



Media Release

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3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Returning Home

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii—U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii is welcoming home the first group of Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (3IBCT), 25th Infantry Division, Monday at 9 p.m., here.

As the nation celebrates the end of summer, this year’s Labor Day also marks the beginning of the end of 3IBCT’s yearlong deployment to Iraq. Monday evening, families and friends welcome back more than 160 Soldiers who are the first wave of approximately 3,400 3IBCT Soldiers who deployed to Iraq in October 2008.

These “Bronco Brigade” Soldiers served in the Salah ad Din Province in northern Iraq, an area of land about the size of the state of Hawaii. The brigade was instrumental in helping the Iraqi government during a pivotal period of security and governmental transition and infrastructure reconstruction.

The Soldiers return home with 230 projects completed and 140 more in progress that are vital to the economic revitalization of this burgeoning nation. The Soldiers’ efforts are affording the people of Iraq with a better quality of life by providing them with better power distribution and infrastructure; 67 new and renovated educational facilities; transportation projects to improve road and rail systems; and the revitalization of market areas to stimulate economic growth.

3IBCT implemented the 2008 security agreement, which mandated the transfer of leadership and control of security operations to the Iraqi government, validating 33 Iraqi Police Stations to enable Iraqi security forces to operate independent of coalition forces, expanding the capacity of local judicial systems, and training Iraqi personnel in forensic testing.

In addition, 3IBCT made major improvements to the healthcare system by improving hospitals and clinics across the province; holding more than 100 training events for Iraqi medical personnel; certifying 97 Iraqi Emergency Management Technicians before transferring the program to qualified Iraqi instructors; coordinating medical conferences; and presenting case studies for doctors at the Tikrit Teaching Hospital.