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presented long-overdue award • p.A5

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STEPHEN BAACK / Monitor Editor

Amigo Airsho lands at Biggs: U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team members Staff Sgt. Tom Melton, left, Sgt. Richard Sloan, center, and Sgt. Daniel Cook jump out of the C-31 during Sunday's performance over Biggs Army Airfield as part of the 30th Annual Amigo Airsho. For more on the show, see page A16.

US, Iraq move toward normal military relations

LISA DANIEL
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – U.S. and Iraqi officials are working toward the kind of standard military-to-military relations that the United States has with many other countries around the world, a Pentagon spokesman said Monday.

“The president said very clearly that what we’re looking for is a more normal military-to-military relationship,” Navy Capt. John Kirby told reporters.

“That’s the crux of what we’re discussing right now,” he added.

Kirby made the comments in response to reporters’ questions following up on President Barack Obama’s Oct. 21 announcement that the U.S. military will not keep additional forces in Iraq beyond the agreement to pull out of the country by the end of this year.

That agreement has been in place for three years, but officials from both countries have spent the past few months discussing whether some U.S. troops – perhaps tens of thousands – should remain there to further train Iraqi forces. Obama announced that would not be the case after again discussing the issue with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

“Today, I can report that as promised, the rest of our troops in Iraq will come home by the end of the year,” Obama said in the Oct. 21 announcement. “After nearly nine years, America’s war in Iraq will be over.”

Obama pledged a continued “strong and enduring partnership” with Iraq.

About 150 U.S. forces will serve as military liaisons inside the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad as part of the State Department-run Office of Security Operations, as is common at other embassies around the world, Kirby said.

And while the two governments decided against keeping U.S. military trainers in Iraq, Kirby said, combined military training exercises are part of “virtually all” military-to-military relationships.

A little more than 39,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq and will be brought home by the end of the year, he said.

‘Warhorse’ takes over

1-13th assumes responsibility for northern Wardak

MAJ. BRYAN HARRIS
1st Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt.

WARDAK PROVINCE, Afghanistan – More than 40 Soldiers gathered at FOB Airborne here to transfer the responsibility of northern Wardak from the 10th Mountain Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team, from Fort Polk, La., to 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry, of Fort Bliss, Oct. 19.

With the Sultan Khel Mountains in the background, the 1st Sqdn, 13th Cav., 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st AD, conducted an official transfer of authority of the area from the 3rd Sqdn., 89th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 10th Mountain Div.

TF Warhorse will take over counterinsurgency operations in northern Wardak and TF Slugger will return to Folk Polk. TF Warhorse is a member of the 3rd IBCT and is the first 1st AD unit to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Col. John Woodward commander of 1st Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt., and Command Sgt. Maj. Angelo Lisondra, the squadron’s command sergeant major, unfurled the squadron colors and raised the guidon on FOB Airborne’s flagpole to signify the completion of the relief in place with Task Force Slugger and the arrival of TF Warhorse into Afghanistan.

The squadron’s troopers completed



MAJ. BRYAN HARRIS / 1st Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt.

A Soldier lowers the colors so that Lt. Col. John Woodward, left, 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Angelo Lisondra, right, 1st Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt. command sergeant major, can unfurl the squadron colors signifying the completion of the relief in place with Task Force Slugger and the arrival of TF Warhorse into Afghanistan Oct 19.

about two years of training to prepare for this day.

The Warhorse troopers said they are looking forward to getting to work in

Wardak, Afghanistan.

“We’ve been waiting a long time to deploy, and we’ve been training really

See Page 2A, **WARHORSE**

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- WSMR** terrain, buildings to test Soldiers - p.A10
- Job** fair helps former Soldiers- p.B6
- Halloween** safety tips from AMR medics- p.B18

Fall Fest

Freedom Crossing
Saturday • 10 a.m.
See ad on A4

FORT BLISS

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny Hi 70, Lo 44	Sunny Hi 76, Lo 47	Sunny Hi 79, Lo 48

Commentary	2A
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Community update.....	1B
Healthbeat.....	15B
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Army Classifieds	34B

DEPLOYMENT STATS

As of Oct. 18



Current Team Bliss personnel deployed	8020
Number mobilized and deployed through the MaD Bde. in 2011	5873