasion of Kuwait and Desert Storm. Many of his life's milestones, births, deaths, marriages, and graduations, have been punctuated by war. Over cups of chai tea and cigarettes we got to know each other as we discussed what the future looks like. Iraq has changed and their army has changed along with it, but to what extent? The Aztecs recently realized what Winston Churchill meant on the night of Oct. 30.

On a darkened street in Sab Al Boor, an RKG-3 gre-

community to prevent future attacks as well as helping U.S. and Iraqi authorities locate the perpetrators of this most recent attack.

Once again, during these meetings, the Aztecs saw that our Iraqi brothers are in the lead and were active in finding those responsible.

As our Soldiers come to terms about what we are here to do and how we fit in with this new Iraq, we will never forget our Iraqi brothers, the men of 3rd Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army, who put their lives on the line for the care and safety of their combined partners and for a better Iraqi future.

Over the last few weeks our purpose has become clear. We are here to support the Iraqi Army, not lead them. The pride the Aztecs have in what we are doing here is not in our accomplishments, but in watching our Iraqi brothers work to accomplish a lasting stability in Iraq.



"We are here to support the Iraqi Army, not lead them."

-Capt. Dennis Grinde

nade was thrown into the formation of 3rd platoon's Stryker vehicles. The grenade punched a two inch hole into the hull of the third vehicle causing five wounded-in-action, wounding both the platoon sergeant and the squad leader. The Iraqi Army unit nearby reacted quickly by securing the site and clearing the evacuation route, possibly saving our Soldiers' lives.

As the events unfolded later that night, the Iraqi Army took the lead in searching for those responsible and followed up the next day by publicly condemning the attacks, demanding action of the local leaders in the

**Aztec 6
"Tomahawks!"**

Part of the Tribe

Lakewood celebrates Veterans Day



Photo courtesy of Jeff Brewster

LAKEWOOD, Wash. – Lakewood town council members, service members, and representatives of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division gather to celebrate Veterans Day. Lakewood organizations support 4th SBCT by participating in the brigade's Adopt-A-Company program, a way for deployed Soldiers to connect with the community back home.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Brewster

LAKEWOOD, Wash. – Lakewood town council members, service members, and representatives of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division watch a message from the brigade commander, Col. John Norris while celebrate Veterans Day in Lakewood Town Hall.

Community Connector

The City of Lakewood continues to improve and expand key infrastructure required for economic development by adding sewers in Tillicum and Woodbrook and renovating major arterials such as Pacific Highway. Major improvements to Gravelly Lake Drive and Bridgeport Way ended earlier this fall. Three new council members were voted into office on Election Day, marking the biggest turnover since the City incorporated in 1996. The new members will be sworn in on January 4, 2010. On November 9th, the City paused to honor our veterans during its council meeting. Mayor Doug Richardson presented proclamations to representatives from all services. The Raider Tribe was well represented: Mrs. Sandra Norris of the Family Readiness Group, 4-2 alumni Lt. Colonel Danny Dudek of the Warrior Transition Battalion, and Major Brian Lionberger of the 4-2's rear detachment. The City also received an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) award for going "Above and Beyond" in supporting its citizen warriors. The highlight of the program was a video message from Iraq courtesy of Lakewood's "Community Connector," Colonel John Norris. Lakewood is proud to be a military town and to have friends like the 4-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Jeff Brewster
Communications Director
jbrewster@cityoflakewood.us

Zaidon Market road increases commerce, safety

**Story by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.**

BAGHDAD – Local area leaders of Zaidon gathered Nov. 12 to celebrate the completion of the three-month-long project which transformed what was once just a pot-holed dirt road into paved thoroughfare.

Soldiers with 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division provided security at the official opening of the road, designed to facilitate easier travel and better business opportunities for locals going to the Zaidon Market in Abu Ghraib.

“People weren’t able to get in the Zaidon market to make purchases in the city and transport goods and items that were sold, particularly agricultural items,” said Navy Lt. Ross Simpson, a civil affairs team leader with 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. “Trucks couldn’t fit through.”

The \$440,000 funding for the project was funded through Commander’s Emergency Response Program. The

project started during a previous brigade’s deployment and was transferred to Simpson when his unit took over responsibility for the area.

The close proximity of the market to the citizens of Zaidon was also taken into consideration when planning what improvements would be made. These considerations lead to going beyond just simply widening and paving the streets for vehicles, the sidewalks were also paved for the safety and ease of pedestrian traffic.

“The overall goal of the project was to provide the local populace of the Zaidon village with a more efficient, safer, more convenient way to travel throughout this major village,” said Simpson, a native of Dalton, Ga.

Convenience, however, came to a screeching halt in the beginning of the project.

“One of the biggest obstacles was being able to juggle the



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div. Surrounded by local leaders, Sheikh Diab cuts a ribbon to celebrate the opening of a newly-paved road in Zaidon Market, Nov. 10.

amount of traffic on any given day with construction work that needed to be completed,” explained Simpson. “[The workers] had to do it in a way to allow the local populace to use [the road.]”

It took a lot of planning, but the project was finally completed earlier this week, he said.

Once the ceremony came to an end, the attendees said their goodbyes and left down the road that now provides the area with a safer and more efficient way to travel.

Follow the Raider deployment on Facebook!

For Soldiers, family members, and friends to become a fan of the brigade on Facebook, they should follow the following steps:

(1) Type www.facebook.com/4SBCT2ID

(2) Log in or create a Facebook account.

(3) Don’t forget to become a Fan!

(4) You will see photos, videos, and notes about completed activities for the 4th Stryker Brigade!



FORGE 5

Maj. Michael Dolan

702nd Brigade Support Battalion Executive Officer



Forge Soldiers, families, and friends,

Hello from Camp Liberty, Iraq. The Soldiers of the Forge Battalion are dispersed throughout the battlefield to best sustain the Raider Brigade Combat Team.

This month we have worked to develop a battle rhythm that will increase our efficiency as a unit while maximizing a Soldier's personal time. In addition to the support mission, the battalion is developing our partnership with the Iraqi counterparts.

Forge Soldiers began their mission support almost immediately after arriving in Iraq.

Alpha Company has conducted 45 combat logistics patrols to our brother battalions. Atlas is on the road daily sustaining the force.

Bravo Company has established their maintenance base support, as have the combat repair teams with their supported battalions. The steadfast work of the Blacksmiths has greatly improved the operational readiness of the equipment in the SBCT.

We have integrated our General Dynamic support personnel to maximize our readiness and streamline the parts flow system. They also started training on the newly fielded Stryker Recovery System this past week.

Charlie Company established health-care operations at the Riva Ridge troop medical clinic – one of the most recognizable TMCs in Iraq. The Cru-

saders have already treated more than 2,400 patients to date. The force health providers are working daily to combat disease non-battle injuries in the areas of preventive medicine, combat operational stress control, physical therapy and dental.

Highlanders provide the command and control for all sustainment operations in the Raider operational environment. The cooks serve in multiple dining facilities throughout the operational environment, providing both field feeding and COR support. We are constantly refining our support systems throughout the battalion to provide the best sustainment to the BCT.

One of the constant themes of our deployment will be that of partnership with our Iraqi peers. We have 10 Soldiers who will comprise our logistical training and assessment team. The LTAT's purpose is to observe current practices, assess facilities and systems, and recommend changes to streamline efficiencies and increase throughput. Success is achieved when the Iraqi logistical system can sustain the maneuver forces. Our medical team is also working with their Iraqi peers to exchange best practices, cross-train the Iraqi medics, and foster an exchange program of



personnel between Riva Ridge and the Iraqi TMC.

Over the past month, I have been impressed with the professionalism, competence and team work of every Forge Soldier. Twenty four Soldiers have reenlisted since we arrived in Baghdad. This is proof that leaders are training and caring for the Soldiers well and our Soldiers feel that they are part of an elite team. Forge will continue to support like a champion!

Forge 5
"Raider Support!"



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As a Chaplain, I have counseled many Soldiers and family members. Over the years, I have learned that there are many things that we can do to perk up and strengthen our relationships. Yet the most effective involves the saying of just three words. When spoken or conveyed, these statements have the power to forge new friendships, deepen old ones and restore relationships that have cooled. The following three-word phrases can enrich every relationship.

I'll Be There: If you have ever had to call a friend in the middle of the night to take a sick child to the hospital, or if your car has broken down some miles from home, you will know how good it feels to hear the phrase "I'll be there." Being there for another person is the greatest gift we can give. When we are truly present for other people, important things happen to them and us. We are renewed in love and friendship. We are restored emotionally and spiritually. Being there is at the very core of civility.

I Miss You: Perhaps more marriages could be saved and strengthened if couples simply and sincerely said to each other "I miss you." This powerful affirmation tells partners they are wanted, needed, desired and loved. Consider how ecstatic you would feel, if you received an unexpected phone call from your spouse in the middle of your workday, just to say "I miss you."

I Respect You: Respect is another way of showing love. Respect conveys the feeling that another person is a true equal. If you talk to your children

as if they were adults you will strengthen the bonds and become close friends. This applies to all inter-personal relationships.

Maybe You're Right: This phrase is highly effective in diffusing an argument and restoring frayed emotions. The flip side to "maybe you're right" is the humility of admitting, "Maybe I'm wrong". Let's face it. When you have a heated argument with someone, all you do is cement the other person's point of view. They, or you, will not change their stance and you run the risk of seriously damaging the relationship between you. Saying "maybe you're right" can open the door to further explore the subject, in which you may then have the opportunity to get your view across in a more rational manner.

Please Forgive Me: Many broken relationships could be restored and healed if people would admit their mistakes and ask for forgiveness. All of us are vulnerable to faults, foibles and failures. A man should never be ashamed to own up that he has been in the wrong, which is saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

I Thank You: Gratitude is an exquisite form of courtesy. People who enjoy the companionship of good, close friends are those who don't take daily courtesies for granted. They are quick to thank their friends for their many ex-

pressions of kindness. On the other hand, people whose circle of friends is severely constricted often do not have the attitude of gratitude.

Count On Me: A friend is one who walks in when others walk out. Loyalty is an essential ingredient for true friendship; it is the emotional glue that bonds people. Those that are rich in their relationships tend to be steady and true friends. When troubles come, a good friend is there indicating you can "count on me."

Let Me Help: The best of friends see a need and try to fill it. When they spot a hurt they do what they can to heal it. Without being asked, they pitch in and help.

I Understand You: People become closer and enjoy each other more if they feel the other person accepts and understands them. Letting your spouse know in so many little ways that you understand them, is one of the most powerful tools for healing your relationship. This applies to any relationship.

I Love You: Perhaps the most important three words that you can say. Telling someone that you truly love them satisfies a person's deepest emotional needs; the need to belong, to feel appreciated and to be wanted. Your family, your friends and you, all need to hear those three little words. "I love you."

And how about "***God Bless You***".....

Chaplain (Maj.) Terrell Jones,
4th SBCT Chaplain

SURGEON CENTRAL



"RIVA RIDGE" TROOP MEDICAL CLINIC BLDG E6A-2, CAMP LIBERTY (EAST) HOURS OF OPERATION



Our mission is to provide world class healthcare to all 4/2 SBCT "Raiders", U.S., and Coalition Forces, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This schedule was developed only as a means to provide specific timelines for sick call, appointment, and on call hours. Riva Ridge TMC will always remain staffed (including during "off peak" hours) and any LLE (life, limb, or eyesight) patients will always be seen immediately.

Sick Call

Mon-Fri 0800-1000hrs ,1400-1600hrs

Sat 0800-1000hrs

Sun 1400-1600hrs

**Emergencies anytime (day or night) should be immediately referred to the TMC.*

Physical Therapy Clinic

Mon-Sat 0800-1000hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only –

Acute Injuries less than 10 days old)

Mon-Fri 1300-1700hrs **By appointment only**

Sun 1400-1600hrs Walk-Ins (Sick call only – acute injuries less than 10 days old)

Mental Health

Mon-Sat 0800-1000hrs Walk-Ins,1000-1700 **By appointment only**

Sun 0800-1700hrs **On call**

**Emergencies should be immediately referred to the TMC.*

Dental Clinic

Mon-Sat 0800-1000hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only)

Mon-Sat 1000-1800hrs **By appointment only**

Sun 1400-1600hrs Walk-Ins (Sick Call Only)

**Emergencies such as knocked out teeth, tooth fractures (less than two hours old with active bleeding), or tooth abscess with facial swelling or fever should be immediately referred to the TMC.*

Pharmacy

Mon-Fri 0800-1100hrs ,1400-1700hrs

Sat 0800-1100hrs

Sun 1400-1700hrs

Immunizations Clinic

Mon-Sat 0800-1600hrs Walk-Ins

Sun 1400-1600 Walk-Ins

The following medical specialties are also offered on Camp Liberty at adjacent MTFs:

Optometry Clinic (Located on Pad 11 across the street from the 702d BSB Headquarters)

Mon-Fri 0900-1700hrs

Sat 0900-1200hrs

Audiology (Located at Witmer TMC)

Soldiers must be referred by their battalion

provider(s) prior to scheduling a hearing exam.

Riva Ridge TMC Appointment Lines:

Dental – Call front desk (Number Below)

Physical Therapy – SVOIP: 773-2789

Front Desk (Patient Admin) – SVOIP: 773-2792

Victory Base Complex Emergency Services

Dial DSN "911" or SIPR 243-4407

4-2 SBCT Battalion Aid Stations -- HOURS OF OPERATION

HHC , 38th EN, 45th MI and 472nd SI, and 702nd BSB – Riva Ridge

(Camp Liberty, BLDG E6A-2 PAD 7)

Mon-Fri 0800-1000hrs and 1400-1600hrs

Sat 0800-1000hrs

Sun 1400-1600hrs

1-38IN – Sick Call at 1-38IN BAS (Camp Liberty BLDG E6-6 PAD 6)

Mon – Sun 0700 – 0900hrs and 1300 – 1500hrs

Emergencies – 1-38IN BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day

2-23IN – Sick Call at 2-23IN BAS (Camp Taji)

Mon – Sun 0800-1000hrs and 1600 – 1800hrs

Emergencies – 2-23IN BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day (Level II – Hale Koa)

4-9IN – Sick Call at 4-9IN BAS (JSS NWS)

Mon – Sun 0900 – 1000hrs and 2100 – 2200hrs

Emergencies – 4-9IN BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day (Level II – Riva Ridge)

2-1CAV – Sick Call at 2-1CAV BAS (Camp Stryker, BLDG 38)

Mon – Sun 0800 – 1000hrs and 1500 – 1700 hrs

Emergencies – 2-1CAV BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day

2-12FA – Sick Call at 2-12FA BAS (Camp Liberty, BLDG E1-1 PAD 1)

0730-0830 Mon-Sat, 1400-1500 M, T, W, F, Sun.

Emergencies – 2-12FA BAS is available for emergencies 24 hours a day

STRYKER BRIGADE...

...TO THE OBJECTIVE!!!

