

## 10th Mtn. Troops Get Right-Seat Rides

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin  
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Baghdad - These Soldiers take the phrase "riding shotgun" quite literally. Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos), 10th Mountain Division, were introduced to their new neighborhood through right-seat rides, which are patrols accompanied by units experienced in their area of responsibility (AOR).

The right-seat rides are vital to preparing Soldiers for the regions that will eventually become their area of responsibility, said 1st Lt. Roger Eller, 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 10th Mountain Division.

"In a right-seat ride, we link up with other units in their AOR," he said. "It allows us to familiarize ourselves with their tactics, techniques and procedures



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Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, return from inspecting a truck during a patrol around Baghdad Aug. 1. 1-509 INF. Soldiers are attached to the 2 BCT, of the 10th Mountain Division.

and the area in general. They showed us where the hot spots are. It was really beneficial to us. We learned a lot."

Commando BCT Soldiers patrolled all over Baghdad and surrounding areas with units attached to

the 1st Cavalry Division.

"It's important for members of the brigade to understand what other infantry units might be doing in Baghdad," said Capt. Edward Walter, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment. "For us to be

able to see the way they do their job will benefit both sides."

The rides also benefited 2nd BCT commanders who met with other leaders experienced in the AOR, said Spc. Michael Sylvia,

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## Iraqi Soldiers Take on Civil Affairs Role

By Pfc. Al Barrus  
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad - Having more than a month of experience in patrols in their new sector, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force (IIF) Brigade - the first Iraqi unit to be assigned a sector in Baghdad - moved things up a bit in their area of Abu Dashir.

Security and patrols were the first things the battalion learned during their right-seat/left-seat

ride in Abu Dashir with their predecessors, Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

But on Aug. 9, they took part in a new task: civil military operations.

Three projects, originally developed by the Soldiers of 1-8 Cav., came to a finishing point and were handed to the people of Abu Dashir by the leadership of 2-1 IIF.

"This is the first time IIF has done something like this," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan

Savage, Co. C's civil affairs officer. "The main purpose of this is to put an Iraqi face on the project, so the community can associate them with it, since they are now the ones operating in the neighborhood."

The first project that the convoy of 1-8 Cav. and 2-1 IIF Soldiers visited was a road lighting dedication on Abu Dashir's main market road. Savage said the street lights run approximately one mile along the middle of the road to help

improve night security in a dangerous area for not only Iraqi and multi-national forces, but also the merchants who live there.

"The Abu Dashir market has been our toughest area," he explained. "We initiated the lights to increase security measures for us, adding security driving up and down the market street. It's also something nice to give to the community and the merchants. It's added secu-

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## IIF Fix Street Lights in Al Rashid

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rity for them against vandalism and stuff like that.”

Savage also said the lights stay on the whole night, even with the three-hour electricity rotation that occurs in most of Al Rashid.

“Those lights work off the municipal power, but whenever the power grid goes off a generator kicks on so those lights can stay on,” the lieutenant explained. “The normal power is three hours on, three off.”

After a short dedication of the streetlights by the

IIF battalion commander, the convoy rolled out to visit two schools to deliver supplies and equipment.

IIF Soldiers presented Al Ciudad middle school with a generator to help bring stability to the building’s electricity. Staff Sgt. Riley Flaherty, a squad leader in Co. C’s 1st Platoon, initiated the grunt work and development of this project, Savage said.

“The school and the surrounding area have been having blackouts, and they don’t get nearly as much power out there as they should,” Flaherty recalled. “We would go into sector,

and the power is supposed to run three on three off. Nine out of 10 times they will be running one hour on and 11 off. It’s 120 degrees outside and they can’t pump water.”

The second school visited was Al Felic primary school, where the IIF presented administrative supplies such as air conditioners, desks and chairs.

As the IIF battalion continues to work with 1-8 Cav. civil affairs to develop their own civil military operations, this Iraqi army will find that security will become easier to handle in densely populated areas.



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

The Iraqi Intervention Force Soldiers maintain security on Abu Dashir’s market road where the battalion commander dedicated the new streetlights to the Iraqi people.

## Right Seat Rides Beneficial for 10th Mnt. Div.

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4-31 Inf.

“Our battalion commander will visit every forward operating base because we may be taking them over eventually,” he said.

Sylvia said the rides have been an informative and exciting experience.

“Our first ride was pretty intense,” he said. “It was very busy and crowded. I didn’t know much about the area. We’ve learned a lot. Talking with some Soldiers, they told us to be aware of everything

like cars, busses and overpasses. We have to be aware of our surroundings. When we take over these sections, we will know the area already.”

For many Soldiers, the right-seat rides were their first opportunity to see Iraq firsthand.

“We’re finally seeing what Baghdad is about,” said Spc. John Jesson, 4-31 Inf. “I feel bad for some of the people out here. It’s disturbing, seeing trash everywhere, some of it could be possible improvised explosive devices.

We have to constantly be on our game.”

Soldiers from the Commando BCT will eventually do left-seat rides, where they will be in charge of the patrols, said Capt. Edward Walter, 4-31 Inf.

Walter said the knowledge they gained on the rides is invaluable.

“Everywhere we go is a little different,” he said. “You can’t just look at a map and have the same experience as if you were on the ground. We learned a lot about handling proce-

dures, working with civilians, and gathering information, which is critical to the success of every mission. Everything we learned we’re going to take in for our mission.”

Sgt. Aaron Tabbert, 4-31 Inf. said every Soldier gained something from the right-seat rides.

“It’s pretty useful. These guys have been here for months and they’re telling us everything they learned,” he said. “I definitely feel more prepared. I think everyone got something positive out of this.”

**Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases**

**Hospital**  
**mosTashfa**

**Friday**  
High: 106  
Low: 80

**Saturday**  
High: 106  
Low: 80

**Sunday**  
High: 108  
Low: 82

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## News Notes

### LR: Searching of Students Unlawful

LITTLE ROCK, A.K. (Arkansas Democrat Gazette)-- Randomly searching students and their belongings violates their constitutional right to privacy, a three-judge federal panel said in a ruling against the Little Rock School District. The ruling overturns a federal judge's Sept. 3, 2003 ruling upholding the search policy. The policy allowed school officials in the district to conduct unannounced searches of groups of students such as those in the classroom, on one bus or those sharing a row of lockers.

### Texas Fair Features New Attractions

KILLEEN, Texas (KCN)-- Spectators will have some new attractions to look forward to at this year's Central Texas Fair. Organizers of the fair in Belton announced the addition of a new military family night and new demolition derby night for this year's event. The fair includes a carnival full of rides and games and nightly entertainment. The Central Texas State Fair runs from Sept. 2-6 at the Bell County Expo Center.

### Explosives Rig Tips

NEW SCOTLAND, N.Y. (WDT)-- Ten homes near an intersection in New Scotland were evacuated after a truck containing a 10,000-pound load of the explosive agent ANFO overturned. The load remained intact and residents within a half a mile of the scene were allowed to return back to their homes.

## Bear Guzzles 36 Beers, Passes Out

SEATTLE, Wash. (Reuters) — A black bear was found passed out at a campground in Washington state recently after guzzling down three dozen cans of a local beer, a campground worker said on Wednesday. "We noticed a bear sleeping on the common lawn and wondered what was going on until we discovered that there were a lot of beer cans lying around," said Lisa Broxson, a worker at the Baker Lake Resort, 80 miles (129 km) northeast of Seattle. The hard-drinking bear, estimated to be about two years old, broke into campers' coolers and, using his claws and teeth to open the cans, swilled down the suds. It turns out the bear was a bit of a beer sophisticate. He tried a mass-market Busch beer, but switched to



Reuters

A black bear sleeps off a hangover after a night of binge drinking at a Washington State campground.

Rainier Beer, a local ale, and stuck with it for his drinking binge. Wildlife agents chased the bear away, but it returned the next day, said Broxson.

They set a trap using as bait some doughnuts, honey and two cans of Rainier Beer. It worked, and the bear was captured for relocation.

## N.Y. Citizens Fight to Save Fort Drum

FORT DRUM, N.Y. (AP) - As far as John Deans is concerned, the drive to keep the Army's Fort Drum open is an ongoing offensive that has no end. Only new battles.

Although Fort Drum's 10th Mountain Division is the military's most deployed division and its Soldiers have repeatedly distinguished themselves in combat, reputation alone won't guarantee the expansive northern New York post will escape the Pentagon's next round of base realignments and closures coming up in 2005.

Local officials know from experience that partisan politics and budget considerations can undermine even the most deserving communities, so they are aggressively promoting

the post and surrounding area as essential to the 10th Mountain Division's success.

"We are being proactive. We aren't taking anything for granted, and we aren't letting anyone get complacent," Deans said.

The organization - a group of community leaders formed in 1990 to advocate keeping Fort Drum open - recently sent out informational packages to 300 people expected to be influential in the process.

The packages consisted of a 15-page booklet, a nine-minute DVD video and an interactive CD-ROM all about Fort Drum. The organization also enlisted several former top military officials for testimonials, including Gen.

Henry H. Shelton, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Shelton is a former 10th Mountain Division chief of staff.

As a colonel, he served at Fort Drum from November 1985 to June 1987, receiving his first star before leaving.

"If you wait until you've been targeted to promote yourself, it's too late," said Deans, who is a former president of Jefferson Community College.

The 106,000-acre Army post was the only major upstate New York installation to survive the base closures last decade that claimed Plattsburgh Air Force Base in 1995 and Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome in 1993.

## 'Dream Team' Tops Aussies 89-79

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - LeBron James eyed Shawn Marion's pass coming toward him and made a split-second decision to redirect the ball. One nifty touch pass later, Dwyane Wade converted it into a layup.

The basket broke the last tie and began a game-changing 10-point run at the start of the fourth quarter, leading United States to a 89-79 victory over Australia on Thursday.

The win might have been a big step toward reversing the fortunes of a U.S. team that struggled to beat Greece and was embarrassed by Puerto Rico in a 19-point loss.

"Everything's not

clicking yet, but we're heading that way," Tim Duncan said. "It was a great learning experience today being able to fight back and staying with each other."

After a defensively inept first half and a so-so third quarter, the Americans increased their defensive intensity, moved the ball with aplomb and put together a few of the showtime moments their Olympic predecessors took for granted.

On Day 6 of the games, perhaps they finally arrived.

"This young kid (James) and Dwayne Wade started throwing the ball inside, and all of the sud-

den everybody on our team got better," coach Larry Brown said. "Hopefully we've got to remember that. But we're not dealing with Michael Jordans and Larry Birds and Magic Johnsons that have done that from the beginning, and it's going to take time for some of these young people."

Duncan scored 18 points, Allen Iverson and Marion each added 16 and Wade scored 12 for the U.S. team, which shot 57 percent from the field - 71 percent from 2-point range but only 3-for-17 on 3s.

The Americans kept their turnovers down, found better shots than in their first two games and realized that the only way to fuel their offense is through defense.

The United States forced four misses and a turnover on Australia's first five possessions of the fourth quarter, and the ball movement was fluid and flashy during the 10-0 run that put the Americans ahead 75-67.

Australia, led by Shane Heal's 17 points, never threatened again.

"That's all our team is about," James said. "If we stop people, we're the most athletic team in this whole tournament and we can get out and get easy buckets."

The Americans' reluctance to attempt a 3-pointer was clear late in the second quarter when James hesitated so much before releasing the shot that the ball never even made it to the rim.

"I think they continue to (improve), but they'd better make jump shots to win the gold in this tournament," Heal said.

## Sports Shorts

### Hartford Sting Nets Coach

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) -Clyde Vaughan, an assistant men's basketball coach at Connecticut, was among more than a dozen people arrested Wednesday in a prostitution sting run by Hartford police. Vaughan was charged with patronizing a prostitute and interfering with police after authorities said he tried to pay an undercover officer \$10 for oral sex. Police said he struggled with officers when he learned he was part of a sting operation.

### Gagne Blows a Save Chance

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Florida Marlin pinch-hitter Lenny Harris ripped a three-run double off of Dodger closer Eric Gagne, leading his club to a 6-4 win Wednesday night. It was only the second time in 100 appearances that Gagne has blown a save opportunity.



### Still Unbeaten Unscored Upon

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - Lisa Fernandez pitched a one-hitter, leading Team USA over Greece 7-0 Thursday. Team USA is a perfect 6-0 in the tournament, outscoring opponents 38-0 in the process.



Getty Images

Shawn Marion had a solid game against Australia, scoring 16 in Team USA's

89-79 victory over the Aussies. Tim Duncan scored 18 in the win.