



THE CAVALRY CHARGE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

~America's First Team~

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Long Knife returns home

Spc. Terence Ewings
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – After a yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, uncased its colors marking the official return of the cavalry troopers during a ceremony, Sept. 6.

Families, friends and the Fort Hood Community gathered on Cooper Field and welcomed back the “Long Knife Brigade” after the successful completion of their advise, train, and assist mission with Iraqi Security Forces.

“I am very proud of the hard work and courageous actions my Soldiers have made over the course of the year,” said Col. Brian Winski, commander of the Long Knife Brigade. “This is a great welcome back to all the troopers that are here in the brigade. We were out there training the ISF every single day and these Soldiers certainly deserve this first class homecoming.”

Charged with the challenge to be the first unit of the 1st Cav. Div. to



FORT HOOD, Texas – Col. Brian Winski (left), commander of 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Overstreet (right), senior enlisted advisor to the brigade, uncase the brigade's colors during a ceremony on Cooper Field, Sept. 6, 2011. The uncasing ceremony marked the official return of the 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., “Long Knife Brigade” after a yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

support the new mission, the Long Knife troopers deployed to northern Iraq last fall to train their Iraqi partners.

Throughout the deployment, the 1st Cav. Div. Soldiers advised, trained and assisted the Iraqi Police, Iraqi 3rd Federal Police Div., 2nd Iraqi Army Div., 3rd Iraqi Army

Div and Kurdish Security Forces.

In addition to training their partners, the Long Knife troopers also constructed the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, where they worked to modernize the IA light infantry units at the battalion-level training site.

“I feel very confi-

dent in the area of operations and security situation we handed off to the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Armor Division. The ISF were doing great, and they have good sustainable plans to continue that success,” said Winski.

“As we transition U.S. forces out of Iraq in the next few months I am

very confident that our (mission) will continue to be an excellent model for securing the country of Iraq from external threats, and what really feeds that confidence is the incredible pride of the Soldiers in the brigade,” said Winski.

The Long Knife Soldiers officially assumed authority of the Ninewa Province Oct. 18, 2010, from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Prior to the New Dawn mission, the Long Knife Brigade deployed to Ninewa during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Over the next few months, the redeployed cavalry Soldiers will reintegrate with their families and friends and have the opportunity to take leave and spend time with their loved ones.

Later this year the troopers will begin their ‘reset’ process, where the unit will perform maintenance and turn-in excess equipment in preparation for a heavy brigade combat team training cycle next year.

Bandit Troop uncovers explosive remnants of war

By 2nd Lt. Stuart White

6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., 3AAB, 1st Cav. Div.
AL KUT, Iraq – During a routine patrol Sept. 5, 1st Lt. Christopher Morrow, a native of Austin, Texas, and Red Platoon Leader, Bandit Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, spotted ordnance on the side of the road, outside of Al Kut, Iraq.

Upon investigation, Red Plt. discovered an old, abandoned, Iraqi Artillery firing point containing multiple artillery rounds and approximately 50 fuses.

However, the ‘Saber’ Soldiers didn’t have the equipment necessary to dispose of the unexploded ordnance which is a potential risk to innocent civilians and could also be used to harm U.S. Soldiers. Because of this risk the platoon returned with an explosive ordnance disposal team to dispose of the artillery rounds and fuses.

When explosives or potential weapons are found, EOD is called to follow platoons into

the various sectors around Iraq to analyze and safely dispose of them. EOD refers to these rounds as explosive remnants of war.

These explosive remnants of war are dangerous because it is unknown when the shells were made, what they are made of, the condition of the fuses, who left them, or how long they have been there. Patrolling platoons take explosives like these very seriously and treat each one as a potential threat.

“Even though there was no evidence of terrorist activity around the old firing point, disposing of leftover ordnance keeps the Iraqi civilians and U.S. Soldiers safer, so finding any small amount of explosives is important,” said Morrow.

Along with EOD, the platoon partnered with Iraqi Army Soldiers to secure the site. Working with their Iraqi Army partners is a part of every mission ‘Saber’ Squadron executes. Iraqi Army facilitates all operations and works with United States Soldiers to accomplish each mission.



AL KUT, Iraq – An explosive ordnance disposal team member evaluates explosive remnants of war to safely and securely move the ordnance to an appropriate place for disposal. Soldiers from Red Platoon, Bandit Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division discovered an old, abandoned, Iraqi Artillery firing point containing multiple artillery rounds and approximately 50 fuses, during a routine patrol Sept. 5, 2011. The ordnance was later disposed of by the explosive ordnance disposal team. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., 3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div.)

“Executing the mission is always our first priority, but a key element of that mission is working with the Iraqi Security Forces because they are ultimately in charge of security in Wasit province,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dallas McKay, Red Plt. Sgt., and a native of Atlanta.

Commander's corner: Making progress in RC-East

By Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn
1st Cavalry Division Commander

Greetings from eastern Afghanistan!

It's already been over 120 days since CJTF-1 assumed responsibility from CJTF-101 here at Bagram Airfield. It seems like just yesterday we were uncasing the 1st Cavalry Division colors and placing combat patches on our troopers. We've assessed our first 100 days here with input from the staff, Task Forces, and our Afghan partners and we are making tangible progress.

Of our 14 provinces in RC-East, we have transitioned primary security of two provinces to the Afghans: Panjshir and Bamyan and one district; Mehtar Lam, in Laghman province. In conjunction with our ANSF and GIROA counterparts, we are setting the conditions for future transitions. The Afghan Security Forces continue to make substantial progress in securing their own country and we see encouraging progress and Hope for the people of Afghanistan. Here's to their courageous service and the lineage they've added to their storied history.

August was the Holy month of Ramazan and the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Participating Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, and smoking during daylight hours which teaches patience, spirituality, humility and submissiveness to God. Our ANSF counterparts continued to conduct missions during this time as a testament to their commitment and dedication to freeing Afghanistan and making it a safer place for their families. We are duly impressed with their loyalty, allegiance, and dedication, and it was an honor to share this holy celebration with our Afghan partners.

As we move from the summer fighting months to the fall, we will transition several subordinate units. TF Falcon, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, from Ft. Drum, N.Y., will be replaced by TF Poseidon, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, from Ft. Bragg, N.C. TF Patriot, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, will complete their mission in Wardak and Logar; replaced by TF Bulldog, 3rd Brigade

Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas. Our Coalition partners from TF White Eagle (Polish) and TF LaFayette (French) will also rotate Battalion Task Forces to join CJTF-1. We're honored to have served with TF Falcon, TF Patriot and our TF La Fayette and White Eagle teammates. Their contributions to increased ANSF capacity and stability across RC-East reflects the dedication, courage and disciplined combat service of their Soldiers and Task Forces.



As the temperatures drop and summer's heat fades, we will sustain our high tempo of operations. In preparation, we are stock piling fuel and supplies at remote outposts and "winterizing" our vehicles and equipment. Division and Brigade personnel are conducting conditions checks at our outlying Combat Out Posts (COPs) and Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to ensure they are fully postured to maintain our momentum in eastern Afghanistan this winter.

In early August, we met with four of our State Governors; Steve Beshear from Kentucky, Bill Haslam from Tennessee, Brian Sandoval from Nevada and Gary Herbert from Utah. Soldiers from those states participated in a question and answer session with their respective Governors. This was a great opportunity for both the Soldiers and Governors to talk about issues back home, while providing the Governors a firsthand perspective of conditions here.

In closing, to our Families, "Friends of the Cav" and central Texas family and friends—thank you for your prayers and support. Because of you, we remain focused on our missions over here. Through your continued thoughts and prayers, we will persevere and achieve success in support of our Nation's goals and return home safely to you.

COS KALSU, Iraq – Copperas Cove, Texas native, Lt. Col. David Northridge (right), the deputy commanding officer for the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and Maj. Gen. Qais (left), the commander of the 8th Iraqi Army Division, discuss progress between the U.S. and 8th IA, at Diwaniyah, Sept. 6. Representatives of the Iraqi Highway Patrol and Iraqi Police also gave input as to what their concerns were and how to solve them. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jennifer Dolsen, 1st AAB Public Affairs, 1st Cav. Div.)



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Cavalry, Polish troops swap rifles, cross train

By Sgt. Kimberly Browne
RC-East Public Affairs

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Just outside the small village of Gardez, south of Kabul, sounds of gun fire echo off the mountains. In what normally would be cause for alarm, no one reacts.

To better strengthen their bond and skill, troops from the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division and the Polish 17th Mechanized Brigade, held a cross-training and weapons qualification event, Aug. 5, at a small range outside of Forward Operating Base Lightning.

"Two things soldiers have in common, worldwide, are standards of discipline and basic marksmanship and we wanted to embrace that with the Polish," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Edward Duran, platoon sergeant for the 1st Cav. Div. Security Forces Platoon, Task Force Maverick.

Training for the event began



U.S. Army Sgt. Patrick Pitts (kneeling), of Craley, Pa., with the 1st Cavalry Division, at Forward Operating Base Lightning, teaches a Polish soldier the proper clearing procedures of an M16A2 rifle, Aug. 5, at a range east of Gardez Village. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Browne, RC-East Public Affairs)

several weeks earlier with preliminary marksmanship instruction and familiarization.

"Every two to three weeks we were doing something; whether we were going out to the range

with the Polish and shooting, sitting down learning the basic fundamentals of their weapons and then going out and actually shooting the weapons for the first time," he said.

The training afforded each

soldier a chance to qualify on the other nation's weapon system and to help build camaraderie and exchange marksmanship badges between the Polish and U.S. Army soldiers on FOB Lightning.

Polish soldiers zeroed and qualified on five 5.56 mm M16A2 rifles. American soldiers mastered four 5.56 mm Beryl AKs.

"It was a good competition and it was great fun," said Polish army 2nd Lt. Krzysztof Mularonek. "It was a great way to build relationships between the Soldiers even with a language barrier."

Very few of the Polish soldiers spoke English and only one American soldier spoke Polish.

"I am very impressed and proud the soldiers pushed through their barriers and found a means of communication with each other," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Derrik Browne, section sergeant of the SecFor Plt.

1ACB senior NCOs form partnership with German counterparts

By Staff Sgt. Joe Armas
1ACB Public Affairs, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP MARMAL, Afghanistan – Senior enlisted members of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, welcomed their counterparts from the German Armed Forces in Regional Command North to a Diamond Club meeting Sept. 1.

The Diamond Club, which is comprised of senior enlisted members from the 1st ACB, meets on a weekly basis at Camp Marmal and this was the first time senior enlisted advisers from the German armed forces attended.

"The partnership between our two nations here in the regional command is flourishing by the day," said Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Vela, senior enlisted adviser, 1st ACB, originally from Fort Worth, Texas.

The meeting was what Vela called 'the next step' to enhance the relationship among the enlisted leadership of the two nations.

Another senior enlisted member, Sgt. Maj. Jason Speede, operations sergeant major, 1st ACB, originally from Norfolk, Va., attended the event and talked about how events like this have enhanced his relationship with his German counterparts.

"I've been stationed in Germany for 13 years out of my career, and this is the most interaction I've had with German soldiers," said Speede.

He added, "I think it's ironic that here in Afghanistan, the enlisted partnership between our two nations has come full circle."

Vela and the newly minted command sergeant major for German armed forces in Regional Command North, Command Sgt. Maj. Maurizio Grandesso, are already working together, having toured other forward operating bases in the regional command on previous occasions.

Grandesso sees the new relationship as an opportunity that bears

mutual benefits for both leaders.

He said that he hopes that as enlisted leaders, they can learn from each other in the coming months and make improvements for the betterment of the enlisted corps within their respective units.

Vela said that although different cultures and languages distinguish the two nations from each other, the similarities between the two nations' militaries are abundant.

"When you look closely, the way our enlisted leadership chain is structured, it's almost identical to that of the Germans," Vela said to the group of enlisted leadership in attendance.

He noted that a first sergeant in the German armed forces plays a very similar role to that of a first sergeant in the United States Army.

The evening's meeting was marked by a plethora of camaraderie, laughter and interaction between the two nations.



Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Vela, senior enlisted adviser, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, originally from Fort Worth, Texas, presents a 1st Cavalry Division flag to German Sgt. Maj. Maurizio Grandesso, who is the senior enlisted advisor for German armed forces in Regional Command North, during a Diamond Club meeting Sept. 1. The meeting was the continuation of the partnership between the senior enlisted leaders from both countries. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Armas, 1ACB Public Affairs, 1st Cav. Div.)

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Live The Legend!

Cav troops help Iraqi Army maximize mortar capabilities

By 2nd Lt. James McGregor
2AAB, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – “Mustang” troopers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, combined with Iraqi Soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division to conduct mortar registration, fires and observation training at Contingency Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Sept. 18.

Company fire support teams from throughout the battalion trained Iraqi mortarmen from the 18th Brigade’s Light Battery, and two Iraqi Security Forces platoons of the 5th IA Division, on U.S. Forces’ methods of conducting fire missions.

The training event, termed “Operation Mustang Thunder,” was primarily focused on achieving accuracy with indirect fire, under both day and night conditions.

The munitions used for the training included high explosive rounds, illumination

rounds and infrared illumination rounds.

Captain William Moeller, battalion fire support officer for the Mustangs, said the combined training event was split into two main areas: mortar and observer training.

Among many other subjects, the mortar portion of training included: instruction in mortar survivability, position selection, fire direction center positioning, round handling, the purpose of forward observers, and aim adjustments.

“Training on proper use of indirect fire can greatly enhance the 5th IA’s capability for external security,” explained Moeller. “Mortars can illuminate areas of suspected enemy activity, provide illumination for adjustment of high explosive rounds at night, harass enemy positions and direct friendly troops to attacks or patrol activities.

Illumination rounds can also be used to mark targets for attack with aviation assets, he continued.

Moeller added that this training was the



CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – Iraqi soldiers with the Light Battery, 18th Iraqi Army Brigade, watch live mortar fire by the Mortar Platoon with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North, at Contingency Operating Base, Iraq, Sept. 18, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Nikko Matos, USF-I Combat Camera)

culmination of months of work in southern Diyala province with ISF leaders, which helped to identify areas where training assistance would help build a solid foundation for external security.

Miracle fights create family bonds

By Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson
41st Fires Brigade, PAO

KILLEEN, Texas—To many, miracles are based around religious beliefs about individuals overcoming significant odds, events or receiving the right gifts at the right times. However, to a handful of Killeen residents and Soldiers, Miracles became a second home.

Miracles can come in all shapes, sizes and forms, but this time around, it comes in the form of a boxing club. Miracle Boxing Club is one of the few boxing clubs in Killeen and it has been serving the community for nearly 12 years.

Most boxing clubs specialize in particular techniques, although MBC has its trade secrets, they are more known for transforming boys into men and strengthening their family bonds.

“You have to love boxing to be in it,” said Frank Hall, head coach and owner of MBC. “We’re more than coaches, we’re mentors. We are



KILLEEN, Texas—Jas Phipps, New Orleans native, a student at Texas A&M, spars with Christi Wallace, Belton, Texas native, both fighters from the Cougar Boxing Club in Temple. Phipps volunteered to spar with Wallace to help her develop her striking skills and work on her defense. (U.S. Photos by Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO).

here to keep our kids off the streets and out of trouble. With enough training and discipline, boxing becomes a way of life instead of an activity.”

Frank has produced many professional fighters in Panama and help Soldiers and civilians reach great fighting statuses state-side but he appreciates one of his old students and the one volunteer that has helped to take his gym to the next level.

Sergeant First Class Armando Rivera, Brownsville, Texas native, equal opportunity advisor for the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st Fires Brigade, has been a primary coach with the

MBC for two years. He volunteers at least 18 hours a week and roughly 40 hours during fight weeks. Rivera teaches the fighters about discipline, nutrition and effective punching techniques.

“I can’t take money for something that I love doing, plus Miracle Boxing Club is a tight family,” said Rivera. “You pretty much have to be because if you can work together you grow together.”



USO Fort Hood presents Movies on the Lawn



KIDS ACTIVITIES



- Complimentary Refreshments
- *cold beverages
- *nachos
- *popcorn
- *skittles *snickers*



Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. All Active Duty Families Welcome!

Friday 21 October 2011
1st Cavalry Division
Headquarters
Building #28000 Battalion Ave
Cooper Field
Fun starts at 7:00pm
Movie begins at 8:00pm



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