



www.taskforcemountain.com

November 3, 2008

## Airmen receive Cavalry spurs for building new base

**STAFF SGT. MARK SCHENK**  
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



**FOB HUNTER**— After 12 years of service as a member of the U.S. Air Force, Tech. Sgt. Charles Tolbert, assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Detachment 3, said building Forward Operating Base Hunter has been an overwhelming experience.

“The golden combat spurs we were awarded today are the highest honor I have received in any of my deployments in the Air Force,” said Tolbert, the detachment electrician from Cincinnati, Ohio.

“To say I am very proud is an understatement,” he added.

Tolbert, along with 28 other Airmen from the Air Force Detachment, were responsible for building more than 25,000 square feet of housing and administration offices for the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The commander of the Head Hunter Squadron, Lt. Col. Daryle Hernandez, from Muscatine, Iowa, awarded the cavalry combat spurs to the Air Force unit after receiving the official “key” to the base Oct. 20.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Schenk

**Sergeant Victoria Brenic, a native of Copperas Cove, Texas, and Soldier assigned to Trp. D, 1-9th Cav. Regt., shakes hands with Lt. Col. Daryle Hernandez, of Muscatine, Iowa, 1-9th Cav. Regt. commander. Brenic received a certificate of achievement from the 732nd ECE Squadron.**

The Civil Engineer Squadron is also responsible for building FOB Garry Owen, a recently constructed base occupied by the 4th BCT as a headquarters to counter weapon smuggling along the southeastern Iraq-Iran border.

The Airmen graciously accepted the spurs, but admitted they couldn’t have accomplished their mission without help from the Head Hunter Squadron’s troops stationed at FOB Hunter

Those Head Hunter Soldiers were recognized by the Air Force with certificates of achievement and challenge coins for a job well done.

“It was a lot of work and long nights, but the real reward is having a nice comfortable safe place to sleep and work,” said Sgt. Victoria Brenic, of Copperas Cove, Texas, assigned to the regiment’s Troop D.

Hernandez also presented the Airmen with certificates, which signified combat service as a Cavalry trooper.

## Sons of Iraq prepped for transition to IA control

**2ND LT. ZONEY DANIELS**  
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.



**FOB ISKAN**— The Sons of Iraq program has come a long way since Soldiers from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division arrived here last October.

When 2nd Platoon, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th

BCT, arrived in Babil Province, it had to overcome many obstacles while providing security for Abu Jasim, Alwad Muslim, Jellawiya, Seddah and the Shemerie areas, thus establishing the first Shia SoI Program in the province.

The sheikhs and mukhtar in these areas have also had a part in maintaining security. Though they have pulled the people of their areas much closer than

ever before, said Sgt 1st Class Christopher Williams, a native of Bloomington, Ill., and 2nd Platoon sergeant.

The local Iraqis in these particular areas now have an opportunity to be fully employed and support their own families.

The SoI program is unique because the people who operate each checkpoint

See **TRANSITION**, page 3

# Detainees released as part of reintegration efforts

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS TAMI HILLIS**  
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.



FOB KALSU – Thirty-four Iraqi detainees were released from different regions of northern Babil Province Oct. 31, making 430 the total number of detainees released by 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“Much has changed in Babil Province in the year since many of you have been detained,” said Lt. Col. Michael Getchell, commander, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, to nine detainees released at Forward Operating Base Kalsu. “I ask you to stand on the bridge and walk to the future, embrace the change and not look back at the past.”

Getchell told the detainees that the symbolism of the bridge represented Iraq ... one side was the old Iraq filled with violence; the other side is the new Iraq representing a growing security force and a growing economy.

“The new Iraq is an Iraq where disputes are settled by discussion, not violence,” Getchell continued.

“The new Babil Province is a province secured by the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police; it is no longer by the Coalition forces. This is a great day for not only you and your family but a great day for the Coalition. This represents that people are ready to settle disputes with a dialogue of discussion but not violence, and I ask you to continue moving Iraq and Babil Province forward by your commitment to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

**Former detainees celebrate with family members and friends celebrate following a reintegration ceremony just outside FOB Kalsu Oct. 31.**

the current security situation and making it better.”

The former detainees, who are no longer viewed as a threat by those providing security and stability in Iraq, were reminded that their freedom was due to the combined efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces, the Government of Iraq and Coalition forces.

“Not everything is perfect, but it is much better than it was a year ago, and I look forward to your cooperation in helping Babil Province continue moving forward,” said Getchell.

Prior to reintegrating them back into their communities, the de-

tainees had to meet preset requirements: First, the person released must renounce violence; second, the person released must have a sponsor, such as a prominent person in his community or a religious or tribal leader, willing to accept responsibility for the good conduct of the individual being set free.

The detainees were released at numerous locations from various units. Some of the units releasing detainees include: five from 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment; four from 30th Military Transition Team three from 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery; and one from 33rd MiTT.

## THE Mountain View

**The Mountain View is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Mountain View are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. All editorial content of The Mountain View is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Mountain Public Affairs Office.**

### TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Commanding General - MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. OATES

Command Sergeant Major - COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JAMES W. REDMORE

#### Editorial Staff

TF Mountain PAO — Lt. Col. Paul Swiergosz  
OIC, Command Information — 1st Lt. Julie Glaubach  
NCOIC — Master Sgt. Stephen Opet  
Managing Editor — Staff Sgt. Amber Emery  
Assignment Editor — Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret  
Copy Editor — Spc. Josh LeCappellain  
Editor/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez  
Staff Writers — Spc. Tiffany Evans, Spc. Justin Snyder, Sgt. David Turner  
Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center\_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil



#### Contributing Units

2nd Bde., 1st Armored Division  
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division  
3rd BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)  
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

# MiTT rolls out unique red carpet for Wasit PIC ceremony

SPC. TIFFANY EVANS  
41ST FIRES BDE.



FOB DELTA— As the sun began to set Oct. 28, Soldiers laid down plywood with determination. The Soldiers' main mission was to prepare the landing zone for the guests of the Wasit Provincial Iraqi Control ceremony at the soccer stadium Oct. 29.

The military officials handed over the security profile of the province to the Iraqi Security Forces for the province.

"We train and work side-by-side with many of the ISF, and being part of this ceremony in this aspect was a privilege," said Capt. Brett Ashworth, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, an intelligence officer for the military training team assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade.

"The ground was muddy and we had to rethink how to set up the walkway, but we did it," he added.

The initial plan on creating the path did not pan out as intended, said Ashworth. After a short discussion, they developed an alternate way to anchor the boards to each other.

The team worked late, and night set in as the MiTT Soldiers turned on their vehicle lights to gain visibility of their work.

They set up the walkway using sledgehammers to plant spikes through plywood. The plywood anchored it to the ground so that rotor wash from the helicopters would not destroy the path.

After establishing the walkway and for the landing zone, the Soldiers settled into their vehicles or a room in the stadium to get some sleep for the next day.

"(Helicopters) started arriving after 8 a.m., so we got up early to do radio checks, make sure the LZ stayed clear and do last-minute checks to make sure everything was still going according to plan," said Cpl. Roberto Morales, a native of Chicago and gunner for the 1/32nd IA MiTT.

"As the guests arrived, our guys would escort them from the Black Hawks to a meeting area before being led into the stadium," he added.

During the ceremony, they successfully directed air and ground traffic, kept the area clear in case a medical evacuation was needed, and escorted important guests either on UH-60 Black Hawks or into vehicles headed to an Iraqi Government office building for lunch.

"We were directing traffic, working to keep the kids out of the field and away from the guests all while also directing helicopters into the LZ," said Morales. "It was busy and hectic at times, but just great to be a part of this very important ceremony."



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Evans

Members of the 1/32nd IA MiTT lead important guests to a UH-60 Black Hawk at a soccer stadium in al-Kut after the PIC ceremony for Wasit Province Oct. 29.

## TRANSITION

From page 1

are the same people who live in that province.

"This enables the security of their own land (to become) that much more important to them," said Williams.

"The feeling of working to keep your land and family safe keeps the SoI motivated to do their jobs with high morale. There's nothing more satisfying than being employed by the very people you trust ... one reason why the leaders who were chosen for the job are standing there today."

"These leaders have ensured that SoI

workers maintain their (check points) and the security of the area," he added.

The program has seen many ups and downs, including explosively formed projectile attack in Abu Jasim March 23.

"That attack was a reminder that militia was still present in Abu Jasim; the purpose of the SoI program was to push the militia away and secure the land," Williams said.

"The attack also showed that militia can still influence the people who make attempts to better their ways of life," he added.

After the attack, 2nd Platoon and Company C worked with the leaders of Abu Jasim and other provinces within

their area of operations to eliminate the threat of infiltration and more attacks.

The cooperation between the platoon and the sheikhs demonstrated how trust can be built through the most unlikely situations.

"When the programs first began in Seddah, the people were very hesitant to trust (Coalition forces), but after a year of interacting with the local (Iraqis), we have finally gained their trust," Williams said.

"They have frequently seen SoI working with (Coalition forces) as well as (with the Iraqi Army)," Williams said.

These relationships have allowed Company C to transition the program over to the IA.

# Rough Riders kick off partnership in Iraq

**SGT. 1ST CLASS DAMIAN STEPTORE**  
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



**COB ADDER**— The sun began to set on the base's soccer complex as 15 U.S. Soldiers warmed up for a big game here Oct 23.

The Rough Rider Soldiers of 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division were set to play the Motorized Transportation Regiment of the 10th Iraqi Army Division in a partnership-building contest, and both sides were eager to get started.

"We got players from all over the world out here," said Spc. Larry Walker, a Petroleum Specialist assigned to 27th BSB. "Plus, I'm a part-time soccer coach back home- so it's all good."

Walker, from Sacramento, Calif., was easily recognizable during this contest, as his large frame towered over the other Soldiers, but his size and coaching experience didn't help his team.

The Iraqi MTR dominated the Rough Rider Soldiers by a score of five goals to one in a contest where both teams came out winners.

"They came out here ready to play, but we'll get 'em next time," said Walker as the sweat rolled off his shiny bald head.

The interaction and camaraderie between the Soldiers during the game was the result of planning that began weeks before the match.



Photo by Maj. Jesse Henderson

**Staff Sgt. Joseph Bright, assigned to the 27th BSB, hugs an Iraqi Soldier, assigned to MTR, 10th IA Div., after a soccer match at COB Adder in southern Iraq Oct. 23. The contest was an effort to further strengthen the two units' partnership in stabilizing Iraq.**

"We challenged these guys to a soccer match to do something with them on a social level," said Capt. Charles Montgomery, commander of Company C., 27th BSB, of Houston, Miss. "We started practicing about 45 days ago, and we brought them here, and I think we did pretty well."

Although the units were on opposing teams during the soccer match, the Iraqi and American Soldiers are usually partner to transport essential

goods and supplies to remote operating bases within the 4th BCT area of operations.

"We really appreciate this opportunity," said Col. Ali Hanno, commander of the MTR, 10th IA.

"It means we have good communications between our units and friendship," he added.

The units are planning to have monthly soccer matches to continue strengthening their partnership.

## G-1 Corner: Soldiers Wanted

Soldiers currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom have the opportunity to extend and fill critical vacancies as Joint Budget Execution Support team members.

Interested candidates should have a background in project management and/or key aspects of budget tracking and execution.

A graduate degree in business, economics, public administration, accounting or engineering is required, and experience working in an executive or management capacity for county, state or federal government will be viewed favorably.

JBEST Soldiers assist the Provincial Finance Management Action Group in accomplishing their goal of an effective and timely Iraqi provincial budget execution.

Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers must be willing to extend their tours to remain in a position for at least six months and active-duty applicants must be retainable for six months upon release from their unit. There are currently eight JBST vacancies available for immediate fill.

JBST nominees should prepare a packet consisting of a military biography, DD 214/ORB and the two most current Officer Evaluation Reports or Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports, demonstrating qualifications of the prospective nominee.

Packets will be submitted to Lt. Col. Robert Jones, Multi-National Corps – Iraq J9, at robert.a.jones@iraq.centcom.mil or robert.a.jones@iraq.centcom.smil.mil. He can also be reached by phone at SVOIP: 242-0129 or DSN: 318-485-2136.

# Headline Round-up

## World News:

Tutsi-led rebels tightened their hold on newly seized swaths of eastern Congo Saturday, forcing tens of thousands of frightened, rain-soaked civilians out of makeshift refugee camps and stopping some from fleeing to government-held territory. Aid organizations said they were increasingly worried about a lack of food and shelter.

## U.S. News:

An ex-convict who thought he was being robbed gunned down a 12-year-old trick-or-treater, spraying nearly 30 rounds with an assault rifle from inside his home after hearing a knock on the door, police said Saturday. Quentin Patrick, 22, is accused of killing 12-year-old T.J. Darrisaw on Friday night. T.J.'s 9-year-old brother, Ahmadre Darrisaw, and their father, Freddie Grinnell, were injured but were released after being treated at a hospital.

## Sports News:

Texas Tech can call itself number one in the Lone Star state — and maybe even all the land. Graham Harrell fired a 28-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree with one second left and number six Texas Tech stunned number one Texas 39-33 Saturday night in a wild game that will shake up the national title race.

## Entertainment:

Elvis Presley may have left the building several decades ago, but his earning power is far from diminished with Forbes.com ranking him the top-earning dead celebrity for the second year in a row. Presley pulled in \$52 million in the past year, helped by increased visitors to his Graceland estate to commemorate the 30th anniversary of his death and new ventures like the Elvis Sirius Satellite Radio show.

## Health News:

The nation's obesity epidemic is exacting a heavy toll: The rate of new diabetes cases nearly doubled in the United States in the past 10 years. The highest rates were in the South, according to the first state-by-state review of new diagnoses. The worst was in West Virginia, where about 13 in 1,000 adults were diagnosed with the disease in 2005 thru 2007. The lowest was in Minnesota, where the rate was 5 in 1,000. Nationally, the rate of new cases climbed from about 5 per 1,000 in the mid-1990s to 9 per 1,000 in the middle of this decade.

## Quote of the Day

*"It's never just a game when you're winning." —George Carlin*

S  
u  
d  
o  
k  
u

				2			8	
				5				1
3		4						
				1	9			5
		2	8				9	
1		8					2	
				6		7		3
4	3	1					6	
5	6			9	4	1		

For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



[www.taskforcemountain.com](http://www.taskforcemountain.com)

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY  
 What is your native language?  
 shih-noo hih-yeh loo-GHatek?

## WHAT YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN CANDY?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

"Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, just as long as the peanut butter doesn't get on my mustache," said Spc. Justin Snyder, of Mechanicsburg, Penn., a photojournalist for the MND-C public affairs office.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

"Snickers bars," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Lynch, of San Diego, an investigator for Task Force 134.