

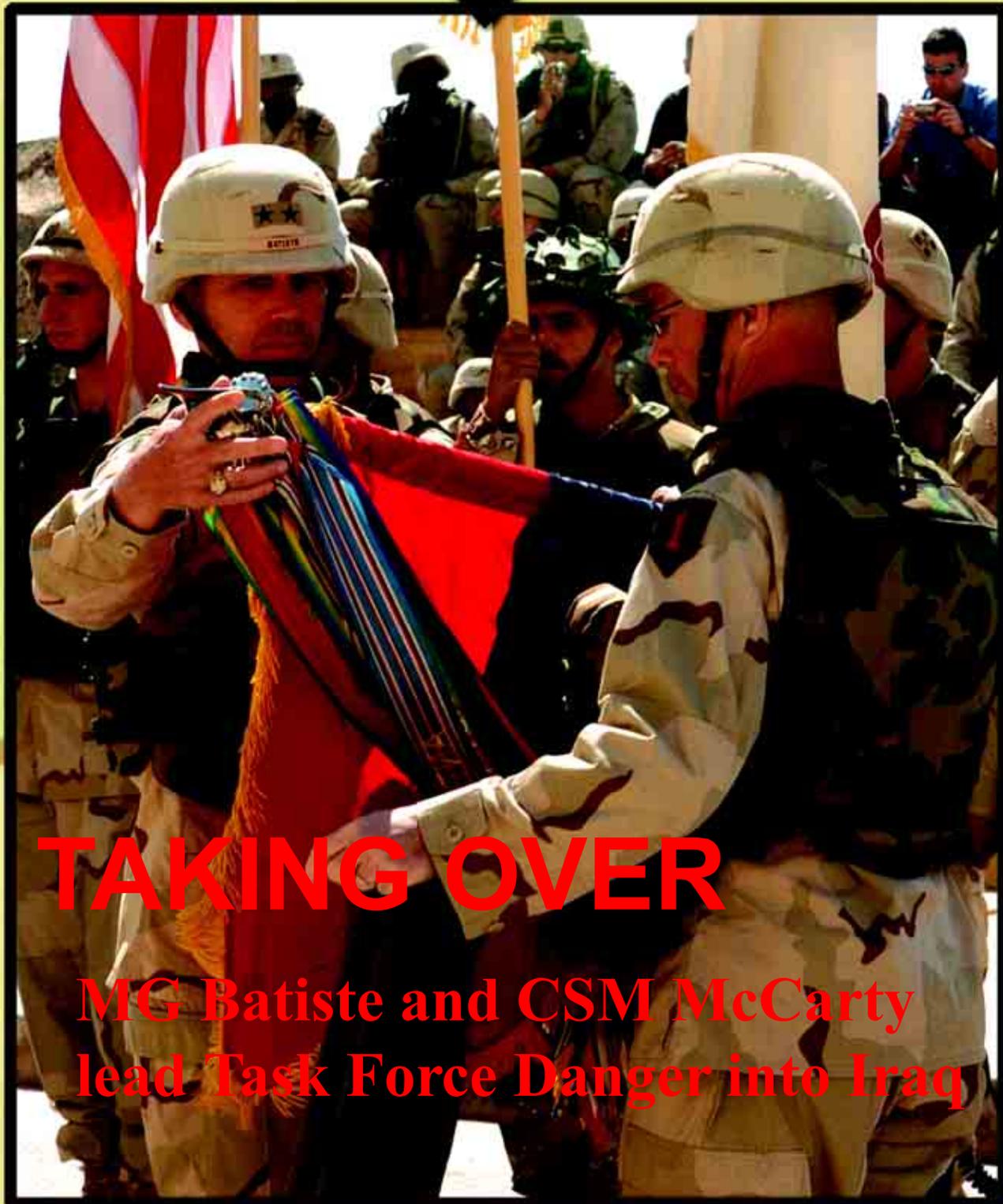
Danger

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Forward

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2004



TAKING OVER

MG Batiste and CSM McCarty
lead Task Force Danger into Iraq



THE ROAD TO IRAQ

1st Infantry Division Soldiers conduct a foot march at Camp Udairi, Kuwait, prior to moving north and assuming control of Northern Iraq.

On the cover

MG John R.S. Batiste and CSM Cory McCarty uncase the 1st Infantry Division's colors as the Big Red One assume control of Northern Iraq.

PHOTO BY SPC Sherree Casper

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MESSAGE FROM DANGER SIX

The 1st Infantry Division Combat Team assumed responsibility of the Coalition's Multi-national Division North Central in Iraq on 16 March. The transfer of authority ceremony with the 4th Infantry Division in Tikrit was a milestone for the division. It marked the end of an extended deployment and relief in place.

Units from Germany, Hawaii, North Carolina, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and across the United States have come together to form the Big Red One Combat Team for OIF II. We welcome the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii, the 30th Brigade Combat Team from North Carolina, the 264th Engineer Group headquartered in Wisconsin and the 167th Corps Support Group headquartered in New Hampshire.

I am very proud of the division's performance throughout the deployment, training in Kuwait, the approach march north into Area of Operations Danger and the relief in place. The transfer of authority was seamless, due in large part to the professionalism and teamwork of the 4th Infantry Division.

The mission continues to a high standard. We will make an enormous difference in Iraq as we conduct combat operations to ensure a safe and secure environment, and simultaneously set the conditions for Iraqi military and civilian self-reliance.

The Iraqi civilian leadership I have met are remarkable people—courageous and determined to complete the task to transform Iraq to a free and democratic society. This is an enormous effort, and we will do our part to make it all happen. On the one hand, we are fighting the war on terrorism, and on the other we are assisting a people to get beyond the oppression of the previous regime and embrace principles that until now have been little understood in the Middle East.

Remember that our combat operations are grounded in Army



MG JOHN R. S. BATISTE

doctrine and troop leading procedures. We deliberately plan and rehearse every operation. We base operations on predictive intelligence. I expect the chain of command to insist upon the highest standards of discipline. Discipline in this operation is non-negotiable.

Every soldier has a battle buddy or two, leaders enforce standards in the absence of supervision and our combat operations are decisive with overwatch and overwhelming combat power. We will continue

to treat the people of Iraq with dignity and respect. Follow your instincts, report accurately and never forget the traditions of the Big Red One.

We all mourn the loss of 13 comrades since entering the Iraqi Theater of Operations. CPT John Kurth, SFC Richard Gottfried, SGT Lee D. Todacheene, SPC Jocelyn Carrasquillo, SPC Jason Ford, SPC Tracy Laramore, SPC Clint Matthews, SPC Adam Froehlich, PFC Nichole Frye, PFC Jason Ludlam, PFC Ernest Sutphin, PFC John Amos II and PVT Dustin Kreider all gave their full measure and will never be forgotten.

We pray for each of them and their families. We will honor their sacrifice and service by completing the mission to the highest standard. The Big Red One is no stranger to adversity and we will prevail.

God bless all of you and your families. No finer division combat team has ever been assembled. Continue mission. **DUTY FIRST!**

MESSAGE FROM THE CSM

I am always searching for ways

to address the Soldiers of Task Force Danger. So when asked to write a column for the first edition of *Danger Forward*, I jumped on it.

By now, most of us have been in the AOR for about eight weeks. We have survived the crud and even walked around sporting a nice wind and sunburn on our faces.

Many of us made the 600 kilometer approach march while others flew by tactical airlift to our final destinations we now call FOBs.

We have learned new acronyms like IED, VBIED and ACF. We have had mortars, rockets and small arms fired at us.

One thing stands tall, no matter what nature or the enemy has tested us with, the spirit of the Big Red One has not been broken.



CSM CORY MCCARTY

The enemy had no idea that he was going to face the most disciplined Soldiers in the U.S. Army. He bets members of our unit will

always do easy wrongs over harder rights. He plans that we just leave the gates of our bases on patrols without a task and purpose.

He depends on our weaknesses because he knows that his methods only work on undisciplined Soldiers and units.

The enemy in AO Danger has been disappointed. He has come against Soldiers

who are disciplined, trained and determined.

He has already figured out that if he hits us we will hit him back ten-fold. He is hiding in his safe havens looking for someone else to attack. He knows his days are numbered.

He knows that Soldiers from Task Force Danger are going to capture or kill him. He is scared, and he should be.

We have come to this mission trained and hungry for our chance to assist the people of Iraq to better their country.

We are members of the oldest and most celebrated infantry division in the world. We are bound by our legacy.

We are disciplined. We perform our duties with professionalism and pride. Former Soldiers of the Big Red One demand us to carry on the reputation of this great division. We will not let them down.

I am proud to be a part of OIF II!

I am proud to be a disciplined Soldier!

I am proud to be a member of the Big Red One! **DUTY FIRST!**

Necessary tools of deployment, life

I was looking at a box the other day. It contained a new bicycle. On the outside of the box read, "Necessary tools for assembling of bicycle." Having put a few bikes together on Christmas Eve (really late!) I am acutely aware of the importance of the right tools for the job.

Bikes aren't the only things that require the necessary tools. As we go day to day in this deployment, I become more aware of the critical nature of certain spiritual tools: Devotion, Exercise, Humor and Honor. These are the necessary tools for the well-tempered soldier.

Devotion is that daily recommitment to one's values and faith. This can be accomplished in many ways, but is often done in a quiet time of reading or reflection.

Whether one has a couple of minutes or an hour, it is vital to have a moment in the morning when we acknowledge who we are and re-dedicate ourselves to fulfilling our duty in both faith and function.

This greatly assists in making every day count. Devotion at the beginning of the day reminds us that life is precious and fragile. No matter what the circumstance, we have opportunities today that we will never again experience.

Failure to acknowledge each day as spe-

cial can lead to despair in moving from one disconnected task to another. Each day is a gift, that's why they call it the 'present.'

Exercise is fundamental to everything we do. We know that if we do not exercise our muscles, we get weak and cannot do our jobs. The same is true of what we believe. If we never take our faith out on the streets, we risk atrophy of that faith.

Learn something new everyday. Practice what you preach. Do not wait for others to take the lead, do something.

There is a great deal in this mission that involves doing things for the first time, setting precedent, writing new rules. This takes guts and initiative. I encourage you to do the same in the exercise of your faith.

Be bold, be out there and then at the end of the day you will be confident in the knowledge that you have contributed to your own spiritual health and the well being



CHAPLAIN (LTC)
MIKE LEMBKE

of others.

Humor is necessary to the full life. This mission is demanding, difficult and deadly, but it need not be without humor. It is easy to be consumed by tasks and administrative demands that one can forget to laugh.

I like to find the person who has the best laugh and hang out with him or her! Many authors have commented on the power of humor to heal and provide perspective in the most desperate of circumstances. Please don't forget to laugh.

Honor is the fitting and proper response to all people whether they deserve it or not. Honor is a matter of the head and the heart. To be a person of honor is to view life and others with dignity and respect.

In the end, honor puts us into the 'serving' mindset. I am glad when folks of the WWII generation speak about what we do as "being in the service." Honor is a necessary tool, because it assists us in appreciating life, people, culture and ideas that are different, or beyond us in some way.

Honor does not put us above others, it puts us in service to others.

These are the necessary tools. I recommend you put them in your toolbox for the next days, weeks and months. Be careful out there, and let me know how it goes.

Like the Romans, train as you fight

Welcome to the Legion of the Big Red One. I must attribute what I know about the story of the armor worn by the Roman Legions to an article written by a former Marine Corps Commandant whose name escapes me at this time.

In the article, he wrote about the evolution of the word integrity from the Latin term *Integris*. During the rise of the Roman Empire, as soldiers were getting inspected, they struck the breast plate of their armor and sounded off to the inspecting officer with "Integris!" demonstrating the integrity of the armor and the soldier wearing it.

Both were solid and capable of sustaining the blows in combat. The Commandant goes on to explain the themes of integrity and the importance of discipline in living the warrior's life. He tied the degradation of the Empire to the degradation of the

integrity and discipline of the Legion.

As the Roman Empire expanded, the Legion lived in its armor. It was the soldiers' regular uniform, and they wore it in all conditions. Wearing the armor in battle was second nature for the soldiers, and one less thing for them to get used to as they adjusted to the intensity of combat.

The train-as-you-fight and fight-as-you-train philosophy was the hallmark of the Legion. "Their drills are bloodless battles and their battles are bloody drills," an enemy of the Roman Legion once said.

With the suppression of its enemies to the farthest frontiers, Roman soldiers began to shed their armors, except in parades, and took up the attitude that they could just wear it "when they needed it." The result was that soldiers had to adjust to their armor on the battlefield.

It became an additional weight that they were not used to while engaging in the

rigors of combat. As the conditioning of the soldiers was degraded by the additional weight of the armor, the perils of combat were even more removed from the soft life they had enjoyed without the armor.

The loss of their discipline and the integrity of their armor led to the demise of the Legion as it faced the barbarian hordes that eventually sacked Rome.

Wearing our current body armor is no different from our Roman predecessors. Become comfortable with the uncomfortable. It will be easier to deal with the other distractions of combat and help us concentrate.

It also will cause our enemy to be uncomfortable with the prospect of becoming a training aid in the execution of our own battle drills.

INTEGRIS and DUTY FIRST!

MAJ William T. Russell

Force Protection

Departing Germany...



SGT W. Wayne Marlow



CPT Bill Coppernoll



SFC Chuck Joseph



SGT W. Wayne Marlow

Training...



CPT Bill Coppernoll

Top left: MG John R.S. Batiste bids farewell to a fellow 1st Infantry Division Soldier at Nuremberg Airport, Germany.

Above center: Bradley Fighting Vehicles line up at Camp Udairi, Kuwait, before leaving for Iraq.

Above right: Close quarter marksmanship drills at Camp Udairi, Kuwait helped Soldiers improve their proficiency before leaving for Iraq.

Above left: SPC Philip W. Wasson cuts one-quarter inch steel plate at FOB Speicher on March 13. Wasson is a welder in the 323rd Maintenance Company, a Reserve unit from Fort Devens, Mass. The Deerfield, N.H. resident and his unit design, fabricate and install armor plating on a variety of military and civilian vehicles.

Right: PFC Douglas Pace, left, and SPC Kevin Hannah of D Co., 2nd BN, 1st Aviation Regiment prepare a helicopter for flight after it was offloaded from a ship in Kuwait.



SPC Joe Alger



SPC Joe Alger



SPC David C. Dyer



PFC Elizabeth Erste



PFC Elizabeth Erste

Relief in place...



PFC Elizabeth Erste

Forward the Big Red One!

Top left to right: Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment conduct squad training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain Training site at Camp Udairi, Kuwait prior to leaving for Iraq.

Above: MG John R.S. Batiste and two Iraqi dignitaries cut the cake after the March 16 Transfer of Authority.

Center: SSG Barkdull of the HHC, 1st BN, 18th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team pulls security during a night patrol of a section of Tikrit, Iraq on the evening of March 15.

Above far right: PFC Olson of the Scout Platoon, 1st BN, 18th IN Reg, 2nd BCT holds a picture of Saddam found during a house raid in a neighborhood of Tikrit March 16.

Above center: An Iraqi truck owner speaks to 2LT Culver of A Co., 1st BN, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT while his platoon conducts a sweep of the main supply route into Iraq on March 22.

Right: An Apache sits on a newly-painted tarmac in Iraq.



SPC David C. Dyer

The road to Iraq

**STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT W. WAYNE MARLOW
1ST ID PAO**

Months of preparation and training gave way to the real-world mission as 1st Infantry Division Soldiers departed Germany to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

More than 22,000 troops and 10,000 pieces of equipment left for Kuwait in January and February to replace the 4th Infantry Division in Northern Iraq.

Most 1st ID Soldiers spent a few weeks in Kuwait at Camp Udairi and Camp New York before going to Iraq.

But nearly six months before any 1st ID Soldier left Germany, BG Stephen D. Mundt and the staff began devising a plan to move the division and its equipment into the combat zone.

Mundt, the Assistant Division Commander for Support, didn't know what to expect at the outset of the mission, he said. But they accomplished the long, laborious task without any major problems.

"The move was the safest I've ever seen," Mundt said. "Did we ding any equipment? Yes. But no piece of equipment was destroyed and no soldier was injured."

The plan to transport the Big Red started in August 2003. Mundt and his staff

made several visits to Iraq and met with 4th Infantry Division officials.

The division used rail lines and barges to move its equipment. Barge sites were conveniently located next to the units they were going to support, Mundt said.

"In other words, we try to keep everybody on the shortest distance that they could travel for safety. We were doing this in January and February when it was winter with icy roads."

Division Soldiers flew out of Nuremberg Airport, which is less than two hours away. This also was a strategic decision.

"Nuremberg is centrally located, and every unit could get up there in about an hour. So we minimized the amount of time that Soldiers had to sit and wait," Mundt said.

Once in Kuwait, unit leaders trained Soldiers on essential combat skills that included reflexive fire, convoy operations, medical evacuation, and improvised explosive device familiarization.

As the division built combat power, the focus of many Soldiers' jobs changed.

For instance, track vehicle mechanic, SSG Willie Jackson, focused on serious deadline problems that plague tanks and 5-ton trucks, rather than routine maintenance.

"If a vehicle breaks down, we've got to coordinate with Camp Doha or Camp Alcur to get parts," Jackson of Headquarters and Supply Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, said in February. "We're getting a lot of parts in. And we just picked up a mission

to support Quarter Cav (1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment). That's a mission in itself. But we can get parts quicker here. People are getting parts, parts and more parts."

The mechanics also prepared humvees for combat by hardening them with metal parts and sandbags.

The work was anything but 9-to-5. "We don't have a set schedule," Jackson said. "If someone says they need a part, we jump and go. We're always on call."

It also meant adjustments for the medics. One of the busier was SGT Dionna Eves, a treatment team noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Infantry Division. She gave several initial and refresher courses to soldiers in her unit, including PFC Crystal Williams, an administrative specialist.

On the day of Williams' refresher training for combat lifesaving skills, Eves peppered her with situational questions.

Medics tailored the training for the situation, Eves said. "It's refreshing basic first aid and focusing on injuries we think we might see on the way, such as amputations, eye injuries and lacerations," she said.

Williams remembered her lessons well, Eves said, and so did most of the other Soldiers.

"I've been impressed with how quickly they pick up the knowledge," Eves said. "Some of them seem to think about the situation and the possibility of what might happen."

And if someone is learning a little slower, that's OK, too, Eves said.

"I'll train them until they know it."



SGT W. Wayne Marlow

Left: SGT Dionna Eves, right, gives pointers to PFC Crystal Williams during combat lifesaver training at Camp Udairi, Kuwait.

Opposite Page

Top Left: A heavy equipment transport moves an Abrams tank from the port to Camp Udairi, Kuwait on Feb 18.

Top right: 1st Infantry Division soldiers took aim during live fire training exercises at Camp Udairi, Kuwait before moving north into Iraq.

Middle Left: A soldier from the 601st Aviation Support Battalion grabs his bag upon arrival at Camp Udairi, Kuwait on Feb. 10.

Middle right: A 1st ID Bradley Fighting Vehicle from Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment moves down the ramp of a vessel on Feb. 17.

Bottom left: Apache helicopters from B Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment line the pier at a port in Kuwait on Feb. 17.

Bottom right: PFC Erika Bejarano, an automated logistics specialist with HHC, practices correcting a jammed weapon at Camp Udairi, Kuwait on Feb. 13.



CPT Bill Coppernoll



SGT W. Wayne Marlow



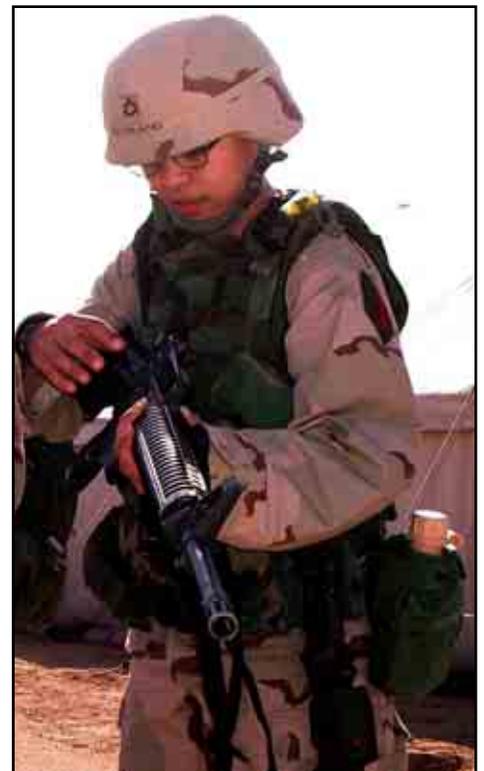
SPC Joe Alger



PVT Jesse Granger



CPT Bill Coppernoll



SGT W. Wayne Marlow

1st ID undertakes new

Big Red One takes reins from Ironhorse

STORY BY SPC SHERREE CASPER
196TH MPAD

More than a decade after leading the charge into Iraq during Desert Storm, the 1st Infantry Division returned to the region in February to begin another chapter of its rich lineage.

The Big Red One officially assumed command of Tikrit and surrounding area from the 4th Infantry Division during a transfer of authority ceremony March 16.

LG Ricardo S. Sanchez, U.S. commander of the allied forces in Iraq and V Corps commander, and other American military and Iraqi luminaries attended the event.

Media organizations from around the world were also at the ceremony, which was held on the stairs of the main palace on Forward Operating Base Danger.

“Together we will write another chapter in the history of Iraq and the history of the Big Red One,” MG John Batiste, commander of the 1st ID, told Soldiers and Iraqi guests. “We will partner with you to

achieve a better Iraq.”

Brigades within the 1st ID and 4th ID held smaller transfer of authority ceremonies in the weeks leading to the official TOA.

During its yearlong stay in the area, the 4th ID lost 79 Soldiers. Thirteen 1st ID troops had been killed in action as of April 6.

The 4th ID’s mission ranged from high intensity combat operations to counter insurgency to nation building, Sanchez said.

The division’s major accomplishments were the capture of Saddam Hussein and crushing the Ba’athist insurgency, said 4th ID commander, MG Raymond Odierno.

The turnover of authority required many 1st ID Soldiers to shadow their 4th ID counterparts for several weeks to get a better understanding of the mission, officials from both divisions said. Digging into his pants pocket, LTC Scott St. Cyr, 1st ID’s G-2, gave his predecessor, LTC Todd A. Megill, a stainless steel pocket knife with the 1st ID logo on it.

St. Cyr also gave Megill two coins – one from the commanding general and another from the intelligence section.

“We have a great start in understanding the enemy,” St. Cyr said of the teamwork



SPC Sherree Casper

The incoming and outgoing commanders stand tall as Task Force Danger takes the handoff from Task Force Ironhorse.

established between the 1st ID and 4th ID’s G-2. “We intend to pick up where the 4th ID left off.”

Taking over for the 4th ID also means inheriting more than 200 projects while starting new ones, including new schools, roads, bridges, mosques, power and water treatment plants, and the like.

“We will work hard to improve Iraqi quality of life, services and infrastructure,” Batiste said. “We want Iraq to join the community of free and democratic nations. “We are partners in every respect in this historic mission to achieve a free and democratic Iraq.”

During the brigade TOAs, commanders also vowed to continue the 4th ID’s work of building a better Iraq.

At Camp Speicher, COL Walter Golden, commander of the 1st ID’s 4th Brigade, said his Soldiers spent months preparing for the mission, and they are ready to take on the task ahead.

He also thanked the 4th ID commanders for teaching and mentoring his troops.

“We accomplished a relief in place that will allow us to build upon the successes of the Iron Eagle Brigade and add to its impressive list of accomplishments,” Golden said.

Even before the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Kalamazoo, Mich., officially assumed its mission in February, it witnessed firsthand the cruelty of war.

“Our best effort is expected and owed to our country, the international community of civilized nations and to SPC (Nichole) Frye, who has already paid the ultimate price,” said LTC Gregory Fischer, the incoming commander.

Frye, 19, of Lena, Wis., was killed Feb.



SSG Klaus Baesu

An Iraqi Civil Defense Corp soldier stands proudly among the U.S. color guard during the transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit.

mission in Iraq

16, by an improvised explosive device in Ba'Qubah, located 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Fischer said he expects his Soldiers to perform their mission "with the utmost professionalism and attention to detail."

The unit was handed the mission after a TOA ceremony with the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion from Belton, Mo.

At Forward Operating Base Raider, two brigades from the 4th ID held a TOA about six miles from where Steadfast and Loyal Soldiers captured former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a spider hole last

December.

The 1st and 3rd Brigades transferred authority of FOB Raider to the 1st ID's 2nd Brigade.

"We are only 10 kilometers from where an appalling chapter in Iraq's history came to a fitting end," Odierno said referring to the capture of Hussein.

Soldiers helped build a better Iraq, said COL James Hickey, commander of the 4th ID's 1st Brigade. He said there are hospitals, schools, power plants and clean water where there were once fear and hopelessness.

Hickey's 3rd Brigade counterpart, COL Fred Rudesheim, said the year of hard work paid big dividends.

"There's nothing more heartwarming than the smiles of Iraqi children," he said. "And now, those children will grow up with an education and a future. As we reflect on our fallen comrades...their passing is not in vain."

A TOA was held between 4th ID's 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment and the 1st ID's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. Squadron commander, LTC James Chevallier, thanked the field artillery Soldiers for their service and sacrifices.

The incoming unit is resolved to working with the ICDC and Iraqi National Police to continue their success, Chevallier said.

"While the path to a free and democratic Iraq is filled with many obstacles, each can be overcome with time," Chevallier said. "And together we will create a government the Iraqi people can be proud of."

In Baqubah, a TOA ceremony was held between the 2nd Brigade, 4th ID and the 3rd Brigade, 1st ID.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, nicknamed the Warhorse Brigade, achieved many significant accomplishments during its deployment. From establishing an interim government to administering the Diyala Province and helping rebuild the provincial legal system, the Warhorse Brigade spearheaded the coalition mission in the area.

"Side by side we partnered, all risking our lives for a better Iraq," Batiste said of coalition troops and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corp members at the ceremony.

The commanding general also was on hand when his 101st Military Intelligence Battalion took over for its 4th ID counterpart, the 104th Military Intelligence Battalion I. The ceremony was held at FOB Danger.

The battalion will be responsible for intelligence operations.

"I am confident that we will do a good job," said LTC Frank R. Hall, commander of the 101st MI.

Editor's note: *SGT W. Wayne Marlow, SFC Nancy McMillan, SPC Kim Snow, CPT Paula Sydenstricker, 1LT Tom Calhoun Lopez and SPC Ismail Turay Jr. contributed to this story.*



SPC Sherree Casper

SGT Chad Edmons lends his talents to the Transfer of Authority ceremony March 16 at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit.

30th BCT in place



CAMELS AND CONVOYS: Desert animal life appears in the early stages of the road march north.

BIG BOY: A HEMT takes the Iraqi sand head-on.

PHOTOS BY
MSG MIKE WELSH



GETTING CLOSER: The convoy rolls through Baghdad as the approach north continues.



THE WAY I SEE IT: BG Dan Hickman and LTC Goodwin talk over the situation.

Brownlee visits



Acting Secretary of the Army, Les Brownlee talks with Task Force Danger Commander MG John R. S. Batiste as 30th Brigade Combat Team Commander BG Dan Hickman looks on.

STORY AND PHOTO BY MSG MIKE WELSH

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CALDWELL, Iraq – When Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee visited the 30th Brigade Combat Team in the Diyala Province in March, he brought a special message.

Brownlee told the North Carolina Army National Guard soldiers they would play a critical role in rebuilding this country during their yearlong deployment here. He said they would not only help with the rebuilding of the country's infrastructure, but also ensure peace and stability in the region.

Lauding soldiers for their sacrifices, Brownlee said those on the home front appreciate their efforts in the historical mission. Americans are proud of the sacrifices they and their families have made.

The unit's current deployment is its third with the 1st Infantry Division. Known as the "Old Hickory" Division after President

Andrew Jackson, the 30th BCT was established as the 30th Infantry Division on July 18, 1917. In 2002 it transitioned from an infantry to an armor brigade.

Today, the 30th Brigade Combat Team is comprised of units from at least nine states, including West Virginia, Ohio, Texas, Illinois, Alabama, Minnesota and California.

Based in eastern and northern Diyala, the 30th BCT must contend with the activities of foreign terrorists, border enforcement, improvised explosive devices, former regime loyalists and the dynamics of a civilian population supporting multiple ethnic groups struggling to form their first democratic government.

The size of the 30th BCT will reportedly enhance the coalition forces' capability to reach areas not fully assessed or assisted by prior military units operating in the province.

"This country is still dealing with foreign fighters and terrorists," Brownlee said. "Terrorists are indiscriminate killers. This is a place where they originate, where they

train and spawn. You are over here to give these people in Iraq a chance and at the same time provide security."

A former Army officer and Vietnam veteran, Brownlee assured that Soldiers scattered across many of Iraq's newly established FOBs would receive basic support items now lacking. In the future, Soldiers should be able to dine in chow halls instead of eating Meals Ready to Eat or T-Rations, he said.

Headquartered in Clinton, N.C., the 30th BCT is equipped to fight state-of-the-art mechanized battles. Designed to primarily be self-sufficient on the battlefield, the brigade has an infantry battalion, two armor battalions, an engineer battalion, field artillery battalion, support battalion, cavalry troop, military intelligence company and air defense artillery battery.

Prior to the end of the Cold War, the brigade was the only American unit assigned to a NATO ally – Italy -- in the event of war. Soldiers trained regularly in Southern Europe.

Carrying the cross

Four generations stay with crucifix, division

STORY BY SPC SHERREE CASPER
196TH MPAD

PRICELESS. THAT'S HOW CPL SCOTT W.

FUHS described a gift given to him for protection by his family just before he deployed to

Iraq. The small, simple 18-karat gold crucifix on a silver chain he wears around his neck dates back more than 85 years. It has a long, rich military history.

Fuhs, 31, of Grand Rapids, Mich., is a fourth-generation Soldier to wear the crucifix in harm's way. His great-grandfather, grandfather and uncle wore it in previous conflicts dating back to

World War I. All three served with the 1st Infantry Division, as does Fuhs.

"No one has ever seen one like it," he said of the crucifix.

Fuhs arrived in Tikrit at Forward Operating Base Danger nearly three months ago with his Kalamazoo, Mich.-based Army Reserve unit, the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion. It is attached to the 1st ID.

Last century, the crucifix was worn by his relatives who saw combat twice in Europe as well as Southeast Asia. And now, Fuhs is wearing it in Southwest Asia with the Big Red One.

"They figured it is a well-traveled cross and needs to see another continent," Fuhs said.

Had it not been for Fuhs' great-grandmother's concern for her war-bound husband's safety, there never would have been a cherished family heirloom to begin with.

In 1917, before his great-grandfather boarded a ship in New York for France to serve in World War I, great-grandma Ada M. Mayo gave her husband, Fredrick J. Mayo, the gold crucifix, according to family lore.

She purchased the keepsake for an unknown price from a jeweler in Michigan.

Her husband was a cavalry and infantry captain in France. He returned home safely after the war, Fuhs said.

When Fuhs' grandfather, George E. Wiersma, was drafted to serve during World War II, the Mayos gave their son-in-law the crucifix. Fuhs said while serving from 1943 to 1946 as an Army signalman, Wiersma traveled to Normandy. He missed the D-Day invasion by a few days.

Wiersma's son, John, had the crucifix with him when he was shipped to Thailand in 1967 with the Army Corps of Engineers during the Vietnam War.

John Wiersma didn't take it off until last Thanksgiving. It was then that he passed the crucifix to his nephew who was being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"My grandfather and Uncle John both felt I deserved to have it," Fuhs said. "I felt ... honored, very surprised. I'm among good company."

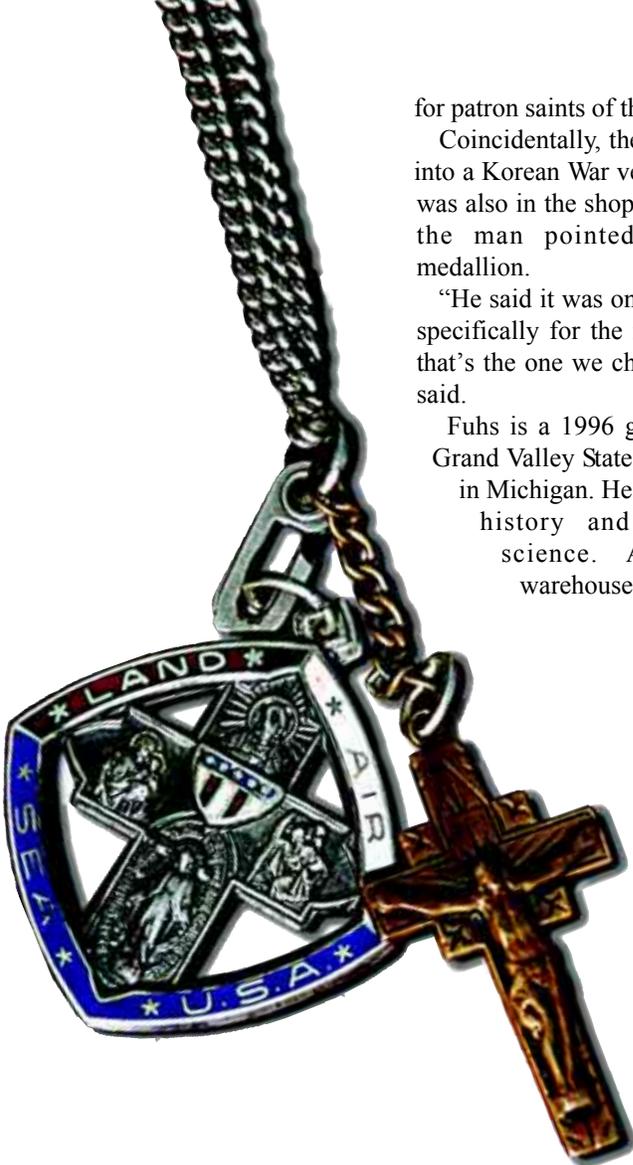
Born and raised Catholic, he said he gets a "good feeling" from wearing the crucifix. That's why he hopes to continue the tradition by one day passing it down to a relative who is in the military.

"I feel that it needs to stay in the family, in the military," he said.

Fuhs wears the crucifix alongside a pewter medallion engraved with three patron saints of the military – St. George, St. Michael and St. Christopher. Embedded in the center of the medallion is the Virgin Mary. The word "Land" is in red on the top left side, "Air" in white on the top right with the words "Sea" and "USA" in blue across the bottom. His mother, Carol, gave it to him before he deployed to Iraq.

Mother and son were shopping at Isdories Religious store in Grand Rapids, Mich., shortly after Veterans Day last year when the pair found the piece of jewelry. Fuhs said his mother wanted to give him something appropriate for a Soldier. So they were looking





for patron saints of the military.

Coincidentally, they bumped into a Korean War veteran who was also in the shop. Fuhs said the man pointed out the medallion.

“He said it was one designed specifically for the military so that’s the one we chose,” Fuhs said.

Fuhs is a 1996 graduate of Grand Valley State University in Michigan. He majored in history and political science. A former warehouse supervisor,



Fuhs joined the Army Reserve in November, 2002.

Military life apparently suits Fuhs, who has considered making it a fulltime career. There’s one stipulation –he wants to stay in Army civil affairs.

“I love the challenges,” he said. “It’s a whole different world.”

So is Iraq, where there is a lot of uncertainty and danger. But the crucifix provides him with a sense of security, Fuhs said. It protected his relatives in previous conflicts and now is protecting him, he said. “I feel very safe when wearing this cross,” he said. “Knowing that this cross has been many places with very special people before me, I intend to pass it down someday.”

Top right: George Wiersma fought in World War II wearing the same crucifix his father-in-law had worn in World War I.

Right: Wiersma passed the cross onto his son, John, who took it with him to Vietnam.

Opposite page: CPL. Scott Fuhs made it four generations with the cross when he wore it in Iraq.



Charlie 1-18 Infantry on patrol

STORY BY SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196TH MPAD

Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment trained diligently in the months leading to their deployment to Iraq. They were well aware of the dangers they'd face.

But the realities of war didn't set in for some members of 1st squad, 1st platoon, particular the younger, less experienced ones, until they watched two Soldiers in their battalion succumb to insurgents' improvised explosive device.

The attack occurred during a predawn patrol on March 13.

"I was thinking that that could have been me," PFC Josh Soto, 20, of California, said, referring to the two Soldiers. "We didn't take it serious until they died. It made me realize that this is no longer play time."

The two Soldiers' deaths were also an

eye-opener for PFC Joshua Szlachciuk, 22, of California.

"When the IED (detonated), that's when I said, 'Oh (expletive), this is real. This is no joke,'" he said.

Members of 1st squad have gone on multiple foot and mounted patrols since the deaths. The Soldiers say they still have trepidations and don't get lax because they know what could happen.

However, those trepidations were not apparent during a recent foot patrol through several Tikrit neighborhoods.

Squad members appeared comfortable and exuded confidence. Their mission was to search for observation points, enemy movement and "anything suspicious."

Prior to leaving for the mission, SPC Myles Hennessey, 25, of New York, reminisced about his first foot patrol. Instead of butterflies, he had killer bees buzzing ferociously in his stomach, he said. He thought about IED attacks and the many

Soldiers who have died on patrols and in ambushes.

He feared the unknown.

To calm his nerves, he paced back and forth. He also read the prayer of St. Michael, the patron saint of the military. Hennessey asked the more experienced Soldiers in his unit for pointers. Then he "triple checked" his equipment and weapon.

"That's what is going to keep you alive," he said.

Other soldiers in the squad, including Soto and Szlachciuk, both of whom have been in the Army for about a year each, said their feelings prior to their first patrols mirrored Hennessey's.

During the recent patrol, 1st squad's Soldiers were professional when interacting with the Iraqi people.

Even so, some adults, particularly men, stared at the troops stoically. Few appeared to be afraid of them.



SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

Sgt. Kevin Watts, a squad leader with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, radios information while on patrol in Tikrit.

Nearly all the children cheerfully greeted the Soldiers and gave them the thumbs up. Squad members patted some of the young people on their heads and gave them candy.

Others crowded around and followed the squad for a few blocks. But squad leader SGT Kevin Watts, 23, of Pennsylvania, and his Soldiers tactfully told them to keep their distance.

“You have to be on your (toes), because they are out there to kill you,” Watts later said, referring to insurgents.

A squad leader who is responsible for other Soldiers’ lives, Watts has to be twice as sharp as the others. He constantly thinks ahead.

What is he going to do if the squad takes fire? What if a member of the team gets killed? Is there enough cover?

Will the team be able to sustain in a firefight long enough for help to arrive? Is there an escape route in case of an attack?

Additionally, he has to juggle two radios to keep in touch with his team leaders and give frequent updates to headquarters. All this while reading a map to determine the squad’s location and keeping his rifle at the ready position.

“When I go out there, I don’t think about home, the wife, the parents, nothing,” Watts said. He previously did a six month tour in the region during major combat operations last year.

“I got two teams out there, and they are all I’m worry about,” he said, adding



SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

PFC Samuel Nobles of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry pulls security between a break in the wall, while his squad establishes communication with headquarters.

that he pulls little security because of his many duties. “(Pulling security) is more their job. I’m just there to tell them what to do and where to go. ...”

As they walked through the city, each member of 1st squad carefully scanned his sector. The Soldiers checked the top of buildings and windows for possible snipers.

They peered around corners before proceeding. They peeped in alleys, cars and yards for weapons as they passed them.

They reacted to every sound, but were careful not to inadvertently kill innocent

people, particularly children who often rushed out of their houses and yards to get a glimpse at the troops.

Before the squad crossed the streets, its members stopped cars. While two pulled security, the others ran across. They fired warning shots at vehicles that disobeyed their orders to stop – this occurred about four times during the patrol.

Midway through the patrol, 1st squad approached a crowded, open market where the troops were vulnerable to attack.

What appeared to be raw sewage flowed down the street, and garbage was scattered everywhere. A strong odor of dead animals and rotten food lingered in the air.

Watts and his Soldiers noticed a suspicious looking car while passing the market. They ordered the driver to stop, and four Iraqi men exited the vehicle.

Hennessey, who speaks Arabic, took the men’s information while the other Soldiers pulled security and searched the car for contraband. They found nothing illegal in the car.

Toward the end of the two-hour patrol, the squad didn’t notice anything suspicious, nor did it find weapons. Just hundreds of smiling children and lots of thumbs up.

“We are here to defeat the insurgents, and if I can help in any way, that’s fine with me,” Hennessey said. “I know the young people appreciate us. It means a lot to me to know that someone cares.”



SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

PFC Josh Soto pulls security during a recent foot patrol in the City of Tikrit.

Air Defense Artillery unit adapts

4-3 ADA has smooth transformation to use of infantry tactics

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1LT WILLIAM A. DIEFENBACH
4-3 ADA UPAR

TRAINING FOR
SOLDIERS of 4th
Battalion, 3rd Air Defense
Artillery Regiment has
typically been a yawner,
consisting primarily of battle
drills and studying slides of
enemy aircrafts in a dark
room.

But in the days leading to the Germany-based unit's departure from Kuwait for Iraq, training was, perhaps, the most exciting it's been in a long time, the troops said.

"... Out here, we finally get to do some really cool stuff, and in a place where we

'It is very rewarding to see the fruits of our efforts.'

LTC James Spurrier
4-3 ADA Commander

have a real mission and a real threat," SPC Charles Waite of 3rd Platoon, Alpha Battery said during an Iraqi Theater of Operations training just outside of Camps Doha and New York.

The garrison training was required of troops scheduled serve in Iraq. Soldiers spent long hours preparing, in an effort to master the skill of identifying enemy aircraft before engaging them.

In addition to honing their air defense artillery skills, the 4-3 ADA went through the rigors of infantry-style Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. Within a day, the majority of the battalion qualified on Close Quarters Marksmanship, Quick-Kill Marksmanship,

Room Clearing Procedures and Entry Control Point and Reflex Marksmanship ranges.

The troops were highly motivated as they experienced the thrills of firing live rounds into targets while inside makeshift rooms. They engaged the "enemy" at unusually close range, and destroyed them as the Soldiers attempted to get through a checkpoint.

"It was awesome. I wish we could do this every day," SPC Benenson of Headquarters Battery said.

The training his troops received in Kuwait was "one of a kind," Battalion Commander, LTC James E. Spurrier said.

"We don't have the resources to train like this back in Germany, and so I was a little stunned as to how quickly these Soldiers have become proficient in these skills and tasks," he said. "... They love it. Most of the soldiers have told me things like, 'I want to do more of this', and 'When can we come out here again?'"

"As a commander, it is very rewarding to see the fruits of our efforts at organizing this, and these are the fruits, high levels of motivation and confidence in these young men and women," Spurrier said.

Air defense artillery is not their primary mission while in Iraq – They are escorts. But the Soldiers of the 4-3 ADA have developed a strong sense of confidence in their newly-developed skills. They have been given access to some of the Army's finest training.

"We came here to do a job, and all we have been doing lately is preparing," SPC Horace Marlow said the day before the battalion left Kuwait. "I'm out here in the middle of nowhere, away from my wife and children for a reason. Going to Iraq is that reason. All I can say is we are ready to roll."



Submitted photo

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery have spent most of their careers around weapons considerably bigger than the M16s they carry here, but they have adapted well.

Good to see you again

Kuwait an unlikely reunion site for Army father and son

STORY BY
1LT WILLIAM A. DIEFENBACH
4-3 ADA UPAR

IF SSG JAMES DELANEY and SPC Timothy Delaney, didn't believe in fate prior to their respective deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, they certainly do now.

The father and son, who had not seen each other in nearly two years, knew their units were being deployed to the Middle East for Operation Iraqi Freedom. But they were not aware that they'd be in Kuwait at the same time and less than two hours apart.

Shortly after his Germany-based unit, the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, arrived in Camp Udairi, Kuwait, in February, the younger Delaney e-mailed his father, alerting the elder Delaney of his location. That's when he discovered that his father was stationed in Camp Doha, where he is a fire chief.

His son is a Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle crew member with the 4-3 ADA. His unit has been at Forward Operating Base Danger for nearly two months. They are natives of Jacksonville, Fla.

The Delaneys were ecstatic when they realized that their camps were not far apart. So they made it a priority to see each other for the first time since Timothy Delaney graduated from Advance Individual

Training nearly two years ago.

With permission from their respective commanders, James Delaney picked up his son from Camp Udairi and took him back to Camp Doha, where they spent the day.

"I am just happy as a commander that I was able to assist these two Soldiers in meeting one another under such extraordinary circumstances," said LTC James E. Spurrier, Battalion Commander of the 4-3 ADA. "I mean, to not have seen one another in two years is a long time for a father and son to be apart. The Army certainly didn't mean for that to happen, so I am glad that I could help amend the issue."

The father and son spent the day touring Camp Doha and catching up on old times. Timothy Delaney even performed a drum solo for his father, who had never seen him play.

The Delaneys ate lunch with a group of Kuwaitis, Timothy Delaney said. They had a traditional Kuwaiti meal of Basmati rice, chicken and yogurt.

Overall, the visit with his father was wonderful, a teary-eyed Timothy Delaney said.

"It was great, he showed me all around the fire station, and I got to spend some good quality time with him. The hardest part was seeing him leave."



Submitted photo

SPC Timothy Delaney, left, and SSG James Delaney pose for a picture the day of their visit.

Soldiers in the sand

Which fast food restaurant would you like to have on your FOB, and why?



SGT Hollie Federico of Bethlehem, Pa.
 "McDonald's because I miss their fries and milk shakes."



PFC Flor M. Chavez of Miami.
 "Where ever I can get a Doner, or real food."



SPC Jerome A. Johnson of Ashbury, N.J.
 "TJ 's Sub shop because they make good steak and cheese sandwiches."



SGT Angela M. Boyce of Dowagiac, Mich.
 "Definitely Taco Bell, because I love nacho Bell Grandes."



SFC Kurt W. Kushnereit of Pittsburgh.
 "Arby's, just for something different"



SPC Ida S. Osborn of Duarte, Calif.
 "An In & Out because it's a California thing. Everybody needs to have a double, double with fries and a chocolate milkshake."

Warrior roundup

ICDC gains valuable training

STORY BY SPC SEAN KIMMONS
25TH ID UPAR

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GAINES MILLS, Iraq — A goal of the United States is to help the Iraqis eventually govern themselves.

To assist with this development, the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps was established in November 2003. Similar to America's National Guard units, the ICDC protects and serves the different regions of their country from unrest and hostility.

Soldiers with Task Force 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment are currently teaching more than 40 ICDC recruits basic infantry skills to create a more proficient ICDC in the Hawija area.

"WE WILL FOCUS our initial training effort on a composite platoon made up of the best squad from each of the four ICDC companies, with an officer from each company," said LTC Scott Leith, commander of TF 1-27 Inf. "Over the next month we will retrain on individual skills."

The 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment from the 4th Infantry Division completed initial entry training with the ICDC personnel.

"The whole point of this training is to form the basic fundamentals of Soldiering skills, so in the future the ICDC will be able to take

part in missions that we conduct," said SFC Doyle Evans of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1-27.

Whether it's raiding a home or stopping vehicles at check points, the people of Iraq would rather observe Iraqi Soldiers doing it than Coalition Forces.

"ICDC soldiers know their people well and their environments, so they would be a better security force for Iraq," said ICDC 2LT Riyadh Mahmood Ali.

To build up the ICDC force, HHC and C Co. from TF 1-27 Inf. will teach the ICDC personal weapon safety and knowledge, first aid, drill and instruction, how to search a detainee, individual movement techniques and how to conduct a cordon and search.

During the second week of training, there will be map reading, land navigation and fire team movement.

In the final week of training TF 1-27 Soldiers will show the ICDC personnel how to secure a suspected Improvised Explosive Device, identify and secure a weapon cache and how to secure a

r o a d w a y .
So far, ICDC Soldiers have been motivated and eager to work with the TF 1-27 Inf. Soldiers, said SGT Raymond Middleton, a squad leader with TF 1-27.

TF 1-27 dedicates school

STORY AND PHOTO BY SPC SEAN KIMMONS
25TH ID PAO

SALIHIA, Iraq — Villagers began to smile and wave as A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment Soldiers rolled up in their tactical vehicles for the Salihia elementary school dedication March 3.

Since it was funds from the TF 1-27 Commander's Emergency Relief Program that paid for the school construction project, the Soldiers became the guests of honor.

"One of the main focuses of the battalion is earning the trust and respect of the Iraqis," said 1LT Robert Heatherly, fire support officer with A Co. TF 1-27 Inf. "This is one way we can do that by going into the community and building schools."

When CPT Scott Carpenter, commander of A Co., TF 1-27 Inf., arrived at the school, he gave one of the students the honor of cutting the ribbon.

Carpenter checked each of the six classrooms to verify the work done by a local contractor and to ensure the school was suitable for the 85 students.

Satisfied with the work, Carpenter, local city council members and the school's head master mingled over refreshments while surrounded by Iraqi children who eagerly listened.

Farhan Nasser Hussein, the school's head master was delighted with the construction project and said how important a

new school is. "New schools are one of the ways that are helping the village to be better," he said.

Resembling a sod house from the pioneer days, the village's old school stands right next to the new one. Built in 1955, the school that once taught Nationalism during Saddam Hussein's regime is now occupied by a cow and chickens.



1SG Fidelito Ordonio, first sergeant for Co. A, TF 1-27 Inf., stands against a wall with Salihia elementary school students during the dedication of the school March 3.

PSYOP helps Iraqis spread the word

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD

BA'QUBAH, Iraq – Prior to the American-led invasion of this country, radio and television programs were laced with pro-Saddam Hussein messages.

Live and local programs were nonexistent, until now.

Since arriving here more than two months ago, Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's Psychological Operations office, have worked tirelessly to complete the reconstruction of the Diyala Media Center.

"People have never had local programming before where they have reports of police actions in the city or commendable accomplishments of government organizations in the province," said CPT Jeff Peterman, 3rd brigade psychological operations officer.

The ultimate goal is to have an Iraqi-run radio and television facility that the people can continue to utilize long after the coalition forces are gone, he said, adding that the Coalition Provisional Authority meted out about \$400,000 for the project.

Peterman oversees the stations' reconstruction, which he and his team inherited from the 4th Infantry Division.

The media center's radio tower, the third largest in the Middle East, was discovered by 1LT Lorne Segerstrom, of the 4th ID. He stumbled upon it while conducting an assessment of available host nation media assets.

Segerstrom took measures to secure the facility, which was being looted by loach. Within a couple of days, some of the former staff members approached the Americans and asked about plans to rebuild the facility.

The U.S. Agency for International Development and the Iraqi Media Network acquire transmitters, power supplies, generators and other equipment essential to rebuilding the facility.

Ginan Kadon, the station manager, was among the first staff members to be hired. She is thankful for the coalition's help in

rebuilding and securing the facility, she said.

"It's wonderful to have television in Ba'qubah," she said. "They give us a big hand here, always, anything we need."

Currently, the facility only broadcasts recorded programs. But construction is underway to build radio and television studios for live broadcasts, said Diyala Media Center NCOIC, SFC Chris J. McPherson.

"By the first of May the two studios should be complete," he said. "We are also working with various sources to try to coordinate training for staff members on reporting and broadcasting procedures."

The station currently covers government and political news, and reports on civil affairs and CPA projects.

"Many of the Iraqis don't see all the work being done, all the money being spent, all the projects being completed," Peterman said. "If they don't live next to a project, they don't realize how much is being done to rebuild the province."

Staff members have also developed human rights and educational programs.

"They've been extremely well received by the Iraqi populace," said Peterman. "This is something that is alien to them. They've never had these rights before."

In the next two to three months, the team plans to help the staff develop a live radio call-in show and a live studio television news program to provide an unbiased look at the news and events in the Diyala province.

Unfortunately, the staff and the facility have been attacked by several improvised explosive devices, rockets and mortars, Peterman said. Three

staff members were killed and 10 wounded when the minibus used to transport the staff from their homes in Ba'qubah to the facility was ambushed in mid-March.

"They were specifically targeted," said Peterman. "This was the latest in an attempt to take the radio station off the air."

Although Kadon admits that safety is a huge concern for her and her crew, she refuses to back down.

"I feel my work here (is) worth the risk," she said. "They attack us (because) we are a danger for them. It means we are successful. We try to make change for the people. And this is right."

Following the attack, the brigade surgical team was sent to the hospital to assist the casualties. The CPA agreed to purchase a new minibus for transportation and the Ba'qubah police chief and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps have agreed to increase measures to protect employees traveling to and from the facility.

"This has become a cooperative effort between police, ICDC, CPA, and the coalition," Peterman said. "Since the incident, it's more difficult building confidence on the Iraqi side. But they need to learn that security is as much their responsibility as it is the coalition forces' because we're not always going to be here.

Working with the Iraqi people has been an "awesome experience," Peterman said, adding that they just want to have a good life for their families.

"They just have no concept of democracy, or very little," he said.

"And that's one of my personal duties that I've taken on is to teach them, and they're very

(L to R) SGT John L. Ammon, SFC Chris McPherson and CPT Jeff Peterman, Brigade Psychological Operations Office at the Diyala Media Center's 1,300-foot radio tower.



Military plus civilian equals success

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196THMPAD

Security and a booming economy are attainable in Iraq, but only if the citizens help coalition forces flush out insurgents who continuously attempt to impede progress, MG John Batiste, Commander of the 1st Infantry Division, said during the monthly Iraqi Provisional Governors and Coalition Provisional Authority conference held in Tikrit March 31.

“Citizens have an obligation to participate in creating a secure environment,” he said. “I think the people know the criminals who are impeding progress.

“The future of this wonderful country is in jeopardy as long as the (terrorists) are given sanctuary inside your borders,” he said.

CPA, brigade commanders, high ranking military officials, and governors from four provinces – At Tamim, Salah Al Din, As Sulaymaniyah and Diyala -- attended the six hour conference. Its purpose was to form a partnership between the 1st ID’s senior leaders, CPA Governorate Coordinators, and Iraqi government officials who are located in the division’s area of operation.

Coalition officials are optimistic that with the new partnership, they will get input from

“We are prepared to do whatever we have to do to defeat destabilizing factions and simultaneously conduct stability and support.”

-MG John R.S. Batiste

local leaders on projects and how to disseminate funds for rebuilding Iraq. Batiste said he will open a conference each month to continue building relationships and get the governors to talk about common issues and challenges. The next one is scheduled for early May.

Funds for projects will be provided by the Commander’s Emergency Response Program – CERP. It was established by the fiscal year 2004 Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations.

The program has meted out some \$8 million thus far, and could provide up to \$32 million by the end of the year, officials said, adding that priority will be given to programs related to training Iraqi security forces.

CERP has already provided millions of dollars to train thousands of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and police officers.

Additionally, more than \$2 million was recently spent on bulletproof vests and other

equipment for the ICDC, said COL Gene Kamena, the 1st ID’s Chief of Staff.

Other CERP-funded projects will include establishing regional vocational trade schools, improving basic industry structure and capability, and relocating a printing press to Tikrit for commercial and daily newspaper printing, Kamena said.

Also, coalition officials hope to improve water and sanitation infrastructure, food production, electrical power generation and distribution, and the like.

But none of the great plans coalition forces have to return Iraq to normalcy will come to fruition if citizens do not assist officials in capturing terrorists and former Saddam loyalists who insist on disrupting progress, Batiste said.

He asked the governors to urge people in their provinces to help coalition forces flush out the insurgents.

“We are prepared to do whatever we have to do to defeat destabilizing factions and simultaneously conduct stability and support operations. I need your help with that,” he said at the outset of the conference. “Only our combined efforts and partnership will bring peace and stability to Iraq.”

The conference was productive and certainly will help strengthen ties between coalition forces and the Iraqi people, the governors said after the meeting. Governors had limited authority and their ability to lead was stifled during the Hussein regime, Abdul Rahman Mustafa, governor of Kirkuk, said through and interpreter. He represented the At Tamim province.

But working with the Americans will teach the Iraqi officials how to run their provinces more effectively and expand their authority, he said.

Abdulla Rasheed Aljubori, who represented the Diyala province, said he also was pleased with the conference.

“It was a great effort,” he said. “It gives us confidence in the Americans and confidence to tell our people that they can expect good things, not just promises.”



Abdulla Rasheed Aljubori, left, from the Diyala province, congratulates Maj. Gen. John Batiste for hosting the inaugural Iraqi Government and Coalition Provisional Authority conference.

Bremer praises incoming, outgoing divisions

**STORY BY
SPC. ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196th MPAD**

Tikrit has been one of the most difficult areas in Iraq, but the 4th Infantry Division did a tremendous job in reducing the violence and maintaining order the past year, U.S. Ambassador L. Paul Bremer told reporters during a March 10 visit to Forward Operating Base Danger.

And the 1st Infantry Division, which officially replaced the 4th ID March 16, will also excel in its mission, Bremer and MG Raymond Odierno, 4th ID Commander said.

“Incidents are running about a third of what they were a few months ago, and I think that’s a mark of the progress we are making on the security side,” Bremer said.

He also spent about an hour having lunch

with troops.

The ambassador came to the base camp to say goodbye to Odierno, meet 1st ID Commander, MG John R. S. Batiste and get an operations update, Bremer said.

While on the base camp, he ate lunch with both generals and several troops from the divisions. His visit was a morale booster and the highlight of some Soldiers’ careers, troops said.

“He’s a busy man, and for him to come and see how we are living and eat what we eat is great,” said SSG Irvin D. Hollowell, 22, of Texas.

It was even more of a delight to have both generals at the lunch table, he said.

A meal with the dignitaries was an honor, but it also meant a break from MRE lunches, said Sgt. Bradley A. Nestler, 23, of California.

As they ate, Bremer asked the troops about their families, how things were going so far in the deployment and their plans for the upcoming rest and relaxation leave, said Hollowell and Nestler, both of whom are 1st ID soldiers.

After the lunch, the ambassador met with Batiste, Odierno and other officials in a closed-door meeting for about an hour before going to the 4th ID command post for an operations update. He and Odierno then met with reporters.

The two pointed out some of the 4th ID’s accomplishments, which included the capture of Saddam Hussein in December and the arrest of some key insurgents.

Bremer and the general are optimistic that the 1st ID will have a successful year, they said. “Batiste is a professional,” and his soldiers are well trained for the task ahead, Odierno added.



SPC David Dyer

Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, left, chats with MG John R.S. Batiste after lunch with the troops during Bremer’s visit to Tikrit in March.

Civil affairs team aids local Iraqis

STORY BY
SPC. KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD

Since landing here in mid-February, Soldiers from the Kalamazoo, Mich.-based 415th Civil Affairs Battalion have diligently worked on projects aimed at improving living conditions for locals and gaining residents' trust.

Among the projects are the reconstruction of 43 primary and secondary schools in and around Samarra, the proposed reconstruction of 11 mosques, improvements to a local veterinary clinic and the donation of medical books.

Public Works Team Chief MAJ John P. Lawlor met March 1 with Samarra chief of council and director of education, Shaikh Adnan Thabet Maher, and Ayad Saleh Mekhlef, chief of stabilized and claim damages commission, at Forward Operating Base Brassfield Mora, Samarra, to discuss the status of the school reconstruction projects and the proposed reconstruction of 11 mosques.

"The people were skeptical about the coalition forces and (their) promises," Maher said through a translator. "(However) many people changed their minds about the coalition forces (after) seeing the rebuilding."

The Belton, Mo.- based 418th Civil Affairs Battalion began the reconstruction projects and passed them on to the 415th when it arrived here in February. All 43 schools are scheduled for completion by late March, said Lawlor, adding that most are 50 to 70 percent complete.

Several of the schools are complete, Maher announced during the meeting. However, at the time of the meeting, inspectors had not had the opportunity to inspect the buildings, Lawlor said.

There is a constant struggle to move the projects forward, and the team's biggest obstacle has been coordinating its efforts, he said.

"We're trying to help them help themselves," Lawlor said. "The objective is to rebuild these facilities to the satisfaction of the communities. So what we need to do is ensure community participation."

MSG Barbara J.L. Slocum, public works construction supervisor, said the Coalition Provisional Authority allotted \$30,000 for each school. Problems sometimes arise when project managers deviate from the contracts to fix items not listed on them, she said. Also, while U.S. officials prefer to work with reliable contractors, local officials want to spread the work around.

"The local shaikh wants to ensure that there is work for everybody," she said.

Unfortunately, many Iraqi children have not attended school since reconstruction began several months ago, Slocum said. However, she added, the team is working hard to ensure the schools are completed and inspected as quickly as possible.

School reconstruction aside, CPT Thamus J. Morgan, the first veterinarian assigned here, has worked to improve conditions locally. She and her team met March 3 with local veterinarian Dr. Rigadh Hadi-Mohamed to inspect and coordinate efforts on improvements to the South Tikrit Veterinary Clinic.

The large animal clinic was also allotted an initial \$30,000 for

improvements. However, due to problems with "shoddy" workmanship, the CPA granted an additional \$6,000 for repairs.

The initial funds were spent on a security fence, new generator, repairs to the existing structure and running electric lines. The additional money will be used to build a housing unit for the generator, bury electric lines and repair the roof and ceiling in one of the exam rooms.

"We've started tracking the contractors and won't use them again," she said referring to the original contractor.

Morgan has also assisted the clinic staff in other areas. During an earlier visit, Hadi-Mohamed, the clinic's chief administrator, explained that clinic truck had been confiscated by Iraqi police. Morgan responded by obtaining a letter from the ministry of agriculture stating that the clinic is authorized one vehicle.

One of the clinic's large animal veterinarians, Dr. Maher Ibrahim Nooh, said the veterinary situation in Iraq "is not good, their (veterinarian) education is not high."

"Their veterinary medicine is around a 1960's level because they've been isolated so long," Morgan said. "Also, their veterinary schools are taught in English because their books are in English."

Nooh and Hadi-Mohamed both thanked Morgan and her team for their help, particularly for the security fence surrounding the clinic compound. "There was no safety," Nooh said.

Hadi-Mohamed then explained that they would remove the tires from their cars at night to prevent them from being stolen.

Morgan also organized a book donation project aimed primarily at the University of Tikrit's College of Pharmacology.

In all, her team collected 50 textbooks and a 20-volume audio digest titled "The Spoken Medical Journal." The books were collected based on a list compiled by the university. The team was able to collect 16 of the 20 topics requested.

Morgan turned the books over to the Dean of the College of Pharmacology, Dr. Ali Esmail Al-Snafi, during a visit March 8. He thanked Morgan and her team for their efforts.

"We'll keep the books coming," Morgan said.



SFC Chuck Joseph

Saad Sateh, a Samarra contractor, collects money for work done on the Al Yasameer Primary School as MAJ John P. Lawlor looks on.

1st ID, 4th ID Prayer breakfast serves up fellowship, faith

STORY BY
SPC C. TERRELL TURNER
4TH ID PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Chaplains from both Taskforce Danger and Taskforce Ironhorse

were on hand as the 4th Infantry Division quintet provided an uplifting atmosphere at the dining facility religious service March 4.

The pastors congratulated the troops on a job well done and encouraged them to do more as Operation Iraqi Freedom continues. The chaplains also

remembered the role of spirituality in the accomplishment of the mission.

As the breakfast hours at the DFAC came to an end, those in attendance were welcomed by 4th Infantry Division CSM Chuck Fuss. He spoke about the need for leaders and all soldiers to remember safety. He said attention to detail is crucial in the accomplishment of the missions for each division in the region.

Fuss was followed by LTC Mike Lembke, 1st ID Chaplain, with an opening prayer.

“Chaplain Richardson (4th ID Chaplain) and his staff did a great job paving the way,” Lembke said. “They made our job easier with their guidance and made us more likely to focus on the right things in providing comprehensive religious support for the 1st ID. We are pleased and proud to take over the

mission from a great unit like the 4th ID.”

The 1st ID has more than 40 chaplains and chaplain assistants in Iraq to work throughout the division.

An original guitar composition by 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment Commander LTC Steven Russell preceded the message from Combined Joint Task Force 7 Command Chaplain COL Gene (Chip) Fowler. Fowler spoke about the nature of family, faith and freedom and how these three fundamental structures are crucial for soldiers to keep in mind while accomplishing the mission.

“Prayer Breakfasts are an excellent way to maintain positive spiritual contact with leaders and soldiers,” said Lembke. “Everyone has to eat breakfast. It gives us an opportunity to pray, worship and build a community.”

DANGER TV

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Excerpts from a letter sent to MG John R.S. Batiste from MG Roland Kather, 13th German Panzer Division commander:



“I was deeply shocked to learn about three soldiers coming to death and the number of wounded soldiers.”

“I feel deep sympathy with their families. ...”

“Sadly, we must acknowledge that our task of ensuring peace is a very dangerous one - and one that inevitably endangers the lives of our soldiers.”

“I hope that one day the outstanding work our soldiers and the division are performing...will contribute to making the world safer and more stable.”



In Memory of Task Force Danger Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq as of April 6

PFC Nichole M. Frye	SPC Clint R. Matthews
SFC Richard S. Gottfried	PFC Jason C. Ludlam
SPC Jocelyn L. Carrasquillo	SPC Adam D. Froehlich
CPT John F. Kurth	PVT Dustin L. Kreider
SPC Jason C. Ford	PFC John D. Amos II
SPC Tracy L. Laramore	SGT Lee D. Todacheene
PFC Ernest H. Sutphin	

In Memory of 1st BCT, 1st ID Soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan. killed while serving in Iraq

SSG Christopher E. Cutchall	SPC Roger G. Ling
2LT Todd J. Bryant	SSG Joe L. Dunigan Jr.
SPC Josph L. Lister	SPC Christopher K. Hill
SGT Ryan C. Young	1LT Doyle M. Hufstedler
SGT Jarrod W. Black	SPC Sean R. Mitchell
SGT Dennis A. Corral	SPC Michael G. Karr Jr.
SSG Sean G. Landrus	PFC Cleston C. Raney
2LT Jeffrey C. Graham	PVT Brandon L. Davis

Opposite page, bottom: 3rd BCT Commander, COL Dana J.H. Pittard and CSM John D. Fourhman pay their respects to SPC Adam Froehlich at a memorial service held March 29 at FOB Gabe. Froehlich was killed in an Improvised Explosive Device blast March 25. (U.S. Army Photo by SPC Kimberly Snow)

Back Cover

Top: Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop are extracted from a western Diyala compound following an early morning raid March 24. (U.S. Army Photo by SPC Kimberly Snow)

Bottom: COL Dana J.H. Pittard and an interpreter speak to an Iraqi boy while performing reconnaissance of a neighborhood believed to be the origin of a mortar attack against Soldiers stationed at FOB Gabe. (U.S. Army Photo by SPC Kimberly Snow)

