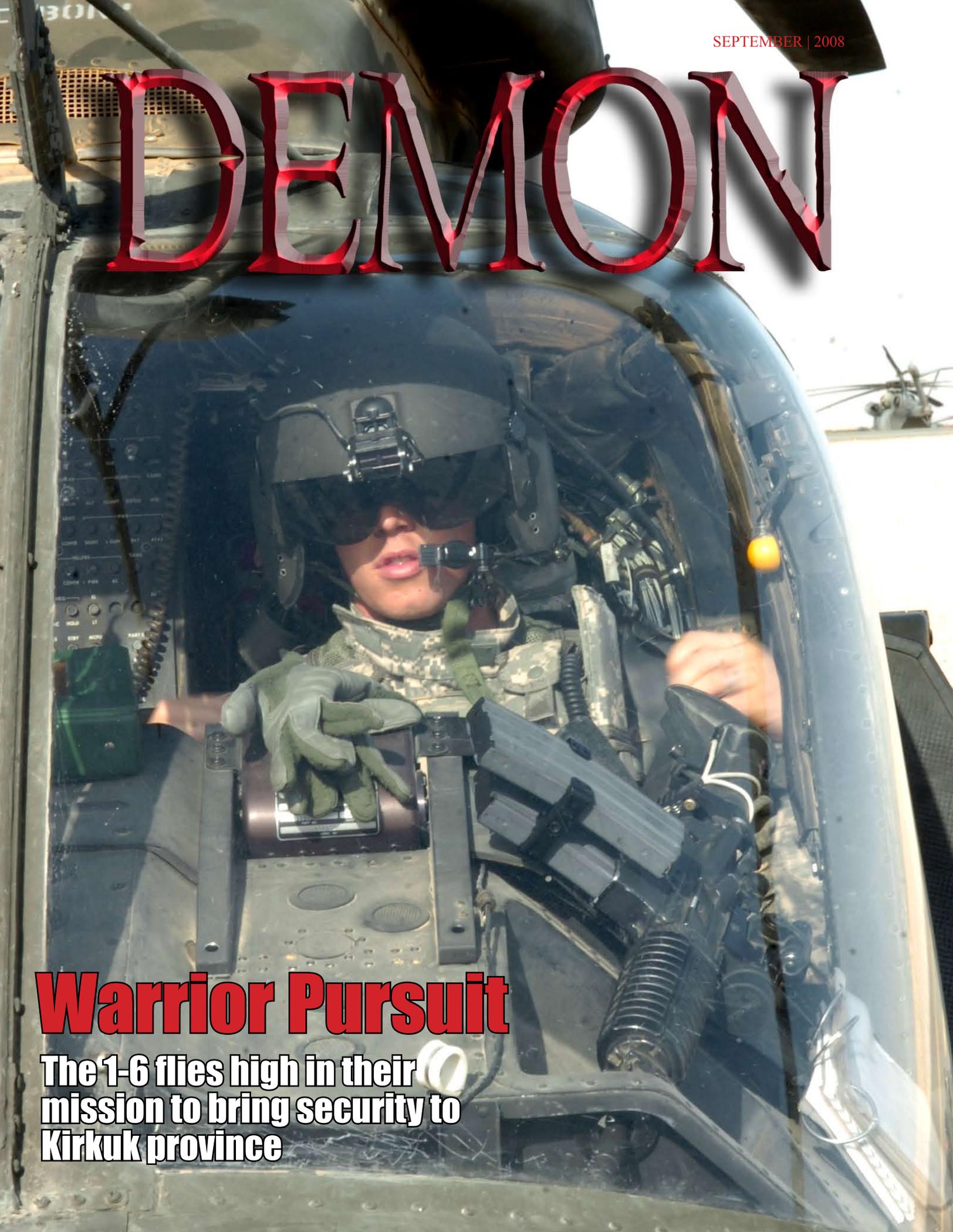


DEMON

Warrior Pursuit

The 1-6 flies high in their mission to bring security to Kirkuk province



4 | INCEPTION Col. Farrington's state of the brigade

6 | CHAPLAIN Chaplain Lee's state of our spirits



Ch. (Maj.) Lee on humility and why it is important

BRIEFING

3 | THE MOMENT The pulse of the Combat Aviation Brigade

5 | STANDARDS AND DISCIPLINE Command Sgt. Maj Wallace speaks out on preparing Soldiers to be NCOs

7 | ACROSS IRAQ Iraqi soldiers train to be better leaders



IA Leader's Course, Page 7

1-6 CAV

COVER

8 | PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

The Fighting Sixth conducts counterinsurgency measures in Operation Warrior Pursuit

Cleansweep Calming the Kirkuk province, page 12



Briefing

THE MOMENT



istockphoto



New Perspective Not to qualify, to win, page 16

MWR

24 | STORYTIME IRAQ STYLE Deployed Soldiers find a way to connect with their children in the states.



Parenting by Proxy: Stories by DVD, page 18

CAB

12 | DECON 101 CAB Soldiers train for the worst case scenario

20 | DEMON DELIVERY The Gunfighters save the day not with bullets or Hellfire missiles, but with plain old H2O

Squeaky Clean: Decon team stands ready to swoop in and save the day, page 12



MND-N

16 | AHEAD OF THE PACK 54 Warriors complete a gauntlet of events to find out which Soldiers come out on top

11D HISTORY

28 | BIG RED ONE -- THE REUNION TOUR The Big Red One Tears through Rommel's forces in North Africa

On the cover: (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth) Chief Warrant Officer 2 Isaac Mongold prepares for a mission before his OH-58 Kiowa Warrior takes off

Brigade Commander.....	Col. Jessie O. Farrington
Brigade Command Sergeant Major.....	Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell E. Wallace
Brigade Public Affairs Advisor.....	Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez
Brigade Public Affairs Officer.....	Sgt. 1st Class Jeff L. Troth
Demon Editor/Layout and Design.....	Sgt. W. Michael Howard

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Use your benefits. The Army is now offering free language training to all Soldiers

The latest component of DLS is Army e-Learning. The Army e-Learning Program provides free training for every Soldier with access to over 2,000 commercial web-based information technology, foreign language, business, leadership, and personal development courses.

These courses are accessible 24/7 from anywhere

using an internet connection.

New to Army e-Learning is the addition of foreign language training.

The Army recently announced it will provide Rosetta Stone foreign-language training, at no cost, to all active Army, National Guard, Reservists and Department of Army civilian personnel worldwide through Army e-Learning.

"Critical foreign language capability and skills are increasingly important to our Army. Rosetta Stone provides the Army with an immediate, interactive language training tool to train

Rosetta Stone provides the Army with an interactive language tool to train Soldiers

our Soldiers, leaders and civilians for operational deployments and professional development," Brigadier General James M. Milano,

Director of Training, Army G-3/5/7.

Rosetta Stone will provide the Army 30 state-of-the-art language courses through Army e-Learning.

If you are already registered for the Army e-Learning Program, you will automatically have access to these courses.

All course completions will be posted to your ATRRS records just like the current course completions. If you have not yet registered for the Army e-Learning Program, click on the Army e-Learning link and then click Register.

Demon Team, in the next two months we will begin redeploying the Brigade from the Iraqi theater back to Fort Riley and Fort Carson. The redeployment team is preparing to process Soldiers through Kuwait and to move equipment to the port, and unit movement officers are finalizing plans to move containers and aircraft back home.

We must maintain accountability of equipment and personnel as we return to the states. Leaders must ensure that proper procedures are followed in accounting for and packing equipment. A deliberate and well planned movement will ensure proper accounting from the time the last container is sealed and the last aircraft is flown to port until everything arrives back in the states.

A good plan will also minimize the time Soldiers are left idling between movements and flights back to their families. Moving aircraft, personnel and equipment out of theater will be hard work, but I am certain that we will accomplish this task while remaining safe and deliberate.

Concurrently, it is our responsibility to ensure that the incoming brigade receives the necessary training to successfully take over the mission in MND-N. "Best practices" and "lessons learned" that you leave behind are the building blocks the incoming brigade will use to start their deployment. Let's make sure they are well prepared.

First and foremost, our mission is to continue providing full spectrum

Stay Focused. Demon Team must maintain accountability and follow proper procedure to ensure a smooth transition to home station. **Col. Jessie O. Farrington, Demon Brigade Commander, speaks out on remaining focused as we approach redeployment**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

combat aviation support to TF Iron and our BCTs until the very last day of our mission. Don't lose focus. Amidst redeployment preparations and transfer of authority, don't let your focus on the mission fade or waver. The ground forces we support are counting on us to continue our mission.

Every Soldier must

continue to do their part in the team effort, and we must remember that the enemy and the environment are still very real, just as they were when we arrived here over a year ago. Complacency remains the biggest threat to our safety and to the completion of our mission. Be safe and remain vigilant.

I am extremely

proud of the Brigade's accomplishments. We have flown an enormous amount of combat hours, distributed vast amounts of fuel, maintained aircraft at an extremely high optempo; and supported over 4,000 Soldiers in the Task Force. 601st QRF ensured that the perimeter and surrounding areas of COB Speicher were always secure and our Air Traffic Controllers deconflicted airspace from towers on five bases.

Your efforts and improvements at all levels have ensured that the unit replacing us will fall in on a better footprint and a better operating standard than the one we inherited. This is the way it should be, and every one of you that has earned the right to wear the Big Red One on your right shoulder should feel an unparalleled sense of pride in what you have accomplished, the proficiency you have achieved as warfighters, and the legacy that you will leave behind. Finish strong, stay focused and continue to perform as the best Combat Aviation Brigade in theater.

No Mission Too Difficult, No Task Too Great. Duty first! Demons!

Col. Jessie O. Farrington is the commander of the Combat Aviation Brigade

Standards and Discipline. As the Combat Aviation Brigade team nears the end of their deployment, leaders must finish strong. **Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wallace, the first brigade CSM of the Demon Brigade, speaks out on safety and equipment accountability**

As the situation in Iraq continues to improve, the countdown to redeployment back to home station gets closer everyday for the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Throughout the course of our rotational tour in northern Iraq, the CAB continues to sustain an unsurpassed combat record with no combat deaths or serious injuries. The CAB has been in Iraq for an extended tour and has fought complacency to sustain a great safety record.

However, the road to being the best continues to remain a difficult one. Being the best combat aviation brigade in the Army is a task that involves the loyal teamwork of pilots, ground crews and support personnel. Everyone must maintain a high level of competence. We are not the untouchables or lucky ones of Army aviation, but we are and must remain careful and proactive when flying and maintaining aircraft.

The CAB is on the home stretch with an impeccable combat track record about to make history. Let's not make careless mistakes and let's get everyone home safe. Complacency has no place within our ranks. Do not get into the habit of taking shortcuts, remain vigilant and focused. I chal-



Photo by Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez

lenge every Soldier, officer and noncommissioned officer to continue working as a team in every aspect of the CAB's aviation mission.

CAB personnel are doing great things; just recently several dozen Soldiers and NCOs took part in Multi-National Division North Warrior competition. Competitors tackled rigorous

tests that challenged their warrior knowledge, skills and abilities. Challenges included the Army Physical Fitness Test, combat run, a written examination and essay on general military topics, M-4 rifle weapons qualification, urban orientation courses, and various warrior tasks. Congratulations to Spc. Gavin McK-

enzie, 3-1 AA for placing third in the Soldier category of the Warrior competition. Likewise, Sgt. Matthew Wolberg, 601st ASB, aced all the physical events thus proving CAB Soldiers are truly Army Strong.

I would also like to welcome the new Soldiers and officers of Task Force ODIN III. I challenge the new arrivals to keep up the outstanding combat performance and personnel safety record of TF ODIN II. I welcome our new arrivals along with all the subject matter expertise they bring to the battlespace and I look forward to having them integrate into the CAB's family.

Soldiers, NCOs and Officers must work together to ensure we are all doing the right thing when it comes to ethics. We have fraternization rules and equal opportunity guidelines and I ask everyone adhere to these ethical codes. Violations of these ethical codes can bring the Soldier and individual's unwanted attention, UCMJ and a lot of wasted time for commanders and first sergeants. The CAB is almost home, let's not jeopardize military careers over stupid mistakes.

Lastly, I ask first line supervisors to make sure their subordinates are maintaining accountability of all equipment. If you as a Sergeant have not inspected your Soldiers and reported lost equipment prior to redeployment you are dead wrong. Let's get done and get home.

Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wallace is the command sergeant major of the Combat Aviation Brigade

Humility.

Chaplain (Maj.) Suk Jong Lee talks about humbling ourselves in order to grow, learn and heal our spiritual sickness. **The Combat Aviation Brigade chaplain speaks from the land of Jesus' birth**

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ 1 Peter 5:5 (The New International Version)

Have you ever felt that people around you were incompetent and you were carrying their load of work on your shoulders, and then later you realized that you do not know as much as you thought you knew? It seems until we are either humble ourselves or humbled by circumstances, we do not see where the truth lies. Sometimes, our refusal to be humbled costs us our chance to grow and mature. Sometimes, it may cost us our life on earth.

There are many examples of people whose pride became the cause of their downfall. Let me start in Egypt, just before Moses led the Israelites out of bondage from the Pharaoh. Moses went to the Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, to deliver the message of God: let the Israelite people go.

Pharaoh challenged Moses the messenger of God, made fun of him and at times pleaded with him to remove the plagues God placed upon Egypt. But Pharaoh refused to humble himself and continued to defy the message of God. Only the death of all firstborn in Egypt, both people and animal, was able to humble Pharaoh enough to listen to the message of God.

Then, there is the story about Naaman, the commander of the King of Syria's army (2 King 5). He was respected and beloved and a mighty man who had brought many victories to Syria. However, he was a leper and there was no known cure for leprosy. People with leprosy were shunned by their community and families.

Fortunately for him, he had a young girl from the land of Israel as a captive. The girl suggested to him to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Holy Hugs Chaplain (Maj.) Suk Jong Lee speaks with Task Force ODIN Chaplain (Capt.) Nyhl Irvin during the TF ODIN Transfer of Authority ceremony

go to Samaria and see the prophet Elisha for a cure. When Naaman got to Elisha's house he expected to be received royally, since he came with a letter from the King of Syria. But Elisha didn't even come to the door to meet him. Instead he sent a messenger to tell Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times to be cleansed of leprosy.

Naaman became so furious that he went away in a rage and began to make preparations to go back to his country. Fortunately for him, he had wise servants who told him, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped seven times as instructed by the messenger of the prophet. When he came out of the water, he was cleansed of his leprosy. The Scripture says, “...his flesh

was restored like the flesh of a little child...”

Because of his pride, he almost threw away the opportunity to be healed of the dreaded disease. As the commander of the army of the King of Syria, he could have insisted upon being received by the prophet of the small vassal country. He could have been so angry and arrogant that he didn't listen to the word of wisdom from his servants. Perhaps, in spite of his stature in his country, his leprosy had kept him humble. He was humble enough to listen to his servants twice and that humility enabled him to receive healing.

I wonder how often we let opportunity pass by us because of our pride and arrogance – the opportunity to grow, learn and even heal our spiritual sickness.

May God grant us wisdom and humility to receive blessings of healing and maturity in our lives!

Across Iraq.

IA soldiers come together at FOB Q-West to attend course designed to teach fundamentals of leading and being a leader. **Iraqi soldiers train-up to improve their ranks**

STORY AND PHOTO BY PFC. ADAM BLAZAK

QAYYARAH, Iraq – With the new Iraqi Army in place, many within the military are finding themselves in leadership roles. To better help lead their subordinates, and peers in some cases, many soldiers in the 2nd Division Iraqi Army are showing up at Forward Operating Base Q-West to partake in the Iraqi Warrior Leader's Course.

Developed in 2005, the IWLC has seen more than 1,000 IA soldiers graduate from the 23-day course. With a small cadre to soldier ratio, the trainees are able to grasp the variety of course material through many different learning styles. From classroom instruction to a hands-on approach, soldiers tackle the given tasks.

“The training is going on as we like, and the soldiers are doing exactly what we tell them to do,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Hamdan Fadhil Sulayman, the IWLC Commandant with 3rd Battalion, 6th Brigade, 2nd Division, Iraqi Army.

The IWLC cadets conduct physical training in the early morning and participate in training activities throughout the day finishing in the late evening, said IWLC cadre Sgt. James A. Vos, with Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

“We do a platoon competition, which makes it more fun for the soldiers,” said IWLC cadre Staff Sgt. Marcos A. Castro, with 2nd Squadron currently attached to HHT, 1st Sqdn. 3rd ACR. “Through the competition, we see the soldiers doing their best.”

Leadership skills, discipline, map reading, IA values, the Iraqi Non-Commissioned Officer Creed, first-aid, weapons qualifications, and combat-ives are just a few of more than 30 subject areas covered in the course.



Warriors Ready Two soldiers with the 2nd Division IA duke it out during a pugil stick exercise at the Iraqi Warrior Leader's Course on FOB Q-West

“The training is tough, but we want to give them that good, solid base,” Vos said.

A recently erected training house, dubbed the Shoot-House, was designed to teach the soldiers better ways to clear homes.

“It is important for the Iraqi Army to learn how to clear houses,” Sulayman said. “This is their job.”

Referring to room clearings, Sgt. Shehab Ahmad Nori, a soldier with 3rd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Division, said “It's very important for all soldiers to learn this kind of training. When I leave here, I'll be sure to teach other soldiers what I have learned to help get the Iraqi Army forward.”

Nori is just one of few who were chosen to lead the rest of the cadets during the training.

“You can tell who has combat experience,” Vos mentioned. “They act as peer instructors for the rest of the students. They're able to relate

their experiences to the rest of the students.”

On scene, U.S. Army cadre help only by facilitating a safe training environment for the soldiers throughout their stay, Vos noted.

“We're giving them the ability to take on a more active role,” Vos added. “These guys are doing the combat operations, while we do the observations. We're trying to make them self-sufficient.”

Upon graduating from the IWLC, soldiers developed the tools needed to help take control of their country. “Toward the end of their duration of the course, the soldiers tend to have a little more discipline, more knowledge, and more confidence in themselves,” Vos mentioned.

“I feel very happy about the soldiers going through this training,” Sulayman concluded. “We have to rebuild our new army. It's our job to move the Iraqi Army forward.”



Loading up

Spc. Daniel Anderson, of Troop B, 1-6 CAV, works on an OH-58 Kiowa's .50 caliber machine gun

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo Courtesy 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment

The past year has taught the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, aviators to plan thoroughly and quickly in order to accomplish strike missions and capture targets before they have the chance to leave the area. Recently, the crews were faced with a challenge to conduct the strike missions with higher OPTEMPO in support of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) during Operation Warrior Pursuit.

The four-week operation supported Multi-National Division – North's Operation Iron Pursuit and targeted two areas in the Kirkuk Province which were known to be enemy support zones and for harboring insurgent leadership. In order to capture the enemy, the 1-6 CAV, also known as the Fighting Sixth, needed to provide the ground commander the ability to rapidly strike anywhere with complete surprise.

The squadron devoted the entire UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter platoon and four OH-58 Kiowa Warriors in order to conduct missions whenever a target presented itself. These aerial reaction force crews repeatedly demonstrated the experience that they had gained throughout their rotation in order to carry out each mission safely and quickly.

During the operation, 1/10 BCT expanded its boundaries to include more area along the Tigris River in

All aboard

Coalition Soldiers load a UH-60 Black Hawk after an Operation Warrior Pursuit raid

hopes of capturing high value targets, who had been hiding in previously unreachable areas. The expanded area made it vital for the air crews to stage out of forward operating bases throughout 1/10's area of operation.

To save time, the squadron increased manning at their forward arming and refueling points. This ensured that when the helicopters needed a gas or munitions restocked, they were mission ready as quickly as possible. Maintenance personnel were also sent to the staging locations to help identify and fix any unforeseen maintenance issues that may occur during the operation.

Upon arrival at the FOBs, the crews conducted training with the ground forces they were there to support. After a final pre-combat check of their aircraft and equipment the waiting began. The pilots knew they could have to wait long hours before a target and his location are identified. At that time, the ground commander, air mission commander and pilot-in-command quickly plan their mission. Months of building trust between the air crews and ground forces make this task easier.

During their time in Iraq the air crews of the Fighting Sixth have

Patience and persistence

Fighting Sixth conducts counterinsurgency in Operation Warrior Pursuit

STORY BY CAPT JONATHAN PICKETT AND SGT. MATHEW BEALE



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Sensitive Operation

Spc. Andrea Hogan cleans the lens on the mast-mounted sight, which houses the targeting system on the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior

learned that fierce gun battles don't win this war. The pilots know that a counter-insurgency fight for the support of the Iraqi people, who are just trying to rebuild their country, demands more.

The tactics of precision targeting go much further with the Iraqi population whose support for coalition forces can crash with one wrong move. The 1-6 air crews remember when they arrived in country a year ago, the Kirkuk Province was a much more volatile environment.

They were met with a tense and

politically charged atmosphere created by three large ethnic groups and both branches of Islam represented. As each group attempted to live side-by-side, the situation neared a boiling point as political representation, uncertainty of the future of each ethnic group in the new government and growing security concerns fueled the tensions.

A year ago, the Iraqis faced more than 12 attacks a day from insurgents. Basic transportation was severely disrupted for the residents of this northern Iraqi province as half to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

three-quarters of the daily attacks were roadside improvised explosive devices.

"Through precision targeting, rapid response, and vigilant over-watch, insurgent activity in AOR Warrior decreased by over 70 percent," said Capt. Shad Lloyd, the 1-6 intelligence officer. "During this operation, substantial emphasis was placed on the precision targeting to continue the downward trend, but constantly lowering attacks, month after month is not an easy task."

The Fighting Sixth fought through poor weather, mechanical problems

with their targeting equipment, and strained fighter management during Operation Warrior Pursuit. The efforts and determination paid off with nine individuals captured on six separate missions during the operation. Included in the roundup were individuals who made IED and explosively formed penetrator for the insurgents.

"These crews made history. This will be one of the operations that is looked at as one of the significant operations that changed the future of Iraq," said Lt. Col. John W.

Firepower

Sgt. Ivan Lopez (standing) and Sgt. Kenneth Gulliver of Troop D, 1-6 CAV, load ammunition onto one of the 1-6's OH-58 Kiowa Warriors

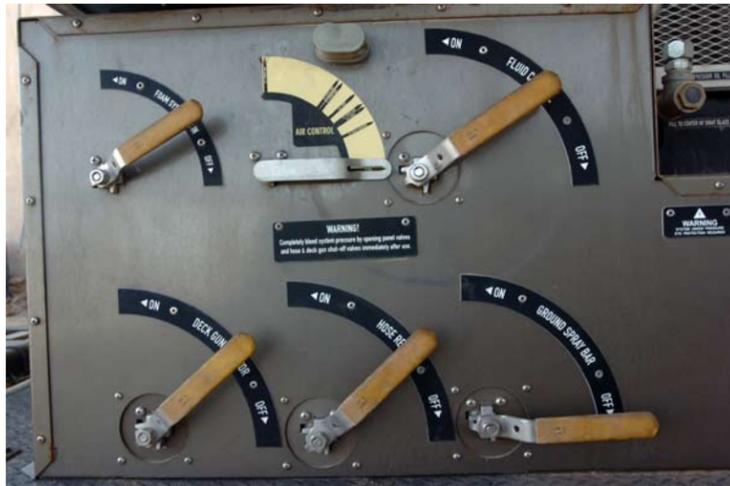
Thompson, the commander of the Fighting Sixth Squadron. "These crews embodied the ethos of 'slow is smooth and smooth is fast.' That allowed us to be so successful in the planning and execution of these missions."

The squadron's Kiowas, which are paired into scout weapon teams, supported more than the strike missions. They also provided crucial security over areas that have historically been resistant to coalition forces. This enabled the CF to conduct village assessments and provide projects that will create jobs and improve the quality of life for Iraqis.

"The BCT and squadron conducted a textbook counter insurgency operation in which tactical patience was paramount. Al Qaeda in Iraq's tactic is for insurgents to scare locals into working overtly or covertly for the insurgency," said Lloyd. "What we have seen throughout our operations is that our patience, along with AQI bringing unwanted attention to the area, has turned the local population against the insurgency. This has led to sources flooding our FOBs with information on the whereabouts of the insurgent leadership."

During a three-day operation, the SWTs provided aerial security for raids conducted throughout the city of Sulyman Bak. The raids, which included heavy Iraqi army involvement, targeted the insurgent leadership who were responsible for the most active IED hotspot in the area and oppressed the local citizens through coercion.

"The work done during Operation Warrior Pursuit was crucial to the future of the Kirkuk Province and reinforced the security goals of the entire deployment," said Thompson. "Only time will tell what the long term impact of these operations will be, and how these precision operations will affect the willingness of the Iraqi people to continue their fight to end insurgency."



Control Central Levers regulate the flow and mixture of chemicals and which dispersal system being used



Ready, Aim, Fire Sgt. Bruce Gutierrez, Co. D, 2-1 GSAB, opens up the Falcon's deck gun as Staff. Sgt. Wayne Doornbos, HHC 2-1, mans the controls valves

Decon 101

CAB Soldiers flow through Falcon training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF TROTH

Gas! Gas! Gas! This three-word phrase is something that every Soldier has heard during training. They are trained and tested on holding their breath and donning their protective mask when they hear this alarm. The training even includes decontaminating yourself and your personal equipment.

But what if they have to decon a CH-47 Chinook helicopter or a building? The pads in the M-291 decontamination kit just aren't up to that big of a task. Decontaminating something that size needs the Falcon Fixed Site Decontamination System. Its deck mounted

gun can quickly cover a contaminated helicopter, vehicle or building with decontaminating foam.

Chemical Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, received training on this truck and trailer decontamination system last month.

"Getting this training is very important for us chemical Soldiers," said Sgt. Charles Overly, Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion. "If something happens we would be the first responders to decon that area and make it safe for the Soldiers on COB (Contingency Operating Base) Speicher. And, if

we went outside the wire, we could make it safe for the civilians as well as the troops."

"Just because there is no known chemical threat does not mean that there isn't a chemical threat," said Spc. Ray Green, Company F, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment. "You always have to be ready for anything, and it is always better to do it and not need it then to need it and not know how to do it."

With this philosophy in mind, the CAB chemical Soldiers learned the basics of the trailer and its three tanks that hold 1,030 gallons of chemicals. When these chemicals are mixed



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Tag Chemical Soldiers in full JS-LIST tag each other as they switch out on manning the 100-foot hose
Super Soaker Staff. Sgt. Wayne Doornbos and Sgt. David Theis, both of HHC 2-1 GSAB
Closing Time Sgt. David Theis, HHC, 2-1 GSAB, closes the valves during hands-on JS-LIST training
Start Your Engine Sgt. 1st Class Mark DeJesus, HHC, CAB goes through start up procedures

together they produce up to 25,000 gallons of decontamination foam.

The training started with a familiarization of the system's truck and trailer. The instructor, Aaron Martin, field service representative for Lockheed-Martin, showed the Soldiers the trailer's engine. They went over the proper care and preventative maintenance for it, as well as the proper start up and shut down procedures. During the class, he gave them pointers on taking

care of the trailer and its components.

"When you utilize the hose reel system, you want to make sure that the entire hose is uncoiled, you don't want the hose partially unwound," said Martin, a retired sergeant major. "The hose reel itself is made of aluminum and when water is going through the hose it acts like a snake, constricting around the reel and can tear it up."

The 100-foot hose reel is just one of three dispersing systems the Falcon has. It

also has a trailer-mounted spray bar for uniform ground coverage and a truck mounted deck gun which enables the user to project sustained amounts of liquid or foam. Both the hose reel and deck gun allow the operator to shoot the decontaminating foam up to 100 feet.

"With the pressure that is coming through the hose, you can hurt someone, so it is always important to have two to three people operating the system," said Martin. "With the hose reel

you need the person that is operating the (systems) controls, the person on the hose, and someone behind them to help control the hose. The two people manning the hose must have a firm grip on it, because it has to be open all the way and there is a lot of pressure that comes through these hoses."

After hands-on training with the hose and deck gun, the Soldiers donned their chemical protective clothing, also known as Joint Service Lightweight

Integrated Suit Technology, and their protective mask to get a feel of what they would be going through if they actually have to use the Falcon system.

"I had training on this equipment before, but this training was more detailed, more in depth, more precise," said Overly. "This is the first time that we actually got to train with it while wearing the JSLIST. That was very beneficial and for me it was fun."

Although all the Soldiers had fun during the class,

they all realize this training has a purpose.

"You always have to be prepared for everything," said Green. "Things change day to day over here; you never know what is going to happen tomorrow."

For this reason, Green said that although there is no known chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threat he makes sure that the Soldiers of Co. F, 2-1 GSAB, are trained on their individual readiness equipment and he stays current with regular training

on his CBRN equipment. The Falcon training is just one additional thing he can do to keep up with his job as the company's chemical Soldier. "Everyone should be trained up on CBRN. The private who is working on a helicopter should know how to work on that helicopter in full JSLIST," said Overly. "The war does not stop because there is a chemical attack, it still goes on, and equipment still needs to be worked on. You have to keep going you have to keep fighting."

The Falcon system training the chemical Soldiers received allows them to do their part to keep the CAB in the fight.

"It makes me feel good that I was one of the Soldiers that got picked to train on this piece of equipment – to be a first responder," said Overly. "That tells me that the battalion and the brigade are looking at me as a good Soldier, who is responsible and able to do the things that need to be done to protect the brigade."

Ahead of the pack

The MND-N Warrior competition had 54 entrants. Spc. Gavin McKenzie tied for third in the Soldier category. Here's a look at what he went through to get there

BY SGT. MICHAEL HOWARD

On Sept. 19, the Multi-National Division-North Warrior Competition at Contingency Operating Base Speicher drew to a close. Within a field of 54 competitors Spc. Gavin Mackenzie, a supply specialist with 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment tied for third in the Soldier category.

The event featured significant changes from years past to better reflect the Army's current state of train-



Pregame Sgt. Anthony Dozart, 1-6 CAV, receives his instructions at the land navigation station

Photo by Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez



Confident Spc. Jessica Medina rushes during the react to direct fire event

Photo by Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez

Photo by Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua



Start your engines Soldiers take off for a three mile combat run during the Warrior Competition on Contingency Operating Base Speicher

ing and its war on terror mission.

According to Sgt. Maj. Allen Ashton, the 1st Armored Division tactical operations sergeant major, the competition places a heavy emphasis on "the smaller building blocks that the individuals and the Soldiers use for providing the tactical security and operational security for the units operating in MND-North."

The MND-N Warrior Competition brought together warriors from the ranks of private to staff sergeant who have excelled and proven themselves through company and battalion levels.

The Soldiers faced a selection board chaired by Sgt. Maj. Darryl M. Jannone, the 1AD provost marshal sergeant major. The rest of the Board was comprised of sergeants major from throughout Task Force Iron. They evaluated each warrior's appearance, military bearing and knowledge in key military areas.

This year's event consisted of several traditional events – the army physical fitness test, and weapons qualification range among many – but it adds new twists onto others.

In addition to standard first-aid exercises, Soldiers had to test their proficiency in obtaining a saline lock on an intravenous drip – a common task that is learned in the Combat Life Saver Course, which only became a part of

basic combat training in 2007.

Every effort was made to give the Warrior Task Training stations maximum realism, said Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division Operations sergeant major Tonia Walker.

Audio clips from movies like "Black Hawk Down" were played at some stations, and multiple events were often combined into one station to increase the stress involved in completing the tasks. At the "treat severed extremity" station, the Soldiers evaluated the casualty, treated the severed limb for bleeding, and then ran the saline lock on the IV. Other events were geared toward physically pushing Soldiers to their limits. The week long competition featured an APFT, a six kilometer run in full combat gear with ammunition – on the same day.

"We had a PT test at 4 a.m., and then right behind that we have a 6k combat run with full battle rattle... it's kind of a gut check, it lets you find who you really are. We all think we're tough, we all think we're the best Soldier, but when the rubber meets the road, you find out firsthand whether you're as tough as you imagine yourself. It's a good thing. You're going to come out of it better and stronger," said Sgt. Anthony Dozart, who represented the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment at the competition.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Capturing a go Sgt. Matthew Wolberg, Co. B, 601 ASB, puts zip cuffs on a detainee after searching him while Sgt. Francis Aque, 101st AB DIV grades him

One aspect of the MND-N Warrior Competition that distinguished it from similar competitions is that it takes place in a deployed environment. With the Soldiers and NCOs studying for it already shouldering a heavy workload, preparation for the competition is even more challenging than it normally would be.

“I found out I was going to be in this competition six months ago, and even then I rushed to prepare. To prepare, we did physical training everyday, and we studied with our NCOIC whenever we had downtime. It’s a tough competition. It’s a lot to prepare for,” said Sgt. Marvin Terlaje.

‘It’s a good opportunity. It’s a chance to foster camaraderie through the spirit of competition.’

--- SGT. MARVIN TERLAJE, COMPETITOR

One possibly unexpected benefit of the warrior competition is the positive stress it puts on units to keep their training rigorous. “The main way these competitions pay off is to give us a chance to evaluate our Soldiers, see where they’re at on training, and go back and step up our training. I also enjoy just being here for the Soldiers, helping them out, motivating them in any way I can,” said Staff Sgt. David Miller, a sponsor in the competition assigned to 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment.

More important than winning, Terlaje and Dozart both agree, is the sense of camaraderie developed during the competition, and the feeling that they are more of a team than a group of individual competitors. “What happens at the warrior competition is you get the cream of the crop, you get the people who are best at what they do, and we all get together and share stories and experiences,” said Terlaje, “I think it’s a good opportunity. It’s a chance to foster camaraderie through the spirit of competition.”

Photo by Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua



Photo by Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez



Photo by Staff Sgt. Micky Bazaldua



Ghost in the fog Spc. Chris Ponce, 1-6 CAV, runs for cover during the reaction to live fire station

Crawling toward victory Spc. Chris Ponce, 1-6 CAV, low crawls during the reaction to live fire station

Attention to detail Sgt. Marvin Terlaje, Co. E, 3-1 AA, receives instructions on the standards for the evaluate a casualty station

Prickly situation Spc. Gavin McKenzie, Co. E, 3-1 AA, prepares to insert an IV during the evaluate a casualty as Staff Sgt. Kimberly La-Crosse, HHC 601, ASB, grades him

Route Recon Spc. Gavin McKenzie, Co. E, 3-1 AA plots out a route on a map to prepare for the land navigation station

Hitting the mark Spc. Christopher Abbas, HHC, 601st ASB, qualifies on his weapon

Front line intel Spc. Chris Ponce, 1-6 CAV, calls in intelligence information on insurgents during the Intel/SALUTE station

No pain no gain Spc. Christopher Abbas, 601st ASB, keeps a steady pace at the combat run



DEMONS DELIVER

Tight Fit Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyle, platoon sergeant for Co A, 1-1 ARB, demonstrates the cargo capacity of the AH-64D Apache helicopter gunship. On June 20, Co. A Devils, delivered much needed supplies of water to the Fires "Hell" Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, operating in Abu Sayta, Iraq

Water isn't the most glamorous element of battle, but it's probably the most important. How the CAB saved Soldiers' lives through a simple water delivery

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MAJ. ENRIQUE T. VASQUEZ

Anyone that has ever underestimated the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Army pilots has never had to rely on them in a pinch. A coalition forces unit known as Fires "Hell" Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, conducting combat operations in an area near Abu Sayta, Iraq began to take on casualties as Soldiers started to succumb to the intense desert heat.

The ground commander radioed his situation and within minutes coalition forces helicopters responded to pick-up the injured.

However, the ground units required more than just medical evacuations; the relief troops could not resupply water to those Soldiers in forward positions without exposing themselves to hostile fire from insurgents.

As the situation became more critical, an AH-64D Apache Longbow attack weapons teams in the area, overheard the radio chatter and decided to take action.

Pilots from Company A, "Devils," 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, responded by delivering water to the stranded troops.

"We were flying in support of operations when we determined several groups of troops on the ground were becoming heat casualties. It was then, when we decided to return to the FOB (Forward Operating Base) Warhorse and bring these Soldiers some water," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Mawhirter, pilot with Co. A, 1-1 ARB.

Apache gunships don't normally deliver cargo due to the limited space onboard the aircraft, however in an unprecedented act the AH-64 pilots flying in support

of coalition forces did just that, they delivered a load of water.

"To be able to deliver water to coalition forces with this aircraft (Apache helicopter) is quite an achievement in itself," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyle, platoon sergeant for A Co.

"These aircraft normally have no more than 10 cubic feet of storage space," he added. The use of the aft compartments and saddle bags (compartments beside



"To be able to deliver water to coalition forces with this aircraft is quite an achievement in itself." - Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyle



the cockpit) to move water is remarkable, recounted Boyle.

The area of Abu Sayta where the troops were located is heavily populated with dense groves of palm trees making it difficult for helicopters to easily land.

Knowing this, one of the Apache pilots planned ahead.

"As we filled up the survival bays (aft compartments) one of the pilots, Chief Porter decided to put some water bottles inside his cockpit," said 1st Lt. Philip Heiss, pilot for Co A, 1-1.

"Upon our return to the field site we landed the aircraft and dropped off several cases of water to the troops," However, Porter, who was unable to reach all the troops, lowered his aircraft to a hover just feet above the ground, opened his cockpit and started slid-

ing bottles of water down the sides of the helicopter to the Soldiers below," said Heiss.

The actions displayed by these aviators are truly admirable and commendable according to the ground force commander.

"Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ron Porter, air mission commander, and his crews were awesome yesterday," said Lt. Col. Robert J. McAleer, commander of Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

According to McAleer the Apache pilots provided communication relays, talked MEDEVACS (medical evacuations) onto good landing sites, helped find goat trails for dismounts, and even dropped water resupplies out the windows of their cockpits.

"The Apache crews made a huge difference that day" said McAleer.

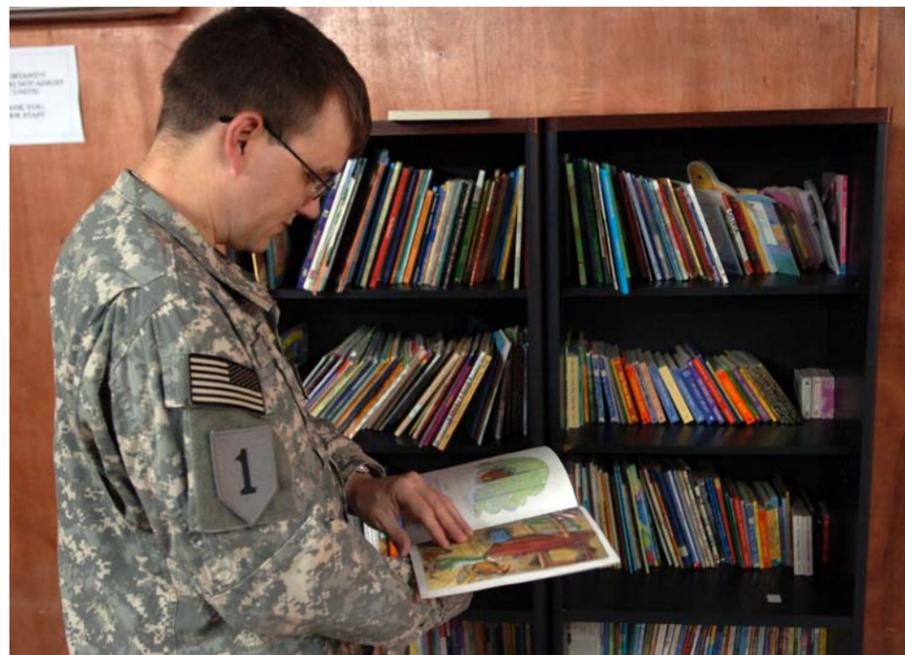
Descent An AH-64D Apache Longbow belonging to 1-1 ARB heads in to land after a mission. The 1-1 "Gun-fighter" air and ground crews work around the clock sustaining air operations and they are part of the CAB, 11D

Improvisation Spc. Jedediah Cooke (left), and Spc. David Scantlin, crew chiefs with Co. A, 1-1 ARB, demonstrate the cargo capacity of the AH-64D Apache helicopter gunship. The Co. A Devils delivered much needed supplies of water to the Fires "Hell" Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, operating in Abu Sayta, Iraq

Story Time Iraqi Style

Deployed Soldiers find a way to connect with their children who are in the states. MWR recreation center has books, video camera, free mailers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF TROTH



Just right Capt. Steven Bondi, 1-1 ARB, looks for the perfect book to read to his two daughters

“Good Night Moon.”
“The Grouchy Ladybug.”
“Clifford to the Rescue.”

These are not book titles that people would expect to find on a book shelf on a U.S. military base in Iraq. But these children books and hundreds more are available in Morale, Welfare, and recreation centers on Contingency Operation Base Speicher.

They are available for those deployed to read to their child back home. The books are just the tip of the program that the recreation center offers. The center has a camera and records them as they read to their child, at no cost to the Soldier.

“It’s an opportunity for me to connect with my kids while I am over here,” said Capt. Steven Bondi, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment. “I think they will be really excited I used to read to them all the time before I left so I think they will remember that and it is a way that we can read together without being together.”



“It’s a way to bring you to your family,” said Liz Cunningham, MWR south tech. “All they have to do is come in, pick a book, sit down in front of the camera, read the book and then send it home. It is completely free.”

Cunningham says that she and the staff at MWR south are available 24 hours a day to set up the video camera for the person to read to their child. But she does recommend checking to see what is going on at the recreation center.

“If they want to come in at 8 o’clock at night and we have something going on they might have some back ground music on their video,” says Cunningham, referring to the Hip Hop and Latin nights at the center. “But it is whenever they want it. We will work around their schedule. If they work nights and want to come over at 4 or 5 o’clock in the morning, we are still here and we can do it then.”

Cunningham said that Soldiers and anyone else who is authorized

to use the center don’t have to come in that early to read to their children. Before lunch is normally the best time to record a story, since there is less activity at the center and thus less noise and distractions.

To help cut down on peripheral noise, the box which houses the video camera is set up in MWR south’s library. The room has doors and offers some privacy during the book reading. Signs are posted on the doors to keep others from walking into the background of the video.

While the video camera is being set up, it is time to choose a book. Bondi scanned the two crammed bookshelves looking for one that would interest his daughters, Megan 4 and Kate 2. After pulling several books from the shelf and flipping through the pages, Bondi chose “A Silly Snowy Day,” a story about a young turtle who did not want to go to sleep in the winter time like all turtles do.

“My little girls like turtles and it is sort of a silly story and I thought

Smiling for the Camera Spc. Lexa Cresswell, HHC, CAB IID, reads from “Horton Hears a Who” for her 3-year-old daughter Paige

they would like it,” Bondi said. “The selection of books is pretty good. They have everything from baby books to books for older children.”

He said there were many books on the shelves that his girls have at home. He was thinking of picking one of them to read, but decided to go with a new book.

“Before I deployed last year I read some books into the computer so my daughters can listen to me,” said Bondi. “And I think I actually picked some of these books that are on the shelf here for that.”

For one deployed mom, she found this program not only a good way to interact with her daughter, but also a good way to carry on some lessons she was teaching her daughter before her deployment.

“I picked ‘Clifford’s Manners’ because I want to teach her manners.



I was teaching her before I left but I don't think her dad is enforcing those as much as I was," said Spc. Lexa Cresswell, from Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. "I also read 'Guess How Much I Love You', because it talks about how much you love them and it is easy enough for her to understand."

Cresswell's 3-year-old Paige also got to follow along as her mom read her "Horton Hears a Who."

With the book or books chosen, all the parent has to do is sit down and start reading. The camera's LCD

monitor is turned around so the Soldier can see what is being recorded – so that they can see what their child is going to see.

"You can actually see yourself, so if you want to pose or make goo-goo faces at the camera you can," said Cunningham. "What you see is what will be sent home."

"The books I chose were for her age, easy for her to understand and the illustrations were good. So it was easy for me to point out trees. And in the Clifford book he has little signs that say 'Thank you,' so I was reading the signs to her and asking her what

it said." She added. "I would point at the pictures and ask her what color the flower was, what the bunny was doing."

For Cresswell, this was her second time recording stories for Paige. And she learned a valuable lesson from her first time.

"Last time the guy told me that I had a 30-minute DVD in the camera," Cresswell said. "I didn't have a watch and I didn't know how much time I had left, so I guess I speed read the books. I promised her I would do better next time."

Cresswell said that when the first

video arrived in the mail at their home in Mississippi, Paige was constantly going up to her dad and saying "daddy my movie stop," so dad would restart it for her.

"Once when I called home I was talking with my husband and could hear her in the background watching the video," Cresswell said. "When she got on the phone with me she said 'mommy, I'm watching you on TV.'"

So his girls could follow along with what their dad was reading, Bondi had planned on getting online and ordering "A Silly Snowy Day" for them. But before he left the rec center he found

out something about the program he didn't know.

"We let the Soldier send the book home," said Cunningham. "I think it adds a little touch to it. If you are reading the book, then the child not only has a video of you, but also the book that you were reading. They can follow the story in the book."

"I think it helps her that I interact with her while I am talking to her, and it gives her some one on one time with me," said Cresswell. "And it has been a long time since I have been home, so...I think it helps her morale just as much as it helps mine."

Quality time

Capt. Steven Bondi of HHC, 1-1 ARB reads from "A Silly Snowy Day," a story about a young turtle who did not want to go to sleep in the winter time like all turtles do, for his two daughters

Big Red One -- The Reunion Tour



Reunited under Gen. George S. Patton and Maj. Gen. Terry Allen for the first time since the Battle of Oran, the Big Red One tears through Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's forces in North Africa

ADAPTED FROM ROBERT BAUMER'S "BEFORE TAPS SOUNDED"

After the 1st Division organized and trained stateside, it was the first full division to be sent overseas into the European theater for active duty. After staging in the English countryside southwest of London for combat training and undergoing extensive amphibious landing practices in Scotland, the men were then alerted to prepare for movement to North Africa. The only hint about what was to come was heard from one of the division's regimental commanders when he told his men in his firm southern accent, "Gentleman, we're a goin' fightin!"

As part of a two hundred ship convoy, the division headed out of the English Channel on October 27, 1942 into leaden-gray skies and rough seas, zigzagging off the Spanish coast in a generally southern direction towards the entrance of the Mediterranean at the Strait of Gibraltar. Once inside, the ships headed for the port city of Oran on the north coast of Africa where the division took this first objective of the European offensives as planned.

The men were then told by their commander, Maj. Gen. Terry Allen,

that this was just the initial phase of a long series of operations and, "Nothing in hell must stop or delay the First Division!"

But, one thing did. The division was broken up after the Battle for Oran and parceled out to other under-equipped units. One regiment was assigned to a British brigade and planted its colors on the Tunisian front, where hundreds of its officers and men died at the Battle for Longstop Hill on Christmas Day in 1942.

With too much blood in the soaked mud of the battlefield after this, these tattered units spent the early part of the rainy, cold Tunisian winter bogged down in the hills around Medjez,

The Big Red One was finally reassembled as a unit for the first time since it was broken up after the Battle for Oran

where the Germans had built up strong points in the highest locations, making advancement practically impossible. Meantime, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Afrika Corps had been methodically building up around the thinly held positions of the scattered and dispersed elements of the rest of the First Division and other Allied units between Algeria and Tunisia. In mid-February of 1943, the Germans launched an offensive designed to smash these positions and split all US and British forces in two.

With the full force of Rommel's amassed panzer units and the German Fifth Army, he attacked at Kasserine Pass. These bloody battles left nearly 6,200 casualties on the desert floor, but as Allen said in a letter to his wife, "When things were looking worse, the good old Fighting First was hurriedly pushed to meet the Germans at a critical point where their fortification was strong.

"It was said that the vigorous defense and aggressive coordinated attack of the First Division really turned the trick and started a general withdraw in every sector."



Hard to Hold 11D Soldiers march through Kasserine Pass



But, the infamous battles at Kasserine Pass drew mixed reviews from those in higher command, and change came quickly.

Gen. George S. Patton arrived to take over the command of the corps that the division was fighting in, and the Big Red One was finally reassembled as a unit for the first time since it was broken up after the Battle for Oran.

In what Gen. Omar Bradley called in his memoirs, “the first indisputable defeat we inflicted on the German army in the war,” the costly Battle for El Guettar found the 1ID fighting continuously for twenty-two straight days in late March and early April of 1943. It was a no holds barred slugging match with hand-to-hand

combat and sharp maneuvering, but the division’s officers and men firmly destroyed the pride of Rommel’s Afrika Corps, the 10th SS Panzer Division.

After this, the division could not be stopped. During the final push for

‘We are fighting the best that Rommel has and have fought our way inch by inch through very desperate resistance.’

MAJ. GEN. TERRY ALLEN, 1ID COMMANDER

victory in North Africa, the Fighting First fought its way across treacherous hills with direct frontal assaults against elite German units that had been ordered to fight to the last man. During the final battles on the Plains of Mateur in early May, General Allen told his wife in another letter, “We are fighting the best that Rommel has and have fought our way inch by inch through very desperate resistance. It has been a slugging match so far, and one or the other has to break first. You may be assured it will not be the First Division.”

Several days later, the Germans surrendered nearly a quarter of a million men to Allied forces in North Africa. In all, the First Division fought for 115 days in the four month

North African war. After being allowed to fight as unit under Patton during the latter part of the North Africa Campaign there is no greater important accomplishment than the inspiring leadership of the 1st ID’s Commander.

Allen took command of the 1st Infantry during the Carolina Maneuvers in May of 1941, then took the division overseas to England aboard the Queen Mary.

As a battlefield commander, Allen was one of the most attack-minded general officers of the War. He would rally his men with the battle cry, “Nothing in hell must stop or delay the First Division.” He praised them often, and he and earned their respect and affection.

During the Battle for El Guettar, which was the first solid defeat handed to the Germans in North Africa, Allen demonstrated a command of battlefield tactics blended with quick wit. At one point a radio expert broke into the German battle codes and passed along a report revealing that their high command was renewing an attack at 4:00 PM.

When the time grew near, a second message was intercepted saying it was to be delayed until 4:45. Allen, grabbing the moment, sent a message back to the Germans saying, “What the hell are you waiting for? We have been ready since 4:00 PM. Signed, First Division.”

Forever proud of his men and always thinking of their welfare

Scramble *The 1ID’s Torch landings gave them a foothold on the African continent*

first, during the final push for victory in North Africa Allen wrote in a letter to his wife, “I went to church Easter Sunday to say prayers for my men (while) airplanes were flying overhead and our artillery was firing behind the next hill, just 100 yards away.” After the fighting stopped, he penned another letter to his son proudly saying, “The casualties were severe, but the casualties we inflicted on the Germans were far worse. German prisoners testified that the effectiveness of the 1st Division’s artillery fire was far worse than they encountered in Russia or elsewhere.”



Specialist Ross A. McGinnis

MEDAL OF HONOR
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



U.S. ARMY

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST ★ I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT
WWW.ARMY.MIL/MEDALOFHONOR/MCGINNIS
I WILL NEVER QUIT ★ I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE