



The

Mountain View

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September 16, 2008

Former Iraqi military personnel return to duty

30TH MITT

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PAO



FOB KALSU— The Iraqi Army is offering former service members the opportunity to re-join the Army or retire with pay.

“It is a good step granted by the Prime Minister, Mister Maliki, to solve the problem of unemployment in the ranks of the old Iraqi Army,” said Col. Haider, commander of 2nd Battalion, 30th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division. “It is a chance to improve the living conditions of them and their families. It is important to tap into experience that these former Soldiers bring to the new Army.”

The process began Sept. 6 at the 2nd Bn., 30th Bde., 8th IA Div. compound in Najaf. The center will process all former service members from Najaf, Babil, Karbala, Wasit and Qadisiyah Provinces.

“I would like to thank the Prime Minister for his kind initiative,” said Hassan Salman Muslim, formerly in the Iraqi Air Force. “He gave us help to serve our country and to improve our living conditions.”

Former Soldiers residing within Iraq will be given eight weeks to register, and Soldiers residing abroad have 12 weeks to register with the Army in order to be considered for reintegration into the new IA.

Those Soldiers who do not register will be retired and receive retirement pay.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Metych

Representatives from the Ministry of Defense, 8th IA Div. and 30th Bde. process former members of the IA for re-employment at the 2/30/8th IA Div. compound.



Photo by Maj. Anthony Campbell

Former Iraqi Soldiers line up outside the 2/30/8th IA Div. compound in Najaf Sept. 6.

“According to regulations and the established process, (the Ministry of Defense) will select the best of the former service members, and they will be returned to active service,” Haider said.

The center, which is staffed by officials from the Ministry of Defense, 8th IA Div. and 30th Bde., is expecting to process more than 23,000 former service members.

Screening consists of an administrative update personnel data and a medical screening.

“This initiative is a sign of wise leadership in deciding to make use of the experience from the old army,” said Hussein Ali Jasim, a former radio operator. “This process is going without complication. I want to thank the Iraqi Army and the Coalition Forces for their help.”

Despite shortages, Wasit IP keeps rolling



Photo by Sgt. Daniel West

An IP mechanic works to repair an IP vehicle at the al Kut maintenance station Sept. 8.

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
41ST FIRES BDE. PAO



FOB DELTA— Soldiers of the 511th Military Police Company visited Iraqi Police supply and maintenance stations to discuss logistical issues Sept. 8.

The most significant issue the IP and Police Training Team discussed was a continuing budget shortfall. The shortfall has left IPs in Wasit Province without funds until the Ministry of the Interior in Baghdad releases their supplementary budget.

The Kut police continue to operate even with obstacles for

the supply and maintenance stations caused by the lack of funds.

The budget shortfall hinders the acquisition of necessary supplies and fuel for the IP's fleet of patrol vehicles.

At the maintenance station, the primary topic of discussion was fuel, after a three-day span without fuel the previous week.

Colonel Sa'ad, commander of the station, said the 8,000 liter fuel supply they received, which broke the drought, was still holding up.

"We also have receipts for more, so we can get a resupply," he added.

At the supply station, the concern wasn't the acquisition of supplies, but their transportation.

"There are supplies waiting for us at the MoI and Abu Ghraib warehouse," said Lt. Col. Mohammed, commander of the supply station.

"If we had money, we could hire trucks so we could get the supplies down here where we need them," he added.

The end of the shortages is in sight, as the supplemental budget is expected to clear the MoI and be available for Wasit IPs by mid-September.

Even without gasoline, the IPs continued to patrol, said Staff Sgt. Thomas Heuer, Police Training Team advisor, 511th Military Police Co.

"Some have even gone so far as to purchase their own gas," he added.

Sergeant Peter Klementowski, 511th MP Co., and Syracuse, N.Y. native, agreed the IPs were committed to getting their job done.

"They just make do with what they've got, or buy what they need out of their own pockets," he said.

"They work around the problem," he added.



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THE Mountain View

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4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
7th Sustainment Brigade
41st Fires Brigade
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 49



Soldiers participate in Akron Marathon



Photos by Master Sgt. Doug Sample

(Background) U.S. service members run the satellite Road Runner Akron Marathon on Victory Base Complex. (Left) The winners from the satellite race, which was a half marathon, stand wearing their medals in front of the finish line Sept. 14. The winners are (from left to right): Lt. Col. Marty Muchow (tied 1st place, males), commander of 63rd Explosive Ordnance Detachment; Sgt. Chris Lawrence (tied 1st place, males), 10th Mountain Division band; Calina Synder (2nd place, females); Britney Smith (3rd place, females); and Staff Sgt. Roberto Moreno (3rd place, males), motorpool shop foreman for Company B, 168th Brigade Support Battalion. Not shown in photo is Mira Markey (1st place, females). This race was run in conjunction with the Suicide Awareness 5k.

TF49 unmanned aircraft cover the battlefield

MASTER SGT. ERIC REINHARDT
TASK FORCE 49 PAO



FOB KALSU— To hear an unmanned aerial vehicle take off is to wonder how it could be an effective surveillance tool. Its ripping, buzz-saw rasp seems like a dead giveaway to the enemy.

But just a few seconds after takeoff, the Shadow Unmanned Aerial System is thousands of feet in the air, out of sight and earshot. At cruising altitude, it speedily delivers crisp images and video of the battlefield. It can even extend the range of radio communications by hundreds of miles, keeping commanders in touch with troops on the battlefield.

Those capabilities have made it an indispensable part of the battlefield commander's toolkit in Iraq, according to Capt. Michael Goodwin, commander of Task Force 49's UAS unit, Quicksilver Troop 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

Goodwin assumed command of the company in July, when TF 49 took over as MND-C's Combat Aviation Brigade.

A Black Hawk pilot by training, he headed TF 49's Air Movement Request cell for eight months before taking the reins of Quicksilver Troop.

His team of 40 Soldiers keeps its flock of 12 planes in the air around the clock, ready to zoom in on any part of the MND-C area of operations, a region about the size of West Virginia.

The tiny aircraft help patrol the highways to thwart

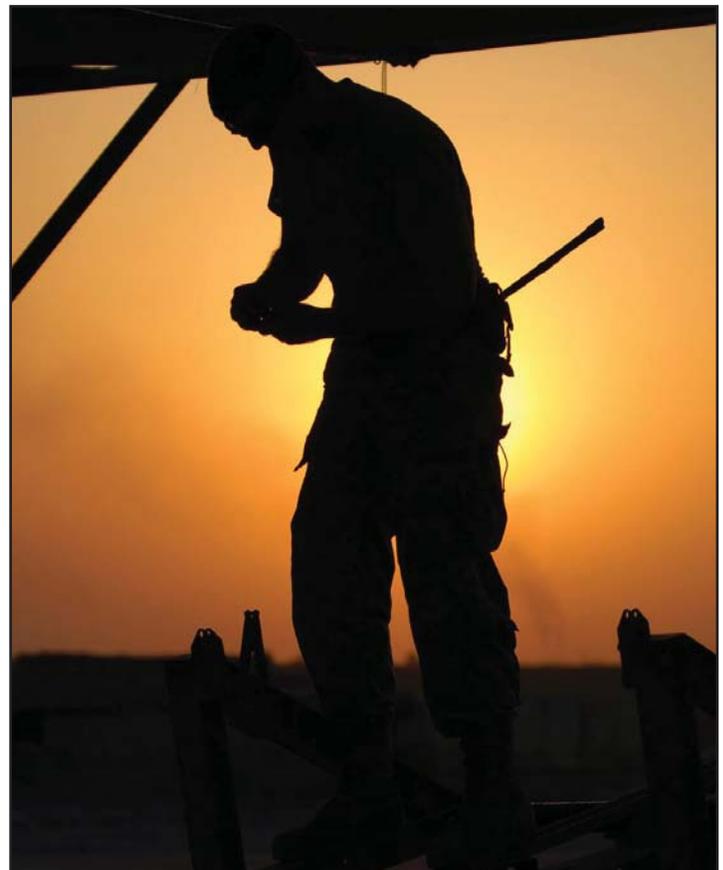


Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt

Specialist Jasen MacDuffee, a UAS maintainer with Task Force 49's unmanned aerial systems unit, Quicksilver Troop, 4/3 ACR, readies a Shadow UAS Aug. 15 for its next mission.

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Staff Section Round-up

Division Surgeon's Corner: Leader's Guide to Suicide Prevention

Leaders have the power and responsibility to protect their Soldiers on and off the battlefield. This includes recognizing uncharacteristic and suicidal behaviors.

Effective suicide prevention requires everyone in the unit to be aware of the risk factors for suicide and know how to respond. Officers, noncommissioned officers and supervisors must lead the way. If a Soldier seems suicidal, the time to take action is NOW. Talk to the Soldier before it is too late.

Warning Signs:

Distress can lead to the development of unhealthy behaviors. People closest to the Soldier, fellow Soldiers, family, friends, are in the best position to recognize changes due to distress and to provide support.

Look For:

- Comments that suggest thoughts or plans of suicide.
- Rehearsal of suicidal acts.
- Giving away possessions.
- Obsession with death, dying, etc.
- Significant change in performance.
- Appearing overwhelmed by recent stressor(s).
- Depressed mood; hopelessness.
- Withdrawal from social activities.

What to Do:

If a Soldier threatens suicide, take him very seriously. You may have very limited time and only one chance to intervene. The most important thing to do is take action.

- Find out what is going on with the Soldier.
- Use open-ended questions such as: "How are things

going?" or "How are you dealing with...?"

- Share concern for her well-being.
- Be honest and direct.
- Listen to words and emotions.
- Repeat what he says using his words.
- Ask directly about his intent, i.e., "Are you thinking about suicide?" This will not put new ideas in his head.
- Keep the Soldier safe—DO NOT leave her alone.
- Take steps to remove potential means of self-harm.
- Involve security if the Soldier is agitated or combative.
- Escort the Soldier to the military treatment facility.
- Follow up and verify that the Soldier was evaluated.
- Monitor the Soldier until you are convinced the Soldier is no longer at risk.

What to Avoid:

Leaders should let their Soldiers know they are safe and in good hands if they ask for help.

- Do NOT minimize the problem. Do NOT ask, "Is that all?"
- Do NOT overreact to the problem.
- Do NOT create a stigma about seeking mental health treatment.
- Do NOT give simplistic advice such as, "All you have to do is..."
- Do NOT tell the Soldier to "suck it up," or "get over it."
- Do NOT make the problem a source of unit gossip.
- Do NOT delay a necessary referral.

UNMANNED

From page 3

IED attacks, perform reconnaissance missions, link radio communications across the miles and give ground troops detailed views of their objectives.

The UAS operators launch the aircraft and fly them to points where operators at any of TF 49's forward sites can take the controls and guide them to specific missions.

At the forward sites, Goodwin explained, "commanders and battle majors can literally go to the operator and say 'Hey, this has happened. I need to see this area,' and they can change the mission accordingly."

When the missions are complete, Quicksilver Troop recovers the aircraft to perform maintenance and prepare them for the next flight.

TF 49's operational control of the unit is part of the Army's recent emphasis on applying Aviation Branch



Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt

Sergeant Dustin Scott, unmanned aerial systems maintainer, resets a Shadow UAS ramp after a launch Aug. 15 at FOB Kalsu. After the aircraft leaves Kalsu's airspace, operators at various sites in the MND-C area of operations can take control and direct it where it's needed on the battlefield.

standards to the UAS field, which is currently a military intelligence discipline.

The UAS military occupational specialty, 35K, is slated to transition to 15W later this year, making its Soldiers part of the Army aviation community and eligible for flight badges.

"We have a lot of the same requirements as aviators," said UAS operator Spc. Kevin Hedrick. "We work crew rest and flight endurance into our operations, and we have to have regular physicals."

Quicksilver Troop's maintainers now perform scheduled and preventive maintenance on the aircraft, based on the same standards as aviation units.

"Anything that doesn't involve flying the aircraft is our job – launching, recovering, refueling and maintenance," Spc. Ryan Groat, a UAS maintainer, said. "It can get a bit repetitive, but that's a good thing, in a way."

Aviation oversight has sharply reduced the number of aircraft accidents and mechanical problems, according to Goodwin.

"It's what we do all the time for aviation," he said. "It's not that we're any smarter or anything like that, but that's our area of expertise – dealing with aircraft operations."

Headline Round-up

World News:

Japanese newspapers are reporting that North Korean leader Kim Jong-II, who is allegedly recovering from a stroke, began losing consciousness in April and could not properly govern as his health worsened. According to this report, his judgment and decisions related to international denuclearization talks became less flexible due to his unspecified condition.

U.S. News:

Teachers striking in Bellevue, Wash., headed back to work Sept. 15 after approving a contract agreement that gives them more money and more control over lesson plans. District and union officials said 95 percent of teachers who voted on the contract agreed to end their nine-day walkout in the 16,000-student district. Pay, health coverage and curriculum were the key issues in the strike by some 1,200 teachers. The strike prevented school from starting as planned Sept. 2.

Texas News:

Over 2,000 people have been rescued in Texas since Hurricane Ike hit Sept. 13. Teams are continuing the biggest search-and-rescue operation in Texas history. Thousands of people are still facing extended stays in crowded shelters due to the devastation of the storm. Currently, the death toll from Ike's damage is 28. Ike's 110 mph winds and battering waves left thousands in coastal areas without electricity, gas and basic communication. Officials estimate those utilities may not be restored for a month.

Odd News:

Buddy, a trained German shepherd, saved the life of his owner Sept. 14 by dialing 911 when the owner began having a seizure. Buddy can be heard whimpering and barking on the recording of the 911 call, while the operator continues to ask if anyone needs help. The call ended when the police arrived three minutes later. Joe Stalnaker got Buddy through Michigan-based Paws with a Cause, which trains assistance dogs nationwide for people with disabilities.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE QUOTE?



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Evans

"There is no future; there is no past; thank God this moment's not my last. There's only us; there's only this; forget regret. Or life is yours to miss. No other road; no other way; no day but today." From the movie "Rent," said David Westmoreland, a native of Las Vegas. G-3 Air, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Evans

Ted Striker: "Surely you can't be serious." Dr. Rumack: "I am serious ... and don't call me Shirley." From the movie "Airplane," said Capt. Michael Lemay, a native from Columbia, S.C., Multi-National Division – Center Provost Marshall's Office.

Quote of the Day

"We are usually convinced more easily by reasons we have found ourselves than by those which have occurred to others."—Blaise Pascal

Submission by Chief Warrant Officer Gerald M. Martini

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Solution to Monday's puzzle:

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ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Ammunition

AA-tahd