

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

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-News from Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq

Home for a Year



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MAJ Jim Agar

Well, it's time for a taste of life in and around Baghdad. This week we'll familiarize you with the camps in the First Team's AOR (Area of Responsibility) and give you a working knowledge of the Army vocabulary. The Army counts some five enduring FOBs (Forward Operating Bases) in the Baghdad AOR.

Camp Victory is the biggest camp in Baghdad. It holds around 12,000 soldiers and is growing to around 15,000. Located on the western edge of Baghdad near the airport, Camp Victory is occupied by CJTF-7 (Combined Joint Task Force-7), the 1st Cav Headquarters, 2nd BCT (Brigade Combat Team), and a host of other units. Second BCT's AOR covers the bulk of western Baghdad. Most of the judge advocates deployed with 1st Cavalry Division are located here, including LTC O'Brien, myself, MAJ Jim Teixeira, CPT Dan Everett, CPT Mike Goba and CPT James Du Pre. CW2 Anton Streeter, SFC Terry Watson, SFC Torri, SSG Trammel, SGT Galindo, and SGT Johnston are assigned to the division headquarters as well.

CPT Chris Beese and CPT Keith Petty cover the 2nd BCT.

To the immediate north of Baghdad is Camp Cooke (formerly called "Taji"). It is the second largest camp and is the only camp located outside the city limits of Baghdad.

Camp Cooke contains about 10,000 to 12,000 soldiers. Our 4th Brigade (Aviation) is headquartered at Camp Cooke, as is the 39th Brigade of the Arkansas National Guard and a supporting engineer brigade. Virtually all our helicopter support comes from Camp Cooke. CPT Michael Tierney takes care of 4th Brigade and DISCOM at Camp Cooke. LTC John Edwards, CPT Steve Zega, CPT Shane Springs, and CPT Jason Carter cover the 39th Brigade.

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Pictured above, left to right, CPT Dan Estaville, 1st Bde Trial Counsel; LTC Christopher O'Brien, SJA; CPL Mike Goebelbecker, 1st Bde paralegal; and CPT Sebastian Edwards, 1st Bde Trial Counsel, take time for a picture outside the Camp Victory Courthouse.

(Photo by MAJ Jim Agar)



Pictured above, left to right, PFC Kenya Lee and SSG Katara Trammel stand outside the 5-ton expando van that currently houses the majority of the OSJA operations.

(Photo by MAJ Jim Agar)

Parker newest member of Edell family

CPT Edell experiences birth of son in a truly unique way.

SGT Teresa Johnston

It's generally accepted by soldiers that they've chosen a profession in which they're expected to sacrifice for the good of their country.

Those sacrifices can come in the form of putting one's self in harm's way to the mundane--the daily, minor inconveniences of deployment, such as frequent power outages, sharing bathroom facilities with a few hundred of their closest friends and the absolute lack of home-cooking.

However, sometimes the sacrifices are more difficult to contend with, as CPT Larry Edell, Trial Counsel for 3rd BCT, recently discovered.

On 28 March 2004 his son, Parker Lawrence, was born. Two days *after* his father deployed to a combat zone in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The only option left to him was to depend on technology. So, with a phone cradled to his ear, CPT Edell became a brand-new father and was able to talk with his wife, Adrianne, throughout the labor and birth.

"It really shows you the kind of sacrifices people are making when they deploy," said MAJ Jim Agar, deputy SJA. "He was talking to his wife on the phone the entire time during the labor and the birth."

In an email to MAJ Agar's wife, Adrianne said that while being a new mother can be tiring at times, it is a wonderful experience.

(Photos courtesy of the Edell family)



Tristan Du Pre



Tristan Du Pre, now seven-days old, holds still for a picture being taken for his father, CPT James Du Pre. The family plans to take one picture per day so that CPT Du Pre can see the changes taking place during the first year of his son's life.

(Photo courtesy of the Du Pre family)

A Week in Pictures



Soldiers pictured above enjoy lunch at 2nd BCT Dining Facility. OSJA soldiers have been eating here while awaiting the opening of the HHC, 1 CD DEAC, which is scheduled to open sometime this month.

MAJ James Teixeira, pictured right, stands outside the Camp Victory South Courthouse during recess. (Photos by MAJ Jim Agar)



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Located south of Baghdad, Camp Ferrin-Huggins (formerly FOB Falcon) is the home of the 5th BCT. This brigade was originally the DIVARTY (Division Artillery Brigade), but was converted to a BCT to conduct patrols in Baghdad. But don't worry, they didn't leave their big guns behind at Fort Hood. The DIVARTY's 155mm Howitzers and rocket launchers are located in and around Baghdad, ready to kill bad guys on short notice. CPT Wyndel Darville and CPT Chris Ford are the lawyers assigned to the 5th BCT.

The eastern part of the city is controlled by 1st BCT. Their home at Camp Cuervo is located on the eastern outskirts of Baghdad. 1st BCT has responsibility for such beautiful places as the Monument of the Martyrs (a big tourist attraction) and the slums of Sadr City. Though it may be a tough neighborhood, the soldiers of 1st BCT have proven they are up to the challenge. CPT "Woods" Edwards and CPT Dan

Estaville cover down on 1st BCT.

Third BCT occupies the much-talked about "Green Zone" in downtown Baghdad, utilizing camps Striker and Regular. The Green Zone is considered the safest, most cosmopolitan part of the city. With a former palace as its headquarters, the 3rd BCT protects the CPA (Coalition Provisional Authority) and Ambassador Bremer. That's a tall order, but an easy task for the soldiers of 3rd BCT. CPT Larry Edell and CPT Ryan Suerth serve the legal needs of this brigade.

Smaller camps or FOBs dot the landscape around Baghdad, but these are not "enduring" FOBs and may disappear in months or get moved to a different location.

They contain only a few hundred soldiers and living conditions are not as good as the enduring FOBs mentioned above. In all, almost 30,000 soldiers from Task Force Baghdad consider this area their temporary home.

Happy Birthday

Sofia
Torri

You're four-years-old
today!

Love,
Daddy