



Black Lions go on the 'Attack,' build COP

Story, Photos
by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, made its push into Baghdad March 16, along with the rest of the Black Lions.

The 1-28 is implementing the President's new surge strategy into Iraq, part of only the second brigade to do so.

Leading from the front is nothing new for the Black Lions as the unit led the Big Red One into Cantigny, France, during World War I, and

Cpl. Jon Dorsey, the radio telephone operator for Company from Strong's Prairie, Wis., said being part of the surge is meaningful to him.

"We're going out, doing something," he said. "We're going to the (neighborhoods) and doing what we need to get the job done."

With no security incidents on the convoy to the outpost or in the first few days, the company was able to set up force protection measures, sleeping areas, and chow points, essentials for any combat operation.

The future looked bright for Attack Company in the early going as residents of nearby houses took to the streets calling Soldiers "sadiq", the Arabic word for friend, and offering information on potential threats.

The area around the facility is predominantly Sunni, meaning without sectarian differences, it is relatively peaceful compared to other areas.

The outpost, located in an abandoned sports club in northwestern Rashid District, is adjacent to Iraqi National Police stations on two sides.

When the unit showed up, there was no running water, no stable electricity, and pigeons were living inside the gymnasium.

The unit plans to upgrade the outpost to include internet connectivity, establishing consistent electricity, and hot showers, in addition to cleaning and maintaining the facility.

Cpl. Lee Taylor, a mortar section sergeant with Attack Co.



Sgt. Kevin Carruth, a chemical operations specialist from Phoenix, Ariz., with Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, plants the company flag outside the unit's combat outpost March 17. The 4th IBCT is one of the first brigade's to implement the President's new surge strategy.

from Laverne, Okla., said he wouldn't be anywhere but at his unit's outpost.

"It feels good to be here," he said. "It feels like we're doing something and helping somebody."

For more Dragon Surge see Page 7



Soldiers unload equipment at the Attack combat outpost in southern Baghdad March 17. The outpost is an abandoned workout facility.

Medics help in more ways than one

by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – The medics of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division rolled out with Company A to support the unit as it occupied its combat outpost here March 16.

While the medics are only capable of sustain-

ing wounded Soldiers long enough to get to an emergency room, such a mission is vital to saving lives.

A significant challenge to that mission has been a lack of electricity at the outpost, but Capt. Adrian Ortiz, the battalion surgeon for 1-28, said that due to the team's drive, they're able to get their job done.

"We have a good group of guys," he said.

"They're very well-motivated and highly skilled."

Another challenge the team has faced is a lack of personnel. As Company A made their initial push, the medical team only had four personnel, but Staff Sgt. Brian Mancini, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the team with Company A, said the people on the team know what they're doing.

"We don't have a lot of guys, but the guys we do have are quality," Mancini said.



Staff Sgt. Corey Nagle, a construction supervisor with Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT from Cresson, Penn., moves gravel with the DV-100 "DEUCE" bulldozer, March 7 at Camp Falcon. The Deuce is a smaller cousin to the traditional D-7 bulldozer and offers mobility and air-droppable capability.

DEUCE Facts

- Overall Length: 19 feet, 3 inches
- Overall Height: 9 feet, 1.3 inches
- Overall Width: 9 feet, 8 inches
- Gross Vehicle Weight: 35,500 lb
- Maximum Cable Strength: 44,000 lb
- Towing Capacity (1st Gear): 35,000 lb
- Maximum Fording Depth: 3 feet
- Top Speed: 30 mph
- Engine Horsepower: 185/265 hp
- Electrical System: 24 Volts

'Deuce' aids 4IBCT clean up efforts

4-1 BSTB Soldiers dozes gravel

by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division has made it clear they intend to leave their mark on Camp Falcon while they're here, and one of the tools they're using to make that mark is a highly mobile, air-droppable bulldozer.

The DV-100 "DEUCE" bulldozer, while smaller, offers the advantage of being driven instead of towed from job sight to job sight, as opposed to the traditional D-7 bulldozer.

Staff Sgt. Corey Nagle, a construction supervisor with Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT from Cresson, Penn., said that while there are differences between the two dozers, an operator of the D-7 can quickly learn how to use the Deuce.



Staff Sgt. Corey Nagle a construction supervisor with Company A, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Special Troops Battalion, and Cesson, Penn. native, watches closely as Staff Sgt. Jason Briglin, an engineer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, spreads gravel evenly outside the brigade headquarters building at Camp Falcon, Iraq.

visibility makes correcting mistakes easier.

Dragons First, Safety Always

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Dragons First



Timmons/4IBCT Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. John Campbell, 1st Cavalry Division Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver listens to an Iraqi woman's plead for him in finding a lost family member during a visit to the Doura Market, March 22. While listening to her, Campbell said he would see if the missing person was being held by Coalition Forces. The market, once a hotbed of crime and anti-Iraqi forces activity has seen a surge in growth since the Baghdad security plan took effect.

Campbell visits Doura Market

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons
4th IBCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In December, it was drab, deserted, dirty and a hotbed of crime. Today, the bright color of shoes, shirts and other goods shines in a cleaned up yet still dangerous Doura Market.

Brig. Gen. John Campbell, Multi-National Division - Baghdad Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver, visited the market March 22 to talk to local citizens and to assess the market's security.

Campbell arrived via a humvee patrol that drove slowly through the market and off the main street in order to avoid kicking dust into the shops.

Accompanied by Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and Lt. Col. Stephen L. A. Michael, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Inf. Div. commander, Campbell visited the Company A, 2-12 Inf. combat outpost in the market and walked the streets.

The outpost, a two-story structure nestled behind the market's main thoroughfare, houses the Co. A troops and is a base of stability in the market.

Sgt. Derek Remaley, a combat medic whose unit has lived at the COP since March 12, said the day-to-day life for the locals has improved.

"It has been pretty good out here," said Sgt. Derek Remaley, a combat medic for Co. A. and native of Twin Falls, Idaho. "It has gotten a lot better since being out here."

But there are still speed bumps to the process of rebuilding the market place. Serious crime still infests the market, but is being systematically rooted out allowing for Iraqi shop owners to return to plying their wares.

To combat the crime, a tip line has been set up for citizens to call and report crimes.

After touring the COP, and checking on the condition of the "Warriors" living there, Campbell paid a visit to the Iraqi National Police station around the corner. As part of the Baghdad security plan, combat outposts are being created near existing Iraqi Security Force stations in order to provide around-the-clock joint security.

Upon completion Campbell, Gibbs, and Michael toured the shops escorted by a senior Iraqi police officer.

Speaking to a group of Iraqi men, Campbell asked them if they had any problems and said, "If you have any problems come see either this man or this man," pointing to the Iraqi police officer and the Co. A commander, Capt. Benjamin Jones. Jones is from Meridian, Miss.

Shortly thereafter an elderly woman approached seeking information into a missing family member. After taking information off the missing man's identification card he asked politely, "We will check to see if we have him."

The tour ended with Campbell talking to a pickle vendor about the level of crime in the area.

With time, troops and patience the Doura Market should prosper – a top Coalition priority.



Pvt. Jeremiah Steptoe, a gunner with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, personal security detachment glances down during a combat patrol, March 28. The New Orleans native was escorting Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, 4th IBCT commander to a series of meetings. (Timmons/4th IBCT Public Affairs)



Above: Maj. Craig Manville, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division operations officer, uses light flowing through a window to look at an old picture in the Amanche Combat Outpost in southwest Baghdad, March 28. (Timmons/4th IBCT Public Affairs)

Above right: Spc. XXX Burke, a medic with the 4th IBCT personal security detachment examines the hand of a Soldier prior to a mission. (Smith/4th



IBCT Public Affairs)

Right: Staff Sgt. Jason Briglin, the reconnaissance noncommissioned officer of Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Rochester, N.Y., strings up wire outside the brigade's headquarters building at Camp Falcon Feb. 28. Briglin was recently selected for promotion to Sergeant 1st Class. (Timmons/4th IBCT Public Affairs)





Top: Spc. Marquis Dawkins, a member of the personal security detachment with Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from New York pulls security outside Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment's combat outpost March 17 in Baghdad. Dawkins was escorting Col. Ricky Gibbs, commander of the 4th IBCT, to the outpost. (Smith/4th IBCT Public Affairs)



Middle: Sgts. 1st Class Aaron Sargent, from Dexter, Maine, and Michael Wright, from Alton, Mo., both from HHC Bde, watch as a combat patrol prepares to roll out of Camp Falcon, March 4.

Bottom Left: Spc. James Lynch, cavalry scout and member of Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, commander's personal security detachment, puts the bolt back in his M240B machine gun after a mission March 14 at Camp Falcon. Lynch, from Portsmouth, R.I., is a gunner on his vehicle. (Timmons/4th IBCT Public Affairs)



Top Right: Pfc. Jeff Wheatley, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Monterey, Calif., cleans his weapon prior to going out on a mission March 18. The mission, a raid, resulted in the confiscation of anti-Coalition propaganda. Bottom: Staff Sgt. Rezentes, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team personal security detachment NCOIC, and quarterback for his detachment's flag football team, fires a strike during an 8-on-8 flag football tournament March 24 at Camp Falcon, Iraq. (Timmons, 4IBCT/Public Affairs)

Trooper to get combat medic badge

Story, photo
by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – A medic from Company C, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, has been nominated for the combat medic badge.

The CMB is awarded to Soldiers of medical military occupational specialties who are engaged by the enemy. Spc. Whitney Young would be the first medic from the 4th IBCT to receive the CMB on the unit's deployment.

Young, assigned to the explosive ordnance disposal team, was on a mission when the humvee she was in took small arms fire.

The Camden, S.C., native said the idea of winning a CMB was not on her mind at the beginning of the deployment.

"I did not come here to be a hero," she said. "I don't want purple hearts, CMB, (combat action badge), I don't want anything.

"I just want to make it home."



Spc. Whitney Young, a medic with Company C, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stands prepared to go on a mission in Baghdad. Young is the first medic from the 4th IBCT nominated for the combat medic badge.

Charlie Med saves boy's life

by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT, Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – On the evening of March 15, the medics of Company C, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, saved a four year-old Iraqi boy's life after the child had fallen on a steak knife.

The knife was successfully removed from the boy's neck with only minimal damage to his thyroid gland, a relatively minor injury compared to what could have happened.

Capt. Ross Witters, the battalion surgeon for 610th BSB, said luck was on the boy's side.

"He's about as lucky as you can get," Witters said. "He should have went out and bought a lottery ticket."

Lost in the recounting of the story is that in lesser hands the boy may not have been so lucky. This patient's success is a sign of abilities of the "Charlie Med" medics, Witters said.

"It reflects very highly on their skill and their level of training," the Omaha, Neb., native said. "They have some of the most outstanding (noncommissioned officers) and officers that I've ever had the honor of working with."



Witters said the reason the medics are so good at what they do is their continual drive to make themselves better. The Soldiers work to improve themselves and hone their skills every day, he said. Whenever they are needed quickly to respond to an emergency situation, they respond hastily and effectively.

In addition to trauma treatment, Charlie Med is responsible for running sick-call at Camp Falcon, supporting all medical care on the base through their clinic, supporting the 4th IBCT at combat outposts, on flight operations, and aiding the explosive ordnance disposal teams.

Charlie Med also provides level 2 facilities to other units at the camp, such as laboratories, emergency rooms, x-rays, and physical therapy equipment.

Providing these services to Camp Falcon has not come without challenges. The main problems the medics have faced are a lack of space and communication difficulties.

First Sergeant James Fales, the first sergeant for C Co., 610th BSB, said that the medics can never have enough space, but the communication problems actually benefit the medics through practice.

"We spin up a lot for things that don't happen, but that's just the nature of our work," the Tonganoxie, Kan. native said. "It keeps the edge sharp."

Rehearsals, as Company C has come to call such spin-ups, are one way to keep the unit trained and ready. Another method, the method the Centaurs use to make training seem more realistic, is stress.

"This is an unpleasant task," Fales said. "The only way to benefit the Soldier is to realize that you staying calm and methodically doing your job is the only way you're going to benefit that person.

"Getting over-stressed or getting tunnel-vision is not going to be beneficial to that patient, ever."

The first sergeant said that the medics train with an unrealistic amount of stress in order to over-stress the Soldiers so they learn how to overcome that pressure.

The unit experienced 24 hours of mass casualties during 4th Brigade's rotation at the National Training Center, which is unrealistic, but assisted in making the Soldiers understand the stress factor.

Trainers from Fort Sam Houston also put Company C through a training evolution prior to deployment with the same thought in mind.

"The only way you get medics to understand the real deal is to overstress them," Fales said.

"This is one of the most outstanding groups of people I've had the pleasure of working with," Witters said. "This group here has come together in a way that I have never seen, even in a medical setting.

"Now we do the best we can with what ever gets thrown at us."

Phoenix provides material for Black Lions' build

by Capt. Alan Hill
610th BSB

BAGHDAD – Operation Dragon Surge kicked off in the heart of Baghdad early March 17th to establish a presence within the city to deter the sectarian violence against the Iraqi population from insurgents and establish a footprint of Coalition Forces.

These troops are assisting the Iraqi Security Forces in their continued mission of securing the city and ensuring the safety of the Iraqi people.

Planning and preparation for Dragon Surge began prior to and during relief in place phase for the 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, working directly with the 1st Battalion 28th Infantry Regiment “Black Lions” and establishing their support requirements which contributed greatly to the overall scheme of maneuver.

Maj. C.J. King, from Rolla, Mo. the battalion’s Operations and Plans Officer, said 610 involvement was important.

“Logistics support planners from the 610th BSB conducted pre-insertion reconnaissance with maneuver forces from 1-28 Infantry Battalion just days prior to the start of Operation Dragon Surge I,” he said. “This provided the

Phoenix Battalion with the advantage of being able to physically assess the terrain and to conduct logistical preparation of the battlefield prior to the start of the operation.

“There is no question that our ability to see the ground first and provide input to the Black Lions’ tactical plan based on our observations and assessments contributed to our ability to seamlessly support this complex--and very successful--tactical operation.”

The battalion played a major role in the entire operation, calculating the assets that are required to support the battle space; ensuring that all necessary equipment was on hand and available; and establishing a forward element to assist in maintaining accountability of all personnel and equipment and its movement between Camp Liberty and the inner combat outpost. The battalion was instrumental in managing the operation as part of the 4th IBCBT’s main effort by conducting large scale movements of barriers and additional supplies and equipment to assist in building up the combat outpost, securing these areas and ensuring the safety of the Soldiers who occupy them.

Soldiers of Company A, 1-28 have accomplished the biggest part of this mission by conducting combat logistics patrols, executing “FLIPS”, or multiple trips, bringing in their loads of concrete barriers from Camp Liberty to

the combat outpost several miles away. Those Soldiers transported over 500 barriers over the course of a week. They staged themselves in their vehicles just west of the city in the darkness, alert and eager, anticipating the word that sends them on their mission and to the end of another successful patrol. They move out, using darkness as their ally, cautiously moving down the roads, scanning their left and their right, looking for anything out of the ordinary, and focusing on the job at hand. Upon reaching their destination, they establish security, download their valued cargo, and return to Liberty for a short rest and refit before loading up to do it all over again.

The entire battalion has been engaged in Operation Dragon Surge since its inception, from the forward elements at Camp Striker and the tactical operation center on Forward Operating Base Falcon to the Soldiers on standby to assist in recovery operation, medics, the tireless mechanics performing non-stop maintenance, drivers and gunners, and a quick reaction force on hand to respond to and defuse any sort of crisis. Their efforts are non-stop and the mission they have accomplished is critical not only for the safety and security of the American Soldier but for the eventual future of the Iraqi people and their ability to live in a secure and safe environment.

Rangers establish early dominance

By 2nd Lt. Ryan Wood
2nd Battalion, 16th Inf.

Nearly 1,000 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Rangers, Iraqi National Police and Iraqi Army soldiers took part in Operation Ranger Dominance on Sunday as the first step in their portion of the Baghdad Security Plan.

With operations beginning at 5 a.m. and lasting throughout the day, the Rangers and Iraqis conducted a foot patrol throughout their new area of responsibility. Dismounted patrols have been rare in this part of Baghdad, and the large numbers of Americans drew crowds to the streets to watch as the joint patrol handed out flyers and met with local leaders.

In what has come to be a strange but welcome reoccurrence for many units taking part in the Baghdad Security Plan, no violence or demonstrations were seen during the roughly 10-hour-long patrol.

For many Rangers, this operation was the first combat patrol they had experienced and nerves ran high in the days prior to the mission. Many Rangers understood that this was a first in the area. A foot patrol through the entire area of operations was unheard of until now, and the Rangers were going to make the impossible happen.

“We took everyone out of their comfort zones and paced them in an unknown situation,” Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McCoy, 2-16 IN said. “Anyone can ride around in a vehicle, but to go out on foot shows we aren’t afraid and that they (Iraqis) should not be afraid

of us.”

Spc. Matthew Ellcessor, an infantryman from Company B, saw mixed reactions from the people his platoon met during the patrol.

“Kids were always positive,” Ellcessor said. “Adults tended to shy away but the older people received us the best and even invited us into their homes.”

At one point during the patrol, a group of children ran up to Soldiers from Co C, and pantomimed an explosion and pointed off into the palm groves which line the river running through their AO. The patrol moved through the trees and discovered unexploded mortar rounds half buried in the sand. According to McCoy, this is just the success story that the Rangers were looking for.

“We are not here to take over,” McCoy said, “We are a tool. We want them to not have to worry about militias, or thugs or insurgents. We want to offer them some type of peace in their cities.”

As the patrols moved through the city, Soldiers distributed flyers describing the Coalition’s desire to provide a safe environment for everyone and in turn be able to turn police activities over to the Iraqi people.

“The population was eager to step out and talk with us,” said Spc. Wesley Smith, a medic with Co. C. “They wanted to get the pamphlets and see what we were there for.”

Interaction with the populace took an unexpected turn for the Sol-

See Dominance, next page

Desert Dragon

Task Force Ranger takes over

by 2nd Lt. Ryan Wood
2nd Bn., 16th Inf.

“Rangers!”

The shout echoed through the rafters as all eyes in the formation followed Task Force Ranger Commander, Lt. Col. Ralph Kauzlarich and battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McCoy as they stepped up to the four young color guard Soldiers proudly standing at attention in front of their comrades.

With a flourish, the army-green sheathe was pulled away from the lone covered standard and the distinguished colors of the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment were flung up to stand with honor next to Old Glory. In that short moment on March 10th, the Soldiers of Task Force Ranger stepped into the fight and assumed control of their area of responsibility here in Baghdad.

As Kauzlarich returned to his position at the front of the formation, a smile crossed his face as he looked over the Soldiers arrayed before him.

“Award the combat patch!” Kauzlarich ordered.

With smiles echoing those of their commander and a few playful punches on the arm, the Soldiers of Task Force Ranger, most in combat for the first time, were awarded their combat patches.

Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, took the opportunity to address the Rangers who are currently serving under 2nd Brigade 2nd Infantry Division.

“You have had a tough road and now it’s time



Luedeke/AIBCT Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McCoy unfurl the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment colors.

to get after it,” Gibbs stated as he walked among the Ranger ranks. “Trust your instincts, trust your training, trust your leaders and you will succeed.”

“I want you to lead the Iraqis by example,” Gibbs said. “The average Iraqi trooper wants to be just like you. They are trying to look and act like you. You need to set the example and show them what right looks like.”

Command Sgt. Maj. James B. Champagne, 4-1 ID., also addressed the assembled troops, reminding them of the proud heritage and tradition they bring to the fight.

“Look at the streamers,” Champagne directed. “That is your storied history. Blood has been spilled and you are now part of that legacy. Everything that you do will go down in the history books.”

Although the Rangers have been in Baghdad for

nearly three weeks, the majority of their time up until now has been filled with preparations to assume control of their AO.

Leadership from the Battalion and individual companies have been taking part in “left seat, right seat rides,” patrols which allows incoming units to work alongside the outgoing unit in an effort to promote a smooth transition.

Many Rangers have had the opportunity to work with 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Division as part of the combined effort to secure peace in the area by assuring the Iraqis that the national police are a credible, effective force.

Earlier in the day, 2-2 Infantry Commander, Col. Jeffery Bannister met with Ranger leaders to welcome them to the AO.

“You couldn’t get here fast enough for us and we appreciate you being here,” Banister said. “The eyes of the world are on Baghdad. You are part of history. Regardless of what you heard, the security plan is working in AO Strike and you are part of that plan.”

“This is the last big try to make the Iraqis self-reliant,” Bannister continued. “First and foremost we will secure the population. We need to build a base for the long run. We will make them better than before.”

Bannister left the assembled group with a simple, powerful summary of their mission.

“Go in and dominate, secure the population and improve the Iraqi police,” he said. “Make them better every day and you can’t go wrong.”

Dominance: 2-16 patrol begins new era

from page 7

diers of Co. A, during a break in the patrol. After stopping for a rest, a Soldier in the group spotted a man in a doorway holding a badly burned child, who appeared about 5 years old. The platoon medic, Pfc. Ryan Estrada, rushed to the boy and after receiving permission from the father through the interpreter, attempted to help the injured child.

“The child had been burned when a kerosene lamp in the home exploded,” Estrada said. “The family had tried to get help at the hospital but was turned away.”

Estrada rendered aid to the child to the profuse thanks of the child’s father and grandfather who

helped as much as possible throughout the painful process of cleaning the burns.

“It just felt so great,” Estrada recounted. “We had walked a long way, but helping that child made it all worth while. It reminds me why I love this job.”

Even though the operation was a success, the Rangers didn’t sit long on their laurels.

Letting the populace know we are in town is just the first step, McCoy said about the Rangers long term plans for the area.

As part of the ongoing security plan, the Rangers will assist Iraqi National Police in establishing Combat Outposts, joint U.S./Iraqi outposts in and among the neighborhoods which have been the battlegrounds in the sectarian violence racking

Baghdad.

Moving away from large well fortified forward operating bases, the Rangers will live alongside their Iraqi counterparts and increase daily patrols to secure the safety and security of the markets and streets of Baghdad. Rangers will also continue to assist in the training and mentorship of Iraqi Army and National Police, with a goal of turning control of their neighborhoods back to the Iraqis themselves

Pfc. Daniel Kelso, an infantryman with Co. D, summed up the continuing mission with an honesty born of only having been in the military for six months.

“If we do a good job,” Kelso said, “things will change. It all depends on us.”

Quarterhorse troopers reenlist

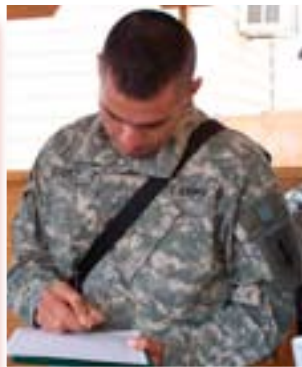


Above: Staff Sgt. William Healey III, from New Castle, Maine, takes the oath of enlistment from 1st Lt. Michael Castillo.

Above middle: Staff Sgt. Sergio Gamiz, from Waco, Texas signs the paperwork prior to his reenlistment.

Far Right: Sgt. Andrew Darling, from Orlando raises his hand as he reenlists.

Right: Sgt. Jeremiah Enfield, from Savannah, takes his oath of reenlistment from Capt. Nicholas Cook.



Phoenix battalion rises in Baghdad

by Capt. Allen Hill
610th BSB

BAGHDAD - The 610th Brigade Support Battalion completed its relief in place and transfer of authority with the 15th BSB, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division on March 8, 2007 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, in southern Bagdad.

The event marked a historical milestone for the Phoenix Battalion, it is the first time since the Vietnam War that the unit has deployed overseas, and its Soldiers have met with magnificent results, and with a high level of motivation. The Phoenix Soldiers were the first out of six battalions from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, to complete all mission essential tasks and take over their responsibilities in the Dragon area of operations.

The Companies and staff worked extensively with their 15th BSB counterparts establishing operational areas, lines of communications and connectivity, battle handover of vehicles and mission essential equipment, combat logistics and medical training. They also established the force and preparing for the battalion mission.

"It is a great feeling for the Soldiers and NCOs, seeing how far we have come and the progresses we have made being the first to take over the mission and being here to do what we have to do and to be successful." said Spc. Jessica Aguirre, a McAllen, Texas native assigned to the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

The ceremony marked an important day for the Battalion and its Soldiers, beginning another chapter of a growing history that started when the Battalion stood up just over a year ago at Fort Riley, KS.



photo courtesy of 610th BSB
Soldiers of Company B, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, work on gun turrets for humvees. The Soldiers added plexiglass and other improvements to the vehicles.

The Soldiers accomplished a great deal with very little, making substantial progress in the short time they have been in Iraq. They stand ready for the obstacles that face them and will accept nothing short of excellence.