

THE *Ivy* LEAF

U.S. DIVISION-NORTH

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 15

***** ESTABLISHED IN 1917 TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE *****

FEBRUARY 11, 2011



GWTC welcomes new Iraqi Army battalion



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

U.S. Army Sgt. Kevin Murphy, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, instructs Iraqi soldiers on individual movement techniques during a class at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb. 2, 2011. Trainees from 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, began their 25-day training cycle at GWTC in support of Tadreeb al Shamil, an Iraqi Army initiative providing individual and collective training to IA battalions as part of an effort to modernize Iraqi units' ability to defend the nation.

Sgt. Shawn Miller
109th MPAD
USD-N Public Affairs

GHUZLANI WARRIOR TRAINING CENTER, Iraq — U.S. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, welcomed another battalion of Iraqi soldiers to Ghuzlani Warrior

Training Center as the two forces partnered for the second training iteration in support of Tadreeb al Shamil, Feb. 2.

Iraqi Army soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, kicked off the 25-day training cycle with classes on movement techniques as partnered forces continue Tadreeb al Shamil, an Iraqi-led initiative directed at providing individual and col-

lective training for Iraqi Army battalions.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Murphy, an instructor at GWTC and cavalry scout assigned to Troop C, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., opened the first day of training with classes covering basic individual movement techniques, and then demonstrated

fire team and squad movements.

"It's important because they're the basics and fundamentals of everything that we're teaching them," said Murphy, an Odessa, Texas, resident. "They're going to need to know the basics, because it's all inclusive in all the

See GWTC, pg. 3

WARRIOR
LONGKNIFE
DEVIL
FIT FOR ANY TEST
IRONHORSE
IRONHORSE
LONGKNIFE
WARRIOR

STEADFAST AND LOYAL
IRONHORSE
FIT FOR ANY TEST
DEVIL
LONGKNIFE
WARRIOR



IRONHORSE STRONG: Soldier of the Week



U.S. Army photo

Pvt. Brian Moore, infantryman, Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, earned recognition as the "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week for his quick response when two comrades were wounded during an Improvised Explosive Device attack on his platoon Jan. 3, 2011. The Marion, N.C., native immediately sent up a 9-line Medical Evacuation request, relaying to his command the platoon's location, number and severity of wounded, and the suggested method of evacuation.

Initiative is essential to the success of any military endeavor. In combat, a quick response combined with a large measure of competence, earned through solid training, will save lives and can make the difference between victory and defeat.

Pvt. Brian Moore, an infantryman from Marion, N.C., assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, earned recognition as "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week for his quick response during an Improvised Explosive Device attack on his platoon Jan. 3.

During the attack, two of Moore's comrades were wounded when the IED detonated on their vehicle.

Moore responded immediately, submitting a 9-line medical evacuation request, relaying to his command the platoon's

location, number and severity of wounded, and method of evacuation.

Sending up the 9-line MEDEVAC request, taking charge and doing the right thing without being asked, Moore showed skill and initiative, said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Quijas, platoon sergeant, Company C, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt.

Moore continued to update headquarters during the platoon's return to Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, ensuring medical personnel were kept up to date on the status of the injured Soldiers.

"Pvt. Moore stayed very calm about what was going on," Quijas said. "He's a hard charger, and you never have to tell him to do something."

Spc. Jeremy Leach, combat medic, Company C, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., said Moore displayed competence earned

through intense training and experience.

Company C trains on basic Soldier skills, such as sending up 9-line MEDEVAC requests, weekly to ensure core competencies remain second nature to the Soldiers.

"Everybody in Company C knows their job and knows what to do," said Leach.

Moore serves as one of his platoon's primary trainers, sharing his experience with other junior enlisted Soldiers.

Moore's initiative, training and dedication to his unit aided in gaining his comrades expedient medical attention. His professionalism, attention to detail and commitment to the mission made Moore Ironhorse Strong Soldier of the Week.



IRAQI JINOOD ZERO WEAPONS AT KMTB

Page 5

'WOLFHOUND' SOLDIERS, IRAQI ARMY OPEN SCHOOL IN SALAH AD DIN PROVINCE

Page 6

IRAQI SOLDIERS LEARN MAINTENANCE SKILLS, KEEP HUMVEES ROLLING

Page 7

TROOPS ENJOY SUPER BOWL WEEKEND, SUPER SUNDAY TOUR AT COB SPEICHER

Page 9

THE IVY LEAF

The Ivy Leaf is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Ivy Leaf* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Army or the 4th Infantry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. All editorial content of *The Ivy Leaf* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the United States Division-North Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share? *The Ivy Leaf* welcomes submissions from readers. Send to the USD-N PAO at usdnpa0@usdn4id.army.mil. *The Ivy Leaf* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper. For further information on deadlines, questions or comments, email USD-N PAO or call DSN 318-849-0089.

TASK FORCE IRONHORSE

Commanding General – Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins
Command Sergeant Major – Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey

TASK FORCE IRONHORSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TF Ironhorse PAO – Lt. Col. Steve Wollman
TF Ironhorse PA NCOIC – Master Sgt. Carmen Daugherty-Glaze
The Ivy Leaf Layout & Design – Spc. Thomas Bixler

1st Advise and Assist Task Force
1st Infantry Division

2nd Advise and Assist Brigade
25th Infantry Division

4th Advise and Assist Brigade
1st Cavalry Division

Continued from GWTC, pg 1

things we teach (during the 25-day training cycle).”

Murphy and fellow “Long Knife” Soldiers offered a brief class, demonstrating the drills, including the low crawl, high crawl, and three-to-five second rush.

Undeterred by mud from recent rain, the students hit the ground to practice their newly learned skills.

Staff Sgt. Clifton Hunter, an instructor and cavalry scout, Troop C, noted the Iraqi soldiers seemed better prepared for this iteration of training, demonstrating proficiency in the basic infantry techniques quicker than anticipated.

“If they’re motivated, they’ll train harder,” Hunter said. “They’re willing to learn more.”

In an effort to move away from the localized counter-insurgency operations of recent years, IA and U.S. forces partnered to provide modernized military training for Iraqi bat-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

An Iraqi soldier assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, takes cover behind a burned out vehicle hull during individual movement drills at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb. 2, 2011. Iraqi battalions rotate through the GWTC attending a 25-day training rotation as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training. During Tadreeb al Shamil, Iraqi soldiers learn to train as cohesive units, from individual and squad movements through battalion-level exercises. According to Iraqi Ground Forces Command, 48 Iraqi Army battalions are scheduled to attend Tadreeb al Shamil at GWTC and Kirkush Military Training Base in northern Iraq by the end of 2011.

talions to build a self-sustaining force capable of defending Iraq.

Many of the Iraqi soldiers undergoing training are not new to the military or inexperienced with infantry battle drills, said

Sgt. Nathaniel Chance, also an instructor from Troop C.

Chance explained experienced Iraqi soldiers contribute to the training by offering feedback on their own techniques

and experience.

“They take what they know and what we teach them, and usually we’ll find a medium,” he said. “We’re training the conventional warfare aspect, so that way, when we leave (Iraqi soldiers) can defend their country as a whole.”

Murphy noted the first training iteration at GWTC, where the first Iraqi battalion successfully graduated the collective training after successfully completing several exercises which culminated with the live-fire exercise.

In the coming weeks, the Iraqi soldiers will progress from individual and small unit-based skills to larger, more complex exercises with their companies, in preparation for a battalion-level exercise at the conclusion of their cycle.

According to Iraqi Ground Forces Command, 48 Iraqi Army battalions are scheduled to attend Tadreeb al Shamil at GWTC and Kirkush Military Training Base in northern Iraq by the end of 2011.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

U.S. Army Sgt. Nathaniel Chance, Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, instructs Iraqi soldiers on squad movement formations at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb. 2, 2011. The Iraqi soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, began their 25-day cycle at GWTC as part of the continuing partnership between U.S. and Iraqi forces to provide individual and collective training for IA units assuming responsibility for national defense operations.

There's a new sheriff in town

'Punisher' hands KPOC Unit to the 'Fighting Deuce'

Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., U.S. Division-North

CONTINGENCY OPERATING STATION WARRIOR, Iraq – The “Punishers” of 512th Military Police Company, based out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., said goodbye to Kirkuk City police chiefs and introduced their U.S. forces replacements, the “Fighting Deuce” Soldiers of 272nd Military Police Company, from Fort Polk, La., at the Kirkuk Police Headquarters in Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 2.

During the 512th MP Company's 12-month deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq, Military Police Soldiers built a new law enforcement program, known as the Kirkuk Provincial Organized Crime Unit.

“KPOC-U is a program we came up with to advise and assist the investigating officers of Kirkuk to enhance their capabilities to collect evidence to help the Iraqi Police in convicting criminals,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cannon, platoon sergeant, 512th MP Company, a native of Jacksonville, Ill.

KPOC-U combined resources that al-

ready existed in the Kirkuk Police force, consolidating a wide-range of personnel and assets under one command to fight an increasingly organized criminal enterprise within the province.

The program enabled Kirkuk Police teams to capture suspects, find and collect evidence, and use that evidence to convict suspects under the Iraqi Rule of Law.

Cannon explained that much of the KPOC-U's experience derived from on-the-job-training.

Before the unit was created, U.S. Army Military Police, civilian police advisers, a criminal investigator from each of the eight districts of Kirkuk, and two criminal investigators from Kirkuk's Anti-Crime Unit, attended a 30-day class led by Iraqi Police.

IPs conducted the training to help U.S. forces understand Iraqi Police procedures during criminal investigations, to include DNA collection, forensic evidence identification, crime scene security and integrity, and Iraqi Law.

Members of the new KPOC-U began their first mission and operation, June 15, 2010, two days after graduating the class.

When Iraqis reported a crime, Soldiers

of 512th MP Company accompanied IP units to advise, assist and mentor their Iraqi counterparts through the process of collecting evidence, gathering finger prints from suspects, and calling in the appropriate unit to collect evidence at the scene of the crime to help build the prosecutor's case.

“The KPOC-U program has shown a great success in decreasing the crime rate in the city of Kirkuk,” said Cannon. “When we first started the program, we were going out on two missions or crime scenes a day to collect criminal evidence,” said Cannon. “Now we go on very few crime scene missions—only a few per week.”

“I believe our mission here is complete on our end,” he said. “It feels great to hand over the task to another unit to finish what we started.”

Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Newman, platoon sergeant, 272nd MP Company, explained how Iraq has changed for the better in the past few years.

Newman, who hails from Clinton, La., said he has seen a marked improvement in security from his first tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We are excited to be here, and we want to continue with the KPOC-U program, but most of all, we want to keep the relationship 512th (MP Company) has built,” said Newman.

1st Infantry Division



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cannon, a platoon sergeant from Jacksonville, Ill., assigned to 512th Military Police Company, introduces Kirkuk District Police Chief Col. Ghazi Ali Rashid to Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Newman, platoon sergeant, 272nd Military Police Company, at the Kirkuk Police Headquarters Feb. 2, 2011. Newman will assume responsibility for the U.S. advise and assist role in the Kirkuk Provincial Organized Crime Unit during his deployment to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn.

Iraqi jinood zero weapons at KMTB

25th Infantry Division

Sgt. Coltin Heller
109th MPAD
USD-N Public Affairs

KIRKUSH MILITARY
TRAINING BASE, Iraq —

“This is the proper way to fire your weapon,” explained Spc. Vincent Violi, demonstrating how to hold an M16 rifle to the small group of Iraqi jinood gathered before him.

“Once you learn this, you will be an effective rifleman,” said the instructor and infantry team leader from Drexel Hill, Pa.

Iraqi jinood, Arabic for soldiers, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 21st Regiment, 5th Iraqi Army Division familiarized and zeroed with M16 rifles during marksmanship instruction training at Kirkush Military Training Base, Feb. 2.

U.S. Soldiers of Company A, “Gators,” 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division trained Iraqi Army units, familiarizing jinood on how to properly maintain, fire and engage targets with their assigned weapon.

Jinood drilled on basic rifle marksmanship and rehearsed assembling and disassembling the M16 rifle, common training tasks signifying the beginning of a 25-day training cycle as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training.

Company A began the training with weapon familiarization, teaching Iraqi jinood to disassemble their rifles, learning each part and how to maintain it.

Each Iraqi soldier practiced the task several times, under the guidance and mentorship of U.S. Soldiers who provided tips to help the trainees develop proficiency with their weapons.

Following rifle maintenance,



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

Using sand bags to stabilize his weapon, an Iraqi jundi, Arabic for soldier, with 2nd Battalion, 21st Regiment, 5th Iraqi Army Division zeros his M16 rifle at Kirkush Military Training Base, Feb. 2, 2011. U.S. Division-North Soldiers assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, trained 5th IA soldiers on basic rifle marksmanship skills, instructing the Iraqi soldiers to maintain proper sight picture, breathing control and trigger squeeze.

U.S. Soldiers taught firing positions, proper sight picture, breathing control and trigger squeeze techniques, enhancing 5th IA Div. jinood’s knowledge of basic rifle marksmanship.

Iraqi jinood moved out to the range to practice techniques, such as modified dime and washer drills, and zero their weapons, firing three rounds at a 25-meter target, checking their shot groups and making sight adjustments.

Sgt. 1st Class Emmanuel Nieves, a native of Springfield, Mass., and platoon sergeant, Company A, assisted in the training.

Nieves said even though the training just started, the Iraqi jinood are improving at all levels with each new day of training.

“They grasp the training well, and it shows in their performance,” said Nieves.

Basic rifle marksmanship, like other training received at

KMTB, builds the capabilities of Iraqi units, providing them with means of training their own units.

“The Iraqi Army really has no training management cycle,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Thornton, platoon leader, Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. “Our goal here is to create a permanent cycle.”

U.S. Soldiers are leading the second iteration of training at KMTB in support of Tadreeb al Shamil, an Iraqi training initiative by Iraqi Ground Forces Command to modernize Iraqi Army division capabilities through collective unit-level training.

Soldiers of Company A, responsible for training Iraqi Army jinood, employ a “train the trainer” concept to prepare IA leaders to build upon tactical skills and develop their own

training programs at the unit level.

During the training, Iraqi jinood asked questions and helped one another, showing a willingness to learn and participate in training.

“They seem very excited to do a range assignment, which is something they don’t see very often,” said Thornton, who hails from Conner, Texas. “It helps build camaraderie and national pride. They are very receptive to (the training).”

Explaining each task and question in full detail, U.S. Soldier spirits matched those of the Iraqis, as they guided the 5th IA Div. jinood during training.

Thornton said the Soldiers of his platoon are developing their professionalism through their experience, training and mentoring Iraqi jinood.

'Wolfhound' Soldiers, Iraqi Army open school in Salah ad Din province

Sgt. David Strayer
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – “Wolfhound” Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, opened a school in the rural village area of al Noman, located south of Tikrit, Iraq, Feb. 7.

The newly opened, modern school facility replaced a smaller two-room mud hut that had a 20-student capacity and would collapse during the area’s rainy, winter season.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Strayer, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO Standing alongside Lt. Col. Donald Brown, commander of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, “Wolfhounds,” 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, the commander of Salah ad Din Emergency Response Unit, Col. Khalil cuts the ceremonial ribbon commemorating the opening of a new school in the rural village area of al Noman, south of Tikrit, Iraq, Feb. 7, 2011. The school opening was made possible due to the efforts of the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, who aided the local Iraqi government in Salah ad Din province, opening 21 education facilities since taking responsibility for the area in August 2010.

“This is the type of project that will pay dividends for the people of this area for generations to come,” said Lt. Col. Donald Brown, commander of 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. “My mother was a teacher for 40 years; projects like this are special to me. I know the impact education can have.”

The school opening project is one of 21 education-related projects completed by the Wolfhounds since taking over in the Salah ad Din province in August 2010.

“The new school is a huge improvement over the mud school that the children were forced to go to in the past,” said Muhammad Abraham, a contractor who worked with U.S. forces and the local Iraqi government to facilitate the building of the school. “This new school is going to attract more families to the area, which will not only improve education, but will draw more farmers and improve agriculture in the area.”

The Wolfhounds made an immediate positive impact in the quality of life and local economies in the province, but they understand the greatest benefits are not always seen right away, said 1st Lt. Matthew Wolfe, civil affairs officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div.

“These projects are not just about numbers and immediate results,” Wolfe said. “Schools,



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Strayer
First Lt. Lowell Garthwaite, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, plays soccer with a future student of the newly opened al Noman School in a farming village south of Tikrit, Feb. 7, 2011. Soldiers of 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. distributed school supplies and soccer balls to students following a ribbon cutting ceremony.

water purification and agricultural projects all make an immediate impact, but will benefit the local areas the most over the long haul.”

The Wolfhound Battalion has worked with the local Iraqi government to complete 49 different projects related to transportation, water, electricity and education, he said.

“At this point, we can look back at the work we have done so far and see the positive effects of the efforts of our Soldiers,” said Wolfe, a native of Orlando, Fla.

“We understand that what we do now will have effects that last for years,” he said.

Wolfe added these types of projects are the foundation for a stable and self-sustaining government.

Iraqi soldiers learn maintenance skills, keep humvees rolling

Sgt. Shawn Miller
109th MPAD
USD-N Public Affairs

GHUZLANI WARRIOR TRAINING CENTER, Iraq — Beyond the combat skills Iraqi soldiers learn at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, troops of 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, now know how to keep their vehicles, and consequently their missions, running smoothly.

U.S. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, led a class on preventive maintenance, checks and services for their

Iraqi partners at GWTC, near Mosul, Iraq, Feb. 3.

U.S. Army Spc. Joshua Pearman, an instructor from the Combat Ready Team, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., walked Iraqi vehicle crews through the step-by-step process of checking their humvees for daily mission readiness.

“We’re teaching them how to do ‘before, during, and after checks’ on their humvees,” said Pearman, a native of Bristol, Tenn.

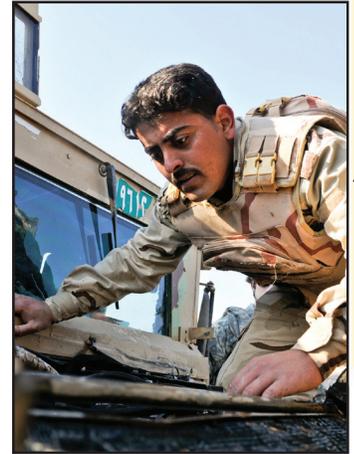
Checking even the simplest components and keeping the vehicle clean helps prevent most of the problems that crews may encounter, he said.

Following a day of classroom instruction covering manuals and instructions, the students got their hands dirty with a practical exercise, performing maintenance on Iraqi Army service vehicles.

“The class had good benefits for us, and I learned a lot of things, especially when we got our hands on the vehicles,” said Sgt. Dafer Hussain, 2nd Bn., 11th Bde.

Pearman led Hussain and his crewmembers through the methodical process of checking fluids, belts, tires, seatbelts, and other parts as the Iraqi soldiers took notes, jotting down deficiencies.

“We’re teaching them how to keep the problems small instead of letting them get bigger,” said Pearman, noting how even minor faults can place a mission in jeopardy. “It keeps the crew rolling; it keeps the mission going safely.”



1st Cavalry Division

Photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller
Sgt. Dafer Hussain, 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, performs preventive maintenance, checks and services on an Iraqi Army humvee during a maintenance class led by “Long Knife” cavalry troopers at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb. 3, 2011, during the second iteration of Tadreeb al Shamil.

U.S. Soldiers of 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. are leading Iraqi units of 2nd Bn., 11th Bde., through a 25-day training cycle at GWTC as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, an Iraqi-led initiative to train IA battalions on collective unit skills as they shift to national defense operations.

“It means a lot to me, because it’s very good skills and experience,” Dafer said. “It’s also very useful for civilian life if I get out of the Army.”

Dafer said that he expects to eventually become a trainer himself, sharing the knowledge learned at GWTC with fellow Iraqi soldiers after U.S. forces transition out of Iraq.

As other Iraqi units of 2nd Bn., 11th Bde. participated in squad battle drills throughout GWTC, the maintenance crews learned the skills necessary to keep their combat arms personnel on the move.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

U.S. Army Sgt. Joshua Pearman, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, shows Sgt. Dafer Hussain, 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, proper maintenance procedures for an Iraqi Army humvee during a vehicle maintenance class at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb 3, 2011. In addition to teaching combat skills, U.S. forces are training Iraqi soldiers at GWTC for logistics and maintenance operations to keep Iraqi Army units running smoothly during the second iteration of battalion-level training as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, an Iraqi training program simultaneously building IA capabilities at the individual and small unit-level in an effort to modernize Iraq’s military.

'Keystone' State-native assists in keystone training event at KMTB

Maj. David Repyneck
109th MPAD
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

KIRKUSH MILITARY TRAINING

BASE, Iraq — As the sun set on a late January evening at Kirkush Military Training Base situated in the Diyala province of Iraq, an Eagle Scout reflected on his contribution to a successful training event for the Iraqi Army.

Spc. Scott Butz, infantryman, Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, explained his role in Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training.

"My job is to facilitate training," said Butz, who hails from Mertztown, Pa.

"I'm (an interpreter) coordinator and Mountain Trainer," he said. "I am also one of the few certified ammunition handlers here at KMTB. When the Iraqis have a training exercise, I make sure the numbers are right for small arms and mortar live-fire training."

Working in support of Tadreeb al Shamil, U.S. forces provide oversight of Iraqi-led planning, coordination and execution of Iraqi-directed training for Iraqi Army units.

Butz coordinated interpreter support for Company A trainers during the final phase of the first training iteration at KMTB, one of two training facilities in northern Iraq hosting the collective tactical training for IA battalions.

A certified Mountain Trainer, Butz also instructed Iraqi soldiers on basic skills and tactics for military operations in mountainous terrains.

Butz's contribution and that of fellow Gator Soldiers led to the successful training of Iraqi jinood, Arabic for soldiers, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 21st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, during Tadreeb al Shamil's inaugural training cycle.

The first class of Iraqi jinood to successfully complete their training, graduated

Jan. 28 in front of local, provincial, and military officials at KMTB.

Thanks to the efforts of Butz and fellow "Gator" Soldiers, the Iraqi jinood completed the course's training prerequisites, learning essential tasks for creating a self-sustaining training program, such as identifying ammunition requirements necessary to conduct tactical exercises.

Soldiers of Company A are training IA officers and noncommissioned officers to plan and conduct their own training, while developing a mechanism for training that will sustain the Iraqi Army in the future.

The advise and assist mission of Operation New Dawn differs from what U.S. forces were required to do during previous years, said Butz.

Butz returned to Iraq in July 2010 for his second deployment to Iraq with Company A, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt.

During his first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, December 2007 through February 2009, Butz said 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. conducted security patrols and distributed microgrants, small monetary grants to assist local Iraqi businesses.

Butz said his unit arrived in country in 2007 facing different challenges at the tail end of the "surge."

Security, at that time, remained the most pressing issue facing U.S. Soldiers and the people of Iraq and contributed to the extended length of the company's tour, he explained.

Butz said his patriotism and willingness to serve his country resulted from his Scouting experience with Troop 575, Hawk Mountain Council, and his Scoutmaster's involvement in his life.

Butz said his experience with the Boy Scouts of America and his interaction with his Scoutmaster, Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Hensinger, command sergeant major, 154th Quartermaster Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, based in Philadelphia, provided the foundation for his decision to join the military and serve his



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Repyneck

Spc. Scott Butz, an infantryman assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and Mertztown, Pa. native, reviews show times and range assignments for the next day's training with an Iraqi interpreter, Feb. 3, 2011. One of Butz's duties involves coordination of the Iraqi interpreters for support of daily training events during the 25-day Tadreeb al Shamil training cycle at Kirkush Military Training Base, Iraq.

nation.

"Spc. Butz is an example of the new 'greatest generation' we have in America," said Hensinger. "I noticed his leadership abilities early on, and I am so very proud to have shared in his life. I have so many fond memories of our experience on the trail to Eagle Scout."

"Command Sgt. Maj. Hensinger helped a lot with my decision to join the Army," Butz recalled. "Sgt. Maj. Hensinger stays in touch with me and he has been a positive role model for me."

The Pennsylvania native said his Scouting experiences continue to benefit him and members of his team and keeps him focused.

"Being an Eagle Scout helped a lot," commented Butz. "I was able to enlist as an E-2 (Private)—things like learning how to sharpen a knife the proper way, tying knots, camping, and hiking."

His leadership abilities, nurtured in Scouting, contributed to his becoming a team leader in his platoon, sharing the traits and skills developed as an Eagle Scout with his fellow Soldiers.

Once his Army career ends, Butz said he aspires to become a Pennsylvania State police officer.

Troops enjoy Super Bowl weekend, Super Sunday Tour at COB Speicher

By Spc. Andrew Ingram
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – U.S. Soldiers in time zones across the world stayed up late or woke up early to watch the Green Bay Packers defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 in Super Bowl XLV, Feb. 6 ... or 7, depending on their geographical location.

Many Soldiers spent months anticipating Super Bowl Sunday, traditionally a day even service members deployed to combat zones can relax for a few hours and bask in a truly American pastime.

Soldiers deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, received a taste of this excitement early as the Super Sunday Tour visited Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Feb. 4-5.

National Football League players, Madiou Williams, a defensive back with the Minnesota Vikings; Daniel Graham, a tight end for the Denver Broncos; Drew Bennett, a retired wide receiver who played for the Tennessee Titans, St. Louis Rams and Baltimore Ravens, joined Denver Broncos cheerleaders Krystal-Lynn and Tara, to eat meals with Soldiers, sign autographs and tour the base to boost morale and thank service members for their dedication and sacrifices.

It is humbling to watch the personal sacrifices each Soldier makes to serve the country, Tara said.

"The troops are always in our hearts," said Tara. "They are such a big part of our lives and it is important for us to come out and say thank you."

Events like the Super Sunday Tour are important because they break up the monotony of

deployment and give Soldiers something to do, said Spc. Steve Heathman, an aerial sensor operator, Company B, Task Force Observe, Detect, Identify, Neutralize.

"This is fantastic," said Heathman, a Titans fan from Memphis, Tenn. "I think it's great getting to meet them, especially Drew. This is something I would never have gotten to do back home."

While at COB Speicher, Williams learned he was selected as the Walter Payton Man of the Year via a video teleconference between U.S. Division-North Headquarters and an award luncheon in Dallas.

Surrounded by Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division, Williams officially thanked the NFL for the honor and the other nominees for their own humanitarian contributions.

"It is a tremendous honor to win this award named after Walter Payton, one of the greatest men to ever play in the National Football League," Williams said. "I'm sorry I couldn't be there to accept the award, but it is an even greater honor to be here with the 4th Infantry Division and Task force Ironhorse."

Williams received the award for his philanthropic work in Maryland and his birthplace, Sierra Leone.

Bennett said he felt honored and privileged to spend Super Bowl weekend in Iraq with his nation's troops.

"All of this is really such a small gesture to come out here and say thank you, and let the Soldiers know that back home everybody is thinking about them," he said.

Soldiers can tell their Families and friends at home about meeting the players and cheer-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram, USD-N PAO

Master Sgt. William O'Connor, noncommissioned officer in charge, Joint Operations Center, 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, shakes hands with Daniel Graham, a tight end with the Denver Broncos, during the Super Sunday Tour at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Feb. 5, 2011. O'Connor said he appreciated the professional football players and cheerleaders visiting Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn. Graham said he enjoyed meeting the COB Speicher Soldiers and wished he could do more to show his appreciation for their efforts to keep the people of the U.S. safe.

leaders, and can look at the pictures from the tour after the deployment, to remember good times in Iraq, said Sgt. Robert Sterns, infantryman, Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Inf. Div.

"It's nice to see these stars that you only see on TV come out and visit troops," the Clackamas, Ore., native said. "This is an awesome experience. When we look back on pictures from this deployment, we will have memories of meeting these guys."

At midnight, Feb. 7, COB Speicher troops and civilians congregated at the dining facility and Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Center to watch the Packers' victory and for a brief few hours revel in a very American experience.

In addition to watching the game, Soldiers enjoyed a buf-

fet of hot wings and pizza; took part in energy drink guzzling and hot wing eating contests; and played pool and ping-pong.

"This was a great night" said Spc. Craig Perry, human resources specialist, Company B, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Inf. Div. "I got to hang out with my friends and watch my favorite quarterback, Aaron Rodgers and the Packers win the Super Bowl!"

Hailing from Bonney Lake, Wash., Perry also celebrated his birthday Feb. 7 and said the party was one of the highlights of his deployment so far.

Whether watching from COB Speicher, Iraq, an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean or the safety of home station, troops cheered and yelled, and for a few hours, enjoyed camaraderie, food and fun.

'Out of failure we learn our greatest lessons'

Vietnam War veteran Dave Roever shares life lessons with Task Force 'Devil'

Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney
1st AATF PAO
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING STATION WARRIOR, Iraq – In the midst of a quiet, anticipating audience, a smile came to the face of Dave Roever, a Vietnam veteran and motivational speaker, as he looked at the Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who were in attendance to hear him speak at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 1.

"My first and primary objective of being here is to tell you thank you. I represent hundreds of thousands of people who would love to have the chance to say thank you, so on their behalf I want to say thank you for what you do for our country," said Roever, a native of Texas, who now resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Roever served with the U.S. Navy in Vietnam as a river boat gunner. He survived a nearly fatal incident when a sniper's bullet went through the back of his thumb and through his index finger, as he was throwing a white phosphorous grenade. The bullet hit the grenade, causing it to detonate on the right side of his face, immediately blinding his right eye and burning off his right ear. More than 70 percent of his body was severely burned in the incident.

Despite the gruesome facts of his story, Roever explained it with humor to make the audience more comfortable.

"When I realized I was on fire, I jumped into the river. (I didn't realize that) phosphorous is a chemical that burns in water," said Roever. "I burned in the water. My skin was everywhere, and I was beside myself."

"I needed to pull myself together you know," joked Roever as he finished telling of his experience.

Finding as much strength as he could, Roever explained how he swam and climbed up on the river bank, saying to himself he would make it through and live another day to see his wife and play his guitar one more time.

He then began strumming his guitar, playing a song he and his wife performed as a duet when he first started doing speeches at churches.

"It's out of failure we learn our greatest lessons," he said. "I'm not afraid to fail, because I'm resilient enough to bounce back. Resilience isn't to just bounce back from something but to bounce back higher and better than you were before."

Roever continued to say, if not for his wife standing by his side and pushing him to start

playing the guitar, he might have never picked it up again.

Because he built resilience within himself, Roever said he knew he was not going to just play the guitar, but he was going to change people's lives.

Changing Soldiers' lives is now Roever's main focus. Not only does he travel to posts throughout the United States, he also does tours in Iraq and Afghanistan to give his motivational speeches to Soldiers and civilians in harm's way.

"God gave me these scars to let Soldiers and people know they're not alone, that he understands what they went through, and they can make it through," said Roever.

"His speech was sensational," said Spc. Marliez Galiano, supply clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan. "How he can live through something like that, and live the life he has, brought tears to my eyes. He's really inspiring."

Now, Roever has moved on to another mission. He built a lodge in Colorado Springs, Colo., for wounded warriors who are both physically and mentally scarred from their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Roever said he hopes that the lodge will provide a respite for wounded warriors to come to terms with what they have experienced in order to help them make it through.

"Miracles take place in the lives of these men, women, and warriors," said Roever. "We train them to be speakers, to share their story."



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Vietnam Veteran Dave Roever played his guitar during a motivational speech at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 1, 2011. Roever told the story of how he received the scars which mark his face and more than 70 percent of his body. He explained to Soldiers, Airmen and civilians in attendance, resilience is the key to not only bouncing back from situations, but also the key to moving past a difficult or challenging situation to become a better person.

Chaplain's Corner: *A spiritual Valentines Day*

Maj. Paul Foreman
Family Life Chaplain
U.S. Division-North

Are you married or are you thinking of getting married some day? Before you walk down the aisle and say, "I do," what is your perception of married life? How you perceive something will tell you how you treat it.

If you love football and someone gave you a football that was used in last week's Super Bowl, you would be psyched and treat it like gold. But, if the same football were given to a 2-year-old, he would have no qualms about throwing it in the mud. It's all in how you perceive it.

When I first got married, I was confronted often with how immature I could be, and to be honest, I didn't like it. There was something about this forced intimacy of marriage that was revealing a side of me that I didn't even know existed, and it was a side of me I didn't like that much.

There seemed to be a spiritual challenge in marriage that nobody had warned me about. My view of marriage was simply that I wanted to be "happy." If I wasn't happy, something was wrong, and that usually meant it was my wife's fault. I thought she was the problem.

A friend told me once, "If you are afraid to face your sin, don't get married; because marriage will expose your sin like nothing else." Boy was he ever right.

Author Katherine Anne Porter said, "Marriage is the merciless revealer; the great white searchlight turned on the darkest places of human nature." Boy was she ever right.

Even if I've never met you, I know one thing that is true about you and your significant other: you're both imperfect people. Relationships force us to face character issues we would never have to face otherwise. And any situation that calls us to confront our selfishness has enormous spiritual value.

When couples break up, and they're really open and honest; it's the spiritual challenge that is

at the root of it. Some of them will say that they're not just running from the person they've become disillusioned with, they're really running from themselves. They are so embarrassed at how they acted; they're ashamed of what they've said or done.

Rather than relooking at their view of the relationship or marriage, they are tempted to just run from it.

"I want to start over with someone else ... I want to be with somebody who has never seen me act like that, who has never heard me talk like that ... I think I married the wrong one ... if I just had someone different, then maybe it would be easier."

It never occurs to them that their idealized notions of intimate relationships were simply unrealistic. They never question their view of relationships. They only question who they are in relationship with.

If the purpose of marriage is simply to make us "happy," then we would have to get a new marriage every two to three years—and some do. When people get married for a reason as trivial as a romantic high, they will probably end up getting divorced for something as trivial as the loss of that romantic high. But, if the purpose

of marriage is about more than just being "happy," it would require the transformation of a person's character and that takes time and lots of work.

If we are serious about pursuing spiritual growth through marriage, we must convince ourselves to stop asking the spiritually dangerous question, "Did I marry the 'right' person?"

Once we have exchanged vows, little can be gained spiritually from ruminating on this question. A far better alternative to questioning one's choice is to learn how to live with one's choice.

I don't know where you're at in your relationship or marriage right now. You might be in one of those difficult times where you're just wondering if you can hang on. You might be in one of those wonderful seasons where you just seem to be clicking and connecting with each other. Wherever you are at, it is my prayer that this Valentine's Day will renew your heart, renew your affection for your partner, and even renew your heart for your God.



Hey Doc: Prevent OCONUS leave woes

Capt. Nathaniel Teague
Preventive Medicine Officer
U.S. Division-North

"Hey Doc: I'm travelling to Kwaziland for mid-tour leave. Can I bring you back anything?" – signed "Jet-set"

Dear "Jet-set,"

No thank you, there is nothing I need or want from Kwaziland. In truth, a lot of what you could bring back with you frightens me; gastrointestinal worms, Tuberculosis, Malaria, HIV, STD's, etc. I prefer you leave these problems there.

I hope you have a good time, but always keep in mind overseas travel from Iraq is a privilege.

Travel to locations outside the United States, Canada, Australia/New Zealand and Europe pose unique infectious disease risks that require you to visit a medical provider prior to travel in order to discuss proper precautions. During this

visit the medical provider will discuss, among other things, the following:

1. Traveler's Diarrhea:

-Meat: If you didn't cook it, put it on a plate you washed yourself, and eat it with utensils you washed yourself, it is suspect.

-Fruit/Vegetables: Peel them and/or wash them thoroughly.

- Salads: I can't bear the thought of you eating salads in Kwaziland.

-Water: Tap water is a "no go."

- Talk to your provider about medication you can take to relieve diarrhea symptoms.

2. STD's/HIV:

"Close" physical encounters demand protection. You know what I mean.

3. Malaria:

If your medical provider recommends medication to protect from Malaria, take it. Period.

4. Medications & Applicants:

Bring your medications. Apply sunscreen or insect repellent when necessary – and common sense.

5. Sanitation:

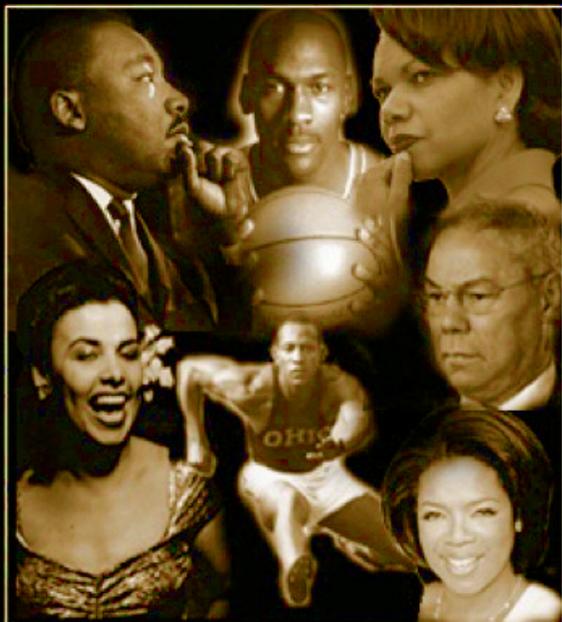
Toilet paper is a rare commodity in many places of the world. Incidentally, those same places also tend to suffer from lack of soap and clean water. My point—make sure you have toilet paper and alcohol sanitation with you whenever possible.

6. More Information:

Other generalized tips for traveling, along with country-specific travel information can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://ww-wnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

There is a lot of fun to be had in this big, wide world. Enjoy yourself, *Jet set*. Be responsible, and Task Force Ironhorse keep those questions coming!

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



Lt. Col. Keith Hayes, deputy information operations officer, 4th Infantry Division and U.S. Division-North, will host "Living Up to Your Potential" in observance of African-American History Month during a special commemoration at North-Morale Welfare and Recreation Center on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, at 7 p.m., Feb. 26.



**COB SPEICHER
MWR-NORTH
FEB. 26
7 P.M.**