



How to build a government: ePRT and human terrain team chart a road map for the future

SGT. DAVID TURNER
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.



“How to build a government” is a three-part series highlighting the ongoing efforts of the embedded provincial reconstruction team and human terrain team in Babil Province. Their unique expertise and work will position the citizens of Iraq for a stable, secure future.

FOB KALSU – At the Musayyib Governance Center in northern Babil Province, the qada secretary, Jawad Abd al-Kadim Muhsim, greets his visitors, a mix of old and new friends. Among them is Maj. Steven Capehart, commander of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, someone Jawad has come to know well in the past year.

“Ra’ad Steve,” as he is known to the Iraqis, is preparing to redeploy with his troops in the coming month. His visit is meant to introduce some new players on the scene. With him are Maj. Richard Brown, the new civil affairs team leader, plus a group of civilians whose work will closely affect the qada council in the months to come.

One of them is Michael Bevers, governance adviser for the North Babil embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, which has been working with the 4th BCT for the past 14 months. Bevers, a former Marine with a degree in Middle Eastern studies, is here to learn more about how the Musayyib council works. They discuss the everyday problems facing a small, local government, such as housing codes,



Photo by Sgt. David Turner

Members of the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., HTT and Bevers enjoy a lunch during a meeting with local sheikhs and government leaders in Musayyib Nov. 17.

license fees and building permits. One Iraqi official, in charge of sanitation, complains that citizens often appeal to him directly to solve their problems instead of going through usual channels. Bevers identifies with

See ePRT, page 2

(Below) Michael Bevers attends a meeting of Soldiers and Iraqi government officials at the Musayyib governance center in northern Babil Province Nov. 17. Bevers, governance adviser for the North Babil ePRT, met with Soldiers and local government leaders to discover ways Coalition forces have been able to successfully build and assist small local governments in Iraq.

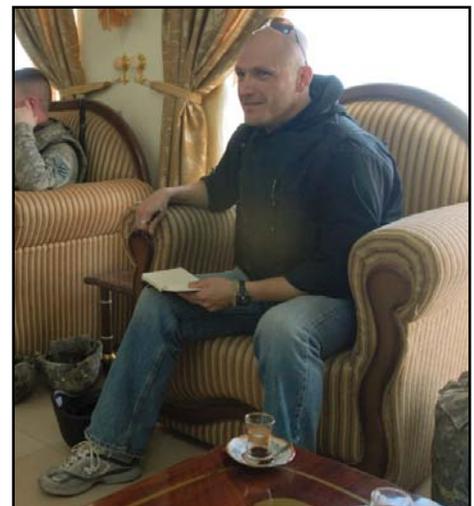


Photo by Sgt. David Turner

ePRT

From previous page

his plight; a former deputy mayor in his hometown of Bedford, Ind., population 18,000, he understands their day-to-day struggles. He jokes that they sound just like American bureaucrats.

For Bevers, however, the trip is more than just a casual visit to discuss small-town government issues. The North Babil ePRT prepares to reduce its size; and fewer Soldiers are tasked with assisting the local councils they helped establish. In light of this, Bevers and his team is seeking to plot a new course for military relationships with local Iraqi governments.

A changing mission

The North Babil ePRT is a team of Soldiers and civilians, headed by a U.S. Department of State official, whose mission is to help rebuild the Iraqi economy and infrastructure, coordinating their efforts with Soldiers of the 4th BCT. As part of a counterinsurgency campaign that gained steam with last year's troop surge, the ePRT has focused much of its efforts into building capacity for local governments.

That means empowering them to do the job the new Iraqi constitution has given them, as well as assisting them in a variety of projects ranging from repairing infrastructure to educating public officials in good governance. In some areas, Soldiers had to build local councils up from scratch, organizing sheikhs and former government officials into informal groups to get things done for their communities. Some are still not formally recognized by the provincial government.

"Twelve months ago, they didn't

Michael Bevers (left) compares notes with Jawad Abd al-Kadim Muhsim, Musayyib qada secretary at the Musayyib governance center Nov. 17. Bevers, North Babil ePRT met with Soldiers and local government leaders to discuss ways Coalition forces have been able to successfully build and assist small local governments in Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. David Turner

have councils," said Bevers, "or they had councils, but they didn't know how to meet, how to interact with their government – they didn't use agendas. A lot of that got done through Major Capehart's effort."

Soldiers of the 3-7th Inf. Regt. invested themselves personally in the villages and towns of their area. As security has improved and the Baghdad government reached out to the provinces, captains and platoon leaders organized farmers, women's committees and other groups to make their voices heard.

More often than not, they didn't have any strict rules to follow in building those organizations. Having spent little more than three months on the team, Bevers is still trying to figure out the complexities of how Iraqi government is supposed to work.

"After three months, I wish I had 12 more months to do it. You're just learning what you need to be doing after three months, getting the lay of the land," he said.

Bevers said he initially expected his work to be advising councils in the nuts-and-bolts of running a small-town democratic government like the ones he has known and studied. However, he said, "When I got here, it wasn't that at all. They are not at that capacity yet. Even now, their capacity is just being ready to start accepting those skills."

Part of the reason, according to Capehart, is that while democracy has been in place since the 2005 elections, security is a more recent phenomenon. As the political landscape evolves with upcoming elections, and with a new Army unit soon moving into the area, Bevers said he hopes he can accelerate the learning curve.

"As we transition to the way forward, one of the things I would see the ePRT and governance people doing ... is helping military units understand more fully how Iraqi government works in the sub-Baghdad level, from the province all the way down to the nahia," he said.

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 LeCappelain
 Editors/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez,
 Spc. Justin Snyder
 Staff Writers — Spc. Tiffany Evans, Sgt. David Turner

Contributing Units

2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division
 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 449

Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

Sports Talk

By SPC. JOSH LECAPELAIN

Where does pro wrestling fit in?

In preparation for today's World Wrestling Entertainment "Tribute to the Troops" event on Camp Victory, wrestling fever has swept throughout the entire Multi-National Division – Center area of operations.

How do you categorize professional wrestling?

Wikipedia refers to it as a non-competitive professional sport. Sure, it traces its lineage back to ancient times, although in a much different form. Since the days of Gorgeous George, wrestling has become a spectacle of showmanship that launched political careers and made movie stars.

Around the world, you can witness different forms of pro wrestling, from puroresu in Japan to lucha libre in Mexico; even in the United States, you'll see the showmanship and grand storytelling of the WWE and the strong-style and highspot orientated Ring of Honor.

A common criticism of wrestling is that "it is fake." Any fan has likely heard this, from countless people multiple times, to the point where it's numbing.

Ask Randy Orton how fake it is. A former Marine, Orton was wrestling Triple H earlier this year at one of the WWE's many pay-per-views, "One Night Stand." During the match, Orton went for his trademark modified ace crusher maneuver, the RKO. Triple H used Orton's momentum to launch him over the top rope to the floor below – where, upon impact, Orton broke his collarbone. Valiantly, he continued the match and rose to his feet, with his arm literally hanging off the side of his body.

A "soap opera for males" is another catchphrase often

associated with wrestling. When executed properly, it can be a thing of beauty. Take this year's feud between the "Heartbreak Kid" Shawn Michaels and Chris Jericho.

Following Michaels' "retiring" Ric Flair at WrestleMania 24, he entered into a feud with the behemoth Batista about whether or not Michaels did the right thing. From there, Jericho entered the fray, initially defending Michaels before it was revealed that Michaels wasn't being totally honest.

Jericho snapped. He turned on Michaels, under the guise that the fans cheered for a man who admittedly lied and cheated. Jericho's days of "saving" the WWE were gone; now, he would save himself.

During their feud, they wrestled countless matches that will go down as legendary, as well as given moments to fans that will be remembered for a long time, such as Jericho punching Michaels' wife at SummerSlam, legitimately giving her a fat lip.

People who question and mock wrestling fans should be so lucky to see their favorite television shows or movies produce such quality drama and entertainment.

When you are at the "Tribute to the Troops" (see advertisement, page 4) taping today – something the WWE does every Christmas – applaud these men and women. Marvel at their athleticism and their ability to convey a variety of emotions and feelings, through simple body language and gestures.

But most of all, enjoy yourself – regardless of how you view sports entertainment.

Pro golfers tee off at Camp Echo

(Below) Pro golfer Art Sellinger talks driving tips with Col. Butch Kievenaar, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division commander, as part of the "Operation Links" tour at Camp Echo Nov. 30.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II

Pro golfer Brian Pavlet signs a hat for Marine Cpl. William Soutra, of Worcester, Mass., Camp Echo K-9 unit. The golfers talked about improving driving, signed autographs and performed trick shots for the service members.

Staff Section Round-up

Inspector General Corner: “Rules of the Road”

Recently, we've seen a surge in the number of traffic violations. The garrison command has recently updated Victory Base Complex Regulation 190-5, Victory Base Complex Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, dated July 11.

It is no secret driving, riding a bicycle, running or walking can be hazardous in a deployed environment, especially with the increased darkness of early morning hours.

Below are some of the more common traffic violations:

- **Speeding.** Any person operating a motor vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit as posted shall be in violation of this regulation. The speed limit is 5 mph in any parking lot.
- **Tactical Vehicle Operation.** The RINO extension must be in an

UPRIGHT position while traveling on VBC.

- **Seatbelt restraints.** The driver and all passengers must use seatbelts.
- **Operator License Required.** No person shall operate a motorized vehicle on VBC without a valid driver's license issued by a competent authority.
- **Small Motorized Vehicles.** Operators of “carryall” utility vehicles or other small motorized vehicles must have a mirror on the driver's side of the vehicle if it is being driven on streets.
- **Bicyclists.** Bicyclists must comply with all traffic signs and customary traffic law.
- **Use of Headphones.** Headphones are not authorized for use while operating any type of motor vehicle,

including bicycles, or while walking or running on VBC.

- **Cell Phones.** Cell phones are not authorized for use while operating any type of motor vehicle, including bicycles, or while walking or running on VBC.

Driving on Victory Base Complex is a privilege, not a right. If an individual chooses to disobey the law, depending on the nature of the offense, his or her driving privileges may be suspended for up to six months, whether they are military and civilian. Everyone is responsible for making sure our environment on VBC is a safe place to drive, bike, walk and run. Follow the rules of the road to keep it safe.

Thanks, your IG Team

GRE: Graduate Record Examination

Take the GRE at Camp Victory
Feb. 21 at 8 a.m.

The deadline to register for the GRE is
Jan. 2 at 5 p.m.

Please stop by the Camp Victory
Education Center to fill out the
registration form.

If you have any questions, please email
the test examiner at

victory.edtesting@us.army.mil



ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS tribute to the troops



MISTLETOE AND TOEHOLDS

This holiday season, there won't be any smooching under the mistletoe. More like toeholds and body slams as the Superstars and Divas of the WWE® take to the square circle for an unforgettable holiday bash in a tribute to our Armed Forces.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008
GATES OPEN AT 1000
EVENT: 1200-1430
AL FAW PALACE (VBC)



Register to win this custom guitar at armedforcesentertainment.com

Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

A family of Hurricane Katrina survivors whose new house was partly built with lumber from last year's Rockefeller Center Christmas tree were among tens of thousands who attended this year's lighting ceremony. The eight-ton, 72-foot Norway spruce was illuminated Wednesday night in the Manhattan plaza after performances by entertainers including Tony Bennett, Harry Connick Jr., Jamie Foxx and Beyonce.

World News:

India suspects two senior leaders of a banned Pakistani militant group orchestrated the three-day siege of the country's financial capital that killed at least 171 people, Indian officials said Thursday. Evidence collected in the investigation pointed to Zakiur-Rehman Lakhvi and Yusuf Muzammil as masterminds behind last week's bloody rampage in Mumbai, according to two government officials familiar with the matter.

Science News:

While violent video games have gotten a lot of public attention, some current concerns go well beyond that. Some scientists think the wired world may be changing the way we read, learn and interact with each other. There are no firm answers yet, but Dr. Gary Small, a psychiatrist at UCLA, argues that daily exposure to digital technologies such as the Internet and smart phones can alter how the brain works. When the brain spends more time on technology-related tasks and less time exposed to other people, it drifts away from fundamental social skills like reading facial expressions during conversation, Small asserts.

Odd News:

A man using a candy cane lawn ornament fended off a knife-wielding neighbor who had been attacking holiday guests at a Sacramento home. Police spokesman Sgt. Norm Leong said the man used the two-foot-tall plastic ornament to subdue the attacker until officers arrived. He said the 49-year-old suspect became intoxicated, went over to a neighbor's home on Thanksgiving and began waving a kitchen knife at people gathered on the lawn. He cut several people's clothing before one of them decided to fight back.

Quote of the Day

"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing." – George Bernard Shaw

S
u
d
o
k
u

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

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



www.taskforcemountain.com

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?



Photo by Spc. Josh LeCappelain

"We'd stay up 'til midnight on the 31st. That's when we would open our presents. My mom worked on Christmas Day every year, so we celebrated on New Year's Eve," said Spc. Kaleb Vinyard, of Sacramento, Calif., 18th Airborne Corps Army Direct ordering administrator.



Photo by Spc. Josh LeCappelain

"Being with my whole family and having big group get togethers," said Capt. Kristopher Anderson, of Tyler, Texas, Multi National Corps – Iraq joint operations fires operations officer.