

# DEMON



1st AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE

**Demons at  
controls**

**CAB takes command  
in Iraq**





**4 DEMON 6**

*Col. Frank Muth speaks on welfare of CAB's spirit*

**5 DEMON 7**

*Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson on the road ahead*

**6 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

*Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Bruce speaks on prophecy*

**7 AVIATION NEWS**

*Latest news from April's Quad-A convention*

**8 CAB DEPLOYS**

*CAB cases colors, heads to Iraq for second combat tour*

**10 KUWAIT**

*CAB arrives in Kuwait, prepares for deployment*

**13 IED KILLERS**

*CAB conducts counter IED training in Kuwait*

**14 FIRST AID**

*CAB learns combat care in Kuwait*

**16 FIRST MIKES**

*3-1 AHB flies first UH-60Ms in Iraq*

**17 FIRE DRILL**

*1-6 CAV conducts aircraft fire training*

**18 IN COMMAND**

*CAB assumes authority of USD-C skies*

**20 CAB CANDIDS**

*Soldiers and families say goodbye at Fort Riley*

**22 HISTORY**

*A look at the history of Camp Taji, Iraq*

Brigade Commander ..... Col. Frank M. Muth  
Brigade Command Sergeant Major ..... Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Thomson  
Brigade Public Affairs Officer ..... Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth  
Demon Staff Writer ..... Spc. Roland Hale

This is an official Army newsletter, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, and published by the CAB IID Public Affairs Office. Editorial views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the CAB IID. All submissions to the Demon are subject to editing. The Demon can also be found at: [www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil). Additional CAB products can be found on [www.facebook.com/DemonBrigade](http://www.facebook.com/DemonBrigade) and [www.flickr.com/photos/demon\\_brigade](http://www.flickr.com/photos/demon_brigade).

*"It puts a human face on the Army that you might not otherwise see." -- Lt. Col. Kevin Arata, U.S. Army*

# Briefing

**A WORD**



Photo illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

## We are back. Demon comes back to life at Camp Taji

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division is back in Iraq, and the *Demon* has risen again.

The *Demon* is the CAB's way to showcase what the brigade is doing to support the Iraqi government's ongoing efforts to improve Iraq.

This is your publication and in order to make it the best we

can, and to ensure we represent everyone in the task force, we are asking for your assistance. We have a full-time Public Affairs staff of two. No matter how much ground we cover, we just don't have the eyes to see every story in the brigade.

When it comes to your company or your section, no one knows more about what is going on than

you do. You are a subject matter expert in your field, and we need your input.

If you are a writer, an aspiring writer or a photographer, please contact us at [jeff.troth@iraq.army.mil](mailto:jeff.troth@iraq.army.mil) with your story, story idea, photos or in regard to activities within your unit. We are interested in what your unit has done and upcoming events.

Not a writer, or everyone in your photos look like the Loch Ness Monster, contact us

before the event and we might be able to cover it.

Your help is instrumental in making this magazine's best publication in the Army.

The *Demon* is scheduled to be printed every other month, and will be posted on the IID web site ([www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil)) and on the CAB Facebook page.

For additional CAB stories and photos join us online at [www.facebook.com/demonbrigade](http://www.facebook.com/demonbrigade) and [www.flickr.com/photos/demon\\_brigade](http://www.flickr.com/photos/demon_brigade).

The Demon Brigade is making you proud – and leaving a trail of Big Red Ones along the way. A year of training on all levels has paid off, and we're putting our skills to use here in Iraq. We've successfully completed our transfer of authority ceremony and made it through our first two months down-range. It's never easy, being away from home, but the Soldiers of the Big Red One are professionals, and are doing an outstanding job.

Some of you have done this before, and some of you are experiencing a deployment for the first time. On both ends of the spectrum – from the Soldier to the spouse – it's a selfless and arduous task, yet the rewards will be great. The trick to making the time fly by is keeping busy. Trust me when I say we're doing just that. Every Soldier in this brigade has been working non-stop since we left Fort Riley. Pilots have been flying daily, always with the support of the Soldiers who fuel, maintain, arm and crew the aircraft. The longer we're gone, the busier we'll be. The Demon Brigade is scheduled to become the only aviation asset in Iraq. This summer, we'll add two additional battalions to our arsenal and tackle the skies of Iraq by ourselves. If there's anyone that can do it, it's the Demon Family.

Morale is high. Within the first two months, we've already reached our retention goals. Soldiers want to stay in this unit – and Soldiers,

## Demon 6.

Col. Frank Muth addresses the Soldiers and Families of the Demon Brigade, speaking on the unit's accomplishments and the welfare of the team's spirit.



Families, we're proud to have you. We've got the Demons we need to get the job done! The service that you give to the unit, the Army and the nation are priceless.

Let's talk about some rest and recuperation! I know that everyone is looking forward to the couple weeks that you'll be reunited with your loved ones. I'm sure you've heard by now that mid-tour leave is non chargeable leave! Not only will you get to spend time together during this deployment, but the new Environmental and Morale Leave (EML) will afford Soldiers extra opportunities to spend

time with their Families outside of deployment.

In addition to morale, we're strengthening our resilience on Camp Taji and Fort Riley. The Demon Resiliency Campus is scheduled to open here this August. The campus will be a place for Soldiers to go and relax – our own MWR. The campus will offer an internet café, library, movie room, fitness center, combat stress counseling, Family life counseling, chaplain services, equal opportunity services, medical services and nutritional counseling. We're doing the same thing at Fort Riley,

with a CAB Family Resiliency Center. The Demon Brigade Family Resiliency Center will house resources for Soldiers to learn constructive methods to cope with the stresses of deployment, separation from Family, and the how to deal with any personal issues that may arise for them. Soldiers will also have resources to provide personal growth, such as access to online education and correspondence courses. This campus will become an area where Soldiers can gather to relax, contact Family members for free/low cost to the Soldier, video conference with loved ones, and receive free counseling from sources ranging from the Brigade's Chaplains to a military Family life counselor. The end vision of this center is to help Soldiers decompress, learn positive methods to cope with stresses, and to create an atmosphere that supports the concept of Soldier Total Fitness.

Team, we're in this together. To make it through this next year, we need to strengthen each of the five pillars that we believe determine our overall fitness: Physical, emotional, spiritual, social and Family. That goes for everyone from Soldiers and spouses to friends and children. You don't have to wear the uniform to be a Demon – you're one of us. Duty First!

## Demon 7.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson addresses the Soldiers of the Demon Brigade, speaking on their achievements and the road ahead.

It is hard to believe that we've had the mission now for just over a month! The Demon Brigade has answered the call to duty with a quiet professionalism and dogged determination the level I've not seen in my 23 years of service.

From the aircrew members on the flightline, the fuelers in the FARP, the mechanics in the motor pool, the signaleers and RTOs in the TOC, to the LNOs, Battle Captains and NCOs, the technicians in the hangars, the quartermaster and adjutant Soldiers always on the go, and the drivers on the road, ALL are just oozing with passion as they accomplish their missions. At every level, leaders of this brigade, both forward and at home, are taking care of Soldiers and Families; getting the job done while demonstrating consistent compassion for all.

Most unique, however, is the uncanny sense of teamwork I find throughout this organization.

Just last week on a flight over Baghdad, I looked out the open door of the UH60M and watched a team comprised of one AH64 Apache and one OH58 Kiowa Warrior flying a security mission about a half of a mile away. I



marveled at how natural they made the pairing look, as if "pink teams" have been the norm for this group for months, instead of just days. Later that evening I again witnessed a team made up of one CH47 Chinook and one UH60 Black Hawk climb into the night skies departing from Taji, no doubt off to haul troops and cargo around the AO.

I couldn't help but think about the symbolism of these unlikely combinations as it relates to how the Soldiers and leaders in the CAB work so well together.

Everywhere I go I find a phenomenal team – the medics and docs working harmoniously together in a consolidated clinic providing top notch medical care to ALL Demons regardless of their battalion or company of assignment; a "pick-up" team of Soldiers from several units across the brigade forming our ever vigilant unmanned aerial systems troop; cooks from five battalions melding into a cohesive unit providing world class food service in two dining facilities and one field feeding sight for all of Camp Taji; a hodgepodge

of Soldiers coming together from across the brigade to form a security detachment safeguarding the rest of the Demon team; our rear detachment cadre consolidating efforts to take care of over 500 Soldiers and more than 2700 Families. I am convinced that this "team spirit" is the thread that will ensure we see the mission through successfully.

In the coming months our challenges will become greater, we'll welcome more units into our team and our mission and responsibilities will expand.

There will be tough times ahead, both here and at home, we can count on that. I am confident, however, that this great team of teams will meet each challenge, regardless of how tough, with both grit and compassion and in the end will prevail.

I am extremely proud to be a part of this organization and honored to serve alongside every Soldier and Family member in this outfit.

Collectively, this team, the Demon Brigade, epitomizes our division motto: *No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, Duty First!*

**Demon 7 Out.**

**Soldier Strong +  
Family Strong =  
Army Strong**

## Accepting the Truth. Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Bruce talks about evidences of prophecy in the Bible. **The Combat Aviation Brigade chaplain speaks from the land of Jesus' birth**

There are many evidences for the Bible - of its truth and miraculous origins. I'll just cover one: evidence from prophecy. Historians know how difficult it is to predict the future because the wheels of the future spin on so many "ifs." However, the Bible contains hundreds of prophecies which have all come to pass. No book in history has ever come close to the Bible when it comes to fulfillment of prophecy.

The prophecies in the Bible are very specific and accurate. Nostradamus made hundreds of prophecies that have apparently come true; but if you read his prophecies, you will find them to be unclear. Like the sayings of the ancient Delphic Oracle and the modern palm readers they are just vague generalities. His symbols and language can be taken to mean a number of historical events. Unlike many such prophecies, biblical prophecy is very specific. Jeane Dixon (so-called prophetess/psychic) made some clever guesses but failed to predict who would win the U.S. presidency for three different years. In 1952, 1956, and 1960 she even got the candidates wrong.

Here are some Biblical examples of accuracy. In Ezekiel 26, which was written in 587 B.C., Ezekiel prophesies that the mighty city of Tyre would be destroyed. Tyre was made up of two parts, a mainland port city and an island city half a mile off shore. Ezekiel predicted mainland Tyre would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, many nations would fight against her, the debris of the city would be thrown into the ocean, the city would never be found again, and fishermen would come there to lay their nets.



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

**Let Us Pray** Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Bruce gives the benediction during the transfer of authority ceremony between the CAB, 1 ID and the 1 ACB

In 573 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the mainland city of Tyre. Many of the refugees of the city sailed to the island and the island city of Tyre remained a powerful city. In 333 B.C., however, Alexander the Great laid siege to Tyre. Using the rubble of mainland Tyre, he built a causeway to the island city of Tyre. He then captured and completely destroyed the city.

Today, the ancient city of Tyre to this day lies buried in ruins exactly as prophesied. If we were to calculate the odds of this event happening by chance, the figures would be astronomical. No, it was not by coincidence.

There are over three hundred prophecies made of Jesus in the Old Testament. Prophecies such as His place of birth, how he would die, His rejection by the nation of Israel, and so on. All these prophecies were made hundreds of years before Jesus ever came to earth. Because of the accuracy

of the prophecies, many skeptics have believed that they must have been written after A.D. 70--after the birth and death of Jesus, and the destruction of Jerusalem. In saying this they tried to deny that they are even real prophecies.

However, in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. These scrolls contained the book of Isaiah and other prophetic books. When dated, they were found to be written from 120 to 100 B.C., well before Jesus was born. It would have been an incredible accomplishment for Jesus to have fulfilled all three hundred prophecies. Some say these prophecies were fulfilled by chance, but the odds for this would be impossibly large. They couldn't have been good guesses because they have to do with things that had no likelihood of ever coming to pass. They predicted the very opposite of the natural expectations of human beings.

## Aviation News. Army Aviation Association of America meets at Fort Worth, Texas. **UAS roadmap, full spectrum CABs hot topics at Army aviation convention**

STORY BY KELLY PATE

**FORT WORTH, Texas** - Day one of the annual Army Aviation Association of America convention in Fort Worth, Texas, opened April 15 with remarks by Quad-A president, retired Brig. Gen. Rod Wolfe, and a welcome from the host commander, Maj. Gen. William F. Grimsley, who serves as acting commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas.

Aviation Branch Chief Maj. Gen. James O. Barclay III gave opening remarks and introduced keynote speaker Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli.

Barclay gave an update on Aviation Study II, which reviewed the findings of a previous aviation study and helps chart the course for the future of the Aviation Branch.

One of the significant findings of the study is the full-spectrum combat aviation brigade design that will standardize the make-up of CABs over the next three to five years. The study recommended a modular design that delivers the maximum aviation capability in the most timely and flexible manner. The design includes unmanned aircraft systems, Barclay said.

Barclay said the proposed courses of action resulting from the study are due to the Office of the Secretary of Defense this month.

Barclay added that Army aviation is moving rapidly and continuing to meet its challenges, and he encouraged attendees to be proud of the fact that the Army supports the Army aviation community.

"This team we've put together, this (aviation) enterprise...we wouldn't be able to accomplish these things if we didn't do it with a team approach, to make things happen," he said.



U.S. Army photo

**Keynote speaker** Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli provides the media with an outlined plan for the future of Army UAS programs

Chiarelli announced the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Roadmap - the "game changer" document that serves as the way ahead for Army UAS for the next 25 years.

"We're integrating UAS into all our formations downrange...but I think the biggest thing to come out of this discussion is an opportunity to sit back and think about this idea of the full-spectrum combat aviation brigade - the ability to go ahead and integrate unmanned platforms along with manned platforms. That's the direction the Army's going," Chiarelli said.

He noted the nature of the roadmap is not budgetary or programmatic. Rather, it is a conceptual, or living document that

captures where the Army is with UAS and how the systems will fit into formations in the future.

Chiarelli called the roadmap "truly a remarkable document" that required a "herculean effort" by many of the people who listened to him speak in the convention's ballroom.

"There have been many technologies introduced during this eight-and-a-half years of war. However, I don't think any has made a greater impact than UAS. It's always important when you have a game changer like this that you step back, take some time to think about it and lay out your future. That's what we've tried to do in this very first UAS Roadmap," Chiarelli said.

# On the road again

## CAB prepared for 12-month deployment to Iraq

STORY BY JORDAN CHAPMAN  
11D PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The last time Soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division flew over the sands of Iraq they logged more than a quarter million flight hours and by doing so saw a 70 percent decrease in violence throughout a 15-month deployment, but that wasn't enough. The 'Demon' Brigade is heading back refreshed, retrained and ready for victory.

"We're deploying the best combat aviation brigade in the United States military and quite honestly, we don't take the best lightly," said Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general rear, to a hanger full of Family members, fellow Soldiers and surrounding



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

**Seat colors.** Col. Frank Muth and Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson roll up the brigade colors during the deployment ceremony



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

**Parade Rest** The CAB stands in formation, preparing to case their colors for deployment to Iraq



Photo by Sgt. First Class Jeff Troth

**Colors depart** The CAB salutes the national colors as the brigade color guard departs the hangar, concluding the deployment ceremony



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

**Round of applause** Friends and family of CAB Soldiers applaud as the brigade's deployment ceremony concludes

community leaders during the brigade's deployment ceremony March 2.

Peterson said he feels confident that he can rely on the Soldiers before him to complete their missions and to assist in ushering out Operation Iraqi Freedom and be present to ensuring Operation New Dawn begins and is moving forward come Sept. 1. At that time, OND will replace the previous OIF campaign.

"Always remember you are the best trained, best equipped and the best Soldiers on the face of the earth ... what you're doing is

taking care of your Families and giving a nation hope," Peterson said.

CAB Commander Col. Frank Muth agreed with Peterson's comments and said that though deployments aren't always easy, duty calls. Muth said he is confident that the passion he sees in his Soldiers every day will lead them to success and a safe return home.

"Standing before you are Soldiers who are committed and who will make a difference in Iraq," Muth said. Muth took responsibility of the brigade mid-

summer of 2009.

Since that time, he has capitalized on the experience that is still within the brigade as well as taken new ideas and talents from incoming Soldiers to create a team and trust that will continue brigade success and improvement.

Correlation and teamwork between the CAB Soldiers has also taken two battalions to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., to test their skills, work on their missions and continue working together to better their success upon deployment.

"The great thing is those battalions, when they deploy, they are going to take pieces of the other battalions and create task forces," Muth has said in previous interviews. "When they deploy they will take Apaches, Chinooks and Black Hawks ... and form a cohesive team and that multi-complex capability which has all aviation aspects to it. I'm proud that I get to stand in formation with these Soldiers every day."

Families of Soldiers also have been preparing for the deployment, taking time to go on vacation, go home or just spend quality time during the weeks of block leave each Soldier has received prior to this point.

Lt. Col. Christopher Prather, commander 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, said he and his Family took the time to take a Disney cruise where his son, Aidan, 5, was able to meet Mickey Mouse.

While Prather was over the ocean, Spc. Titus Richardson, also of 2-1 GSAB, and his wife Latisha spent time celebrating their son's second birthday a few weeks early so everyone could take part.

"We went to the zoo," the Richardson's said, each adding that Caden revealed his excitement for monkeys while they were there.

"He loves the monkeys," Latisha said, as she said goodbye to her husband as he prepared to leave for his 12-month deployment.



# Iraq in sight

Demon brigade arrives in Kuwait, poises for deployment to Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC ROLAND HALE

**C**lad in patrol caps, subdued flags and tactical gear, one would think these Soldiers were at war. The monotone beige sands of desert under their feet, the contrastingly bright blue sky and white sun above, covered only occasionally by an impenetrable haze of thick, brown dust – one might again think they were in Iraq. But they're not. Arriving by the hundreds every few days, they're gathering in Kuwait, staging deploy to Iraq.

After extensive preparation, planning and training, Kuwait is the last stop standing between the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and its year-long mission in Iraq. Soldiers of the CAB can't wait to "get up North".

The final staging ground for units like the CAB as they deploy to Iraq, Kuwait serves to logistically assemble units and provide combat essential training before troops enter hostile territory. The CAB is currently located on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, where Soldiers are preparing their aircraft to leave for Iraq, attending training courses and adapting to the adverse conditions of a combat tour.

About a month ago the CAB shipped its equipment and aircraft from Fort Riley, Kans., to the Middle East. Transported to Kuwait via cargo ships, the dismantled aircraft were reassembled by CAB mechanics upon arrival in Kuwait City. Completely assembled and inspected for safety, the aircraft were flown to Camp Buehring, some to help transport Soldiers to Iraq.

For the Soldiers not involved in the process of preparing the aircraft for operation, duty in

Kuwait consisted of constant training. Including courses on combat casualty care, IED warfare and vehicle rollovers, CAB Soldiers received combat essential preparation before they entered Iraq. The training did not begin, but rather culminated in Kuwait, said Sgt. Maj. Gregory Pace, the sergeant major in charge of the brigade's training and operations.

"Iraq is where the hostility is," said Pace. "We want to make sure everything works again before we get there."

In addition to the training requirements given to them by the Army, Soldiers also have a personal mission of getting adapted to the reality of a combat tour.

**'Iraq is where the hostility is. We want to make sure everything works again before we get there.'**

---Sgt. Maj. Gregory Pace,  
CAB operations sergeant major

Over four thousand miles away from wherever home may be, in a drastically different time zone with an equally opposite climate, Soldiers must begin to adapt to the conditions that they'll face over the length of their deployment. Many Soldiers have deployed before, but others must settle into a lifestyle that is unimaginable to many people.

Besides obvious changes in sleeping patterns and weather, Soldiers must get used to lacking the luxuries that they have in the United States. Without a car, cell phone, independent living quarters, private hygienic facilities or many of the luxuries that most take for granted, Soldiers must settle into a new type of lifestyle.

"Some people can't just be thrown into a huge lifestyle change like this," said Spc. Marc Borgia, a medic assigned to the CAB. "This (Kuwait) is good chance to prepare for the change before going to Iraq."

During such remarkable changes, Soldiers often look to family and friends back home for support – the

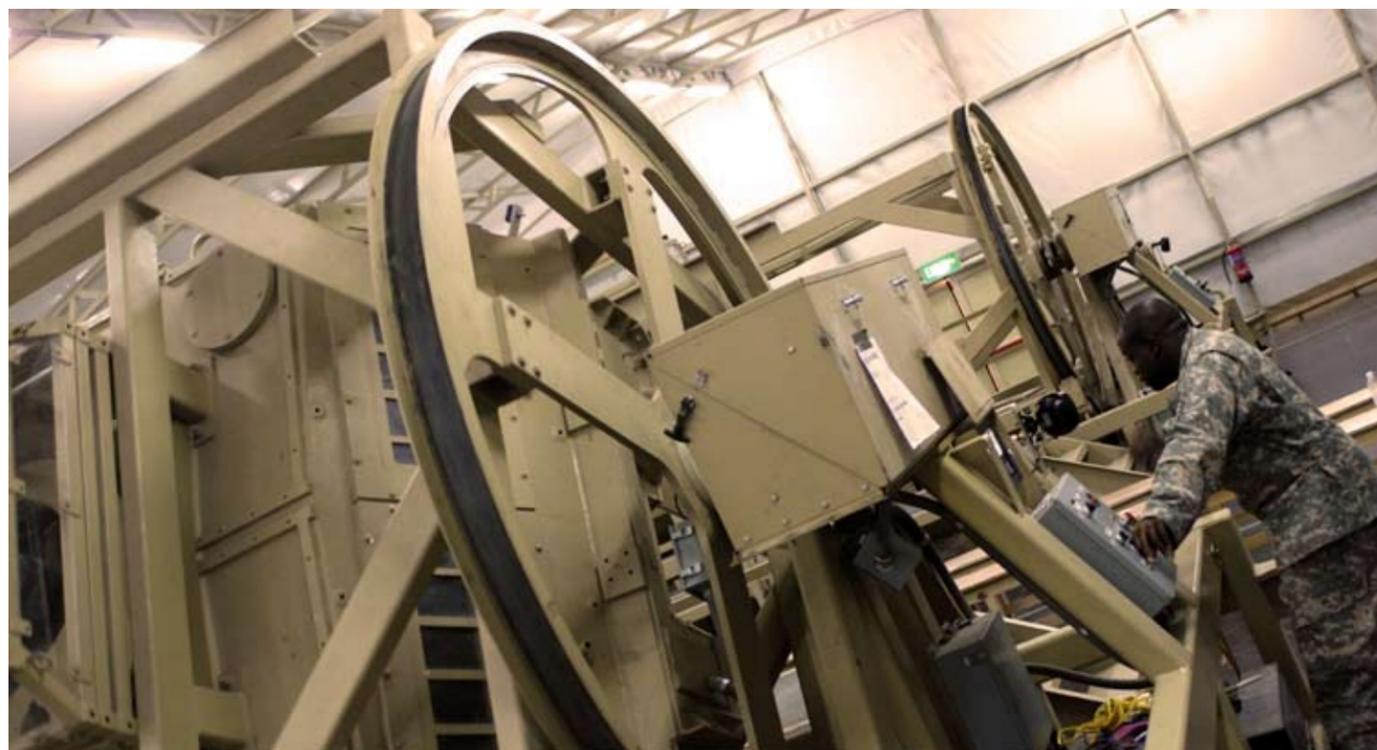
ease of which has also changed.

"It's hard not getting to talk to friends, family and significant others whenever I want," said Borgia. "Online definitely helps a lot, but sometimes you just want to hear their voices."

While the adversity and hardships of combat tours remain, many changes have been made since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Fighting now under Operation New Dawn, Soldiers have access to a good deal more facilities and resources than were available in the beginning of the conflicts.

The United Services Organization and Morale Welfare and Recreation centers, for example, provide many services to Soldiers, including access to phones, internet and games.

Heading from Camp Buehring to Camp Taji, Iraq, CAB Soldiers will face at least one more change of scenery before settling into their deployment routines – routines that can easily be changed, as the brigade conducts its diverse mission across Iraq.



**Taking a spin** A Soldier controls a machine simulating a rollover of a mine resistant armor protected vehicle while CAB Soldiers inside practice extricating themselves from the "disabled" vehicle



## CAB Soldiers learn how to protect against latest IED threats

STORY AND PHOTO BY SPC ROLAND HALE

In an ever changing battlefield, one thing has remained consistent. Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, improvised explosive devices continue to pose the biggest threat to the lives of U.S. Soldiers. However constant, this threat has evolved inside of itself. Insurgents and terrorist forces constantly develop new methods of using and disguising IEDs. To counter this, the Army and other coalition forces continue to develop ways to defeat the IED threat in Iraq. Before arriving in country, U.S. forces are briefed on the most recent updates to the world of IED warfare.

Two hundred Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division completed counter IED training on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, March 17. As the brigade steadily gathers in Kuwait, Soldiers must complete this and other types of training before continuing to Iraq.

Instructed by military contractors and combat Soldiers who recently returned from deployment in Iraq, the CAB Soldiers learned about today's IED threats in two separate classes. First, Soldiers received briefings on the most current methods of IED attacks, including their type, time, location and frequency. Second, the CAB Soldiers attended a class instructing them on the most effective counter IED strategies and how to operate specialized equipment that can the risk of attack.

Up to thousands of Soldiers may attend this course a week, said class instructor Staff Sgt. Wilbert McLemore. All Soldiers, regardless of their personal or unit mission is mandated and provided the same training, he said. Although most Soldiers in an aviation unit such as the CAB are less likely to encounter IEDs than traditional combat troops, both the instructors and the CAB Soldiers stressed the importance of the training.

"Complacency is the biggest

thing. Not going out of the wire all the time, it's easy to forget to pay attention to detail (IED threat)," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Ordner, Company E., 1<sup>st</sup> Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment, CAB. "This saves lives. We've got to make sure we stay up to date on the tactics used against us."

Like many of the CAB's Soldiers, Ordner has deployed before and seen the reality of IED threats in Iraq. On the other hand, this is the first combat rotation for many CAB Soldiers.

"It makes me nervous, but also secure, knowing about all the technologies we have to protect us," said Pvt. Sierra Allega, an ammunition specialist, also with Co. E, 1-1 ARB.

Given the best possible education on the real time dangers of IEDs in their area of operation, the CAB will deploy to Iraq, its mission unchanged. From the skies, the CAB aircraft will support Iraqi, U.S. and coalition ground forces. Now with an intimate understanding of current IED warfare, the CAB will do its part to combat these threats from the sky.

# Combat care

CAB conducts combat essential medical training in Kuwait

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC ROLAND HALE

**In the moment** CAB Soldiers rush to treat their “casualty” during combat casualty care training on Camp Buehring. Soldiers used life-like dummies that breathed, bled and gave a pulse during the practical exercises of the course

A tantrum of gunfire, screams and incoming artillery rounds fills a pitch black room – a room lit only by the spastic pulsations of strobe lights catching the gloss of shiny, red blood as it creeps slowly from lifeless bodies strewn across the dusty, cold floor. Panic fills the room.

This was not your typical first aid training.

Soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division attended combat casualty care training on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, a segment of the mandatory training required of Soldiers in Kuwait prior to final deployment to Iraq.

The medical training serves as a refresher of combat life saving skills that Soldiers hope to never have to use.

The one day course is taught by civilian contractors from Computer Sciences Corporation, the same corporation that contracts mechanics to aid the CAB’s helicopter maintainers on Fort Riley.

“This is a one stop, last stop shop prior to Soldiers’ deployment to Iraq,” said James Bowles, a CSC instructor.

The course covers the basics of

combat life saving, such as proper application of battlefield dressings and tourniquets.

Although the course is not as in depth as the official 40-hour combat life saving classes that are offered in garrison, the course in Kuwait still offers a lot to students, said Bowles.

What the course lacks in length is made up in its realistic, practical exercises. After the classroom

**The train up** Instructor James Bowles teaches CAB Soldiers the basics of applying field dressings under sever circumstances during combat casualty care training on Camp Buehring

segment of the training, Soldiers practice their skills on dummies. Hooked up to hoses pumping air and a substance resembling blood in to their bodies, these dummies bleed and breathe.

“That breathing made it extremely realistic, you could even feel the breath out of the mouth,” said Pvt. Bryan Halley, 601<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, CAB.

“If you weren’t in the right area, the dummy would stop breathing. If you put the tourniquet on the wrong area it would keep bleeding.”

The instructors and unit medics assisting the training made sure that it wasn’t as simple as putting the tourniquet in the right area, however. Sound effects of battle blared over a surround-sound

stereo system as strobe lights flashed, providing minimal light. Many Soldiers resorted to holding flashlights between their teeth to properly see the dummies’ wounds.

Crouched over the injured dummies, Soldiers were required to keep accountability of their weapons and provide security of the area while treating the casualty.

“It’s designed to be stressful,” said Bowles. “We try to make it the most realistic, worst-case scenario.”

CAB Soldiers cycle through the training in large groups.

While each unit has professionally trained medical personnel, the crash course in medical care helps Soldiers prepare for the worst case scenarios that they hope to avoid.

# Flying into history

## CAB flies first UH-60M helicopters in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY SPC ROLAND HALE

There is something foreign to the skies of Iraq flying above Camp Taji. As the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division replaces the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, they bring with them a battalion of one of the Army's newest helicopters, the UH-60M Black Hawk. The CAB is the second active duty unit to receive the UH-60M and the first to use the aircraft in Iraq.

This new model of Black Hawk was first used by the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Receiving the aircraft Nov. 7, 2009, the unit used the aircraft during a deployment to Afghanistan. The CAB became second to receive a shipment of the aircraft April 21, 2009. On March 30, two crews from the CAB's 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment made the M-model's pioneer flight into Iraq, with the rest of the battalion's fleet close behind.

"There's a lot of first times for a lot of things in this war. It's really cool to be a part of one of those times," said Spc. Corey Corr, a crew-chief from 3-1 AHB who was aboard one of the two first UH-60Ms to cross into Iraq. "It was a pretty smooth flight. As we started getting close the berm crossing into Iraq, the aircraft pulled up side by side, so that one wasn't going in before the other."

Many crew-chiefs like Corr are enthusiastic about the aircraft's new features. One of the biggest changes impacting the crew-chiefs is the M-models' moveable crew seats, said Corr.

"It's changed a lot. I can now move my seat three different ways. On the L-model it was a fixed



**Touch Down** One of the CAB's UH-60Ms comes to a stop in its new parking spot on Camp Taji

position seat. It provides us the ability to scan and do our job a lot better," said Corr.

The most notable improvements introduced to the UH-60M are not the crew seats, however. The new "glass-cockpit" features four multi-function displays, an autopilot system, two electronic flight management systems, dual navigation systems, a digital moving map and an integrated vehicle health management system. Mechanically, the M-models new blades offer 500 lbs. more lift than previous models, and it has a strengthened fuselage and infrared suppression. The UH-60M is what many 3-1 pilots call the Cadillac of the sky.

"The M-model made it a smooth flight in (to Iraq)," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Randy Hendrix, a pilot with 3-1. "The moving map display is a huge plus for us. We didn't have to fumble with a paper map up in the cockpit. It really increases situational awareness; right there on the screen you look down and see where you're at as well as other aircraft and units."

3-1's pilots are among the first Army pilots to work with these systems. Operating them throughout the CAB's year-long deployment, they will pave the way for future pilots of the UH-60M. A tour in Iraq will bring the challenges of extremely hot and sandy conditions, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jesse Lee, who also flew one of the first aircraft into Iraq. Communicating with their peers who used the M-model in Afghanistan, CAB pilots will continue to break new ground as they fly the new aircraft in an inclement environment. While CAB pilots can refer to lessons learned by the pilots of the 159th CAB, operation in Iraq poses major differences than operation in Afghanistan, such as terrain, heat and elevation.

Despite the addition of this new aircraft, 3-1's mission remains unchanged. Along with the CAB's four other battalions, 3-1's UH-60Ms will conduct full spectrum aviation operations from the skies of Iraq in support of U.S. and Iraqi ground forces.

# Fire Fight

## 1-6 CAV trains with fire department

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC ROLAND HALE

It's routine to see aircraft and Soldiers on the flight-line at Camp Taji. It's not routine to see the flashing lights of fire trucks as men in flame-retardant outfits scramble towards an aircraft. To keep it this way, however, several fire-trucks from the Camp Taji fire department rushed onto the airfield to respond to a mock helicopter fire.

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade and Camp Taji firefighters practiced an emergency aircraft fire-drill, April 6. The firefighters responded to a simulated electrical fire on one of the squadron's OH-58D Kiowa Warriors. Surrounding the aircraft as it sat "burning" on Camp Taji's flight-line, the firefighters practiced neutralizing the fire and rescuing the pilots.

Camp Taji firefighters routinely practice such fire-drills on other types of military helicopters, yet this is their first experience with the Kiowa, an aircraft that has not been at Camp Taji for quite a while. A compact, dual-seated observation helicopter, the Kiowa presents the



**Open House** Crews of the Camp Taji fire department surround a Kiowa Warrior as Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sheldon Gresham explains the aircraft's systems

fire crews with different challenges than any other aircraft.

"It's a lot smaller than a Black Hawk or a Chinook. It can be a lot tougher to get the pilots out and shut down the systems," said firefighter Kevin Wichel after conducting the training. "It's good to get the training now."

The crews will continue train over the length of the CAB's deployment, conducting an aircraft fire-drill at least once a month. Throughout the training, 1-6 CAV pilots will also continue to train the firefighters on the systems of the Kiowa, helping them learn the procedures that could possibly save

their lives.

"We teach them about our helicopter, how to get us out safely and how to shut down the systems in a timely manner," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sheldon Gresham, Troop C, 1-6. "I was able to talk to them and show them the ins and outs of the air-frame."

Continuing to learn about the aircraft and how to manage it, the fire department will have the skills to act in case of an emergency like the one simulated April 6. Over the last year, however, there have been no aircraft related fires on Camp Taji – a record CAB pilots aim to continue.



**Fire-drill** Kiowas taxi down Camp Taji airfield after conducting a fire drill with the Camp Taji fire department

# Demons at controls

## CAB takes command on Camp Taji, Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC ROLAND HALE AND SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF TROTH

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division began its RIP (relief in place) process on Camp Taji April 3, replacing the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Over the next two weeks, the incumbent brigade will assist the CAB as they prepare to assume control of the skies over central and western Iraq.

The CAB is projected to be deployed to Camp Taji for twelve months, during which they will spread their operations over a larger area of Iraq. The 1st ACB is returning to Fort Hood, Texas after a year-long deployment.

During the first half of the RIP process, CAB personnel assume a passive role in order to observe how the 1st ACB has operated over the last year. Some of the existing procedures will be adopted; others will be changed to suit the CAB's own operating procedures. Over the course of the process, the controls of the operations are steadily shifted to the hands of the CAB. From higher headquarters to individual company, each element

of the transitioning units has a RIP process.

"In essence we're exchanging techniques and procedures that we've used here in theater," said Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB. "We talk through our battle rhythms – what we do on a day to day basis -- how it contributes to the fight and we pass that on to the CAB."

The CAB pilots also take a hands on approach to the RIP process, flying joint missions with 1st ACB pilots to familiarize themselves with the area. On the ground side,



**Proud colors** Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson and Col. Frank Muth unfurl the brigade colors during a transfer of authority ceremony on Camp Taji

Soldiers working logistics, legal, finance, communication and other types of duties learn the process of doing their jobs at Camp Taji.

Dalcourt and the 1-227th ARB are being replaced by the CAB's 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, a transition that exemplifies differences between the brigades. The 1-6 CAV is equipped with a fleet of OH-58D Kiowa Warriors, whereas the 1-227 operates AH-64 Apaches. Despite these differences, the overall mission of the CAB in Iraq will remain the same, said Maj. Braum Barton, CAB operations officer.

"We'll change how we operate, but we'll still be doing full spectrum aviation operations as far as reconnaissance, aerial security, air assaults," said Barton.

Barton and other senior leaders in the CAB began preparing for the transition earlier this year.

"A lot of this started with our predeployment site survey, where we met with our counterparts to start laying the ground work," said Barton. Several seniors from the CAB traveled to Camp Taji



**The scene** (Left) The CAB color guard, colors flying, stands next to the 1 ACB color guard, whose colors were cased during the TOA ceremony. (Middle) Brigade Commander Col. Frank Muth makes his remarks during the TOA ceremony. (Right) An interpreter bows his head in prayer during the ceremony - to his right, an Iraqi officer wears the Big Red One patch as a symbol of partnership between the Iraqi air force and the CAB



this January to participate in the predeployment site survey.

Likewise, seniors from the 1st ACB traveled to the states to offer guidance to the incoming brigade during their main predeployment exercise.

While Soldiers of the 1st ACB can't wait to get home, they won't forget the goals they've been working for over the last year.

"It feels good (going home) but we've got mixed feelings, too. We've invested a whole lot here," said Dalcourt. "I hope that the CAB can carry on the partnership with the Iraqi air force, which is absolutely critical in keeping the Iraqi military as a whole moving forward."

Under an unusually blue Iraqi sky, the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, took control of the skies of central and western Iraq during a transfer of authority ceremony between the CAB and the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, April 15.

The ceremony marked an end to the 1ACB's year-long tour in

Iraq. A year marked with many missions, but all of them had one thing in common.

"A simple equation we tried to apply to all our operations – including our operations with our Iraqi air force brothers – mutual trust plus personal relationships equals quality AGI (air ground integration)," said Col. Douglas M. Gabram, 1ACB commander, before he headed back home to Fort Hood, Texas.

The CAB, which recently arrived in country from Fort Riley, Kans., will use this equation during their time here. This is the CAB's second tour to Iraq, completing a 15-month deployment in December 2008. Although a deployment is nothing new to the CAB, the operation the will be supporting is.

"We are humble Soldiers from Kansas with a mighty task ahead of us," said Col. Frank M. Muth, CAB commander. "We are trained and ready to accomplish whatever is required of us in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn."

On Sept. 1, the CAB will be on hand to usher in a new operation in Iraq. Although Operation New Dawn will change the role of U.S. ground forces to assistance and

support, the CAB's mission will remain the same – support ground forces.

The CAB, also known as the Demon Brigade, is a full spectrum aviation unit whose mission is to support the Iraqi government's ongoing efforts to improve internal security, economic growth and infrastructure development. The CAB does this by providing air coverage to safeguard ground troops as well as the Iraqi people.

"As a unit we will fulfill our mission by maintaining the highest of standards and discipline," said Muth. "As a family we will take care of each other with compassion, engaged leadership and Demon resilience."

"I truly can't think of a more capable combat leader and team to assume this changing mission than Frank Muth and the Demon Brigade," said Gabram. "They will absolutely excel."

By the end of the CAB's deployment in 2011, they will gain two more aviation battalions and have command of all of the Iraqi airspace.

"The training and speeches are over," said Muth to his Soldiers. "Take charge, lead and execute your assigned mission."

# CAB CANDIDS

**SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES SAY GOODBYE ON FORT RILEY**



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

# Al Taji



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

## Republican Guard base, now home to Demons

Al Taji airfield lies north of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle. In the early 1980s the base was originally an Iraqi Republican Guard. Saddam Hussein's top soldiers not only lived on Al Taji, but helped to guard the Iraqi military war machine complex located on the base.

The base was once the center for the manufacture of chemical weapons. The United Nations Special Commission found 6,000 empty canisters designed to be filled with chemical weapons for use in 122 mm rockets.

Before the Gulf War, the Al Taji complex also repaired SCUD missiles and tanks. The factory had doubled in size by 1985, and included a forge capable of producing 1000 artillery barrels per year and armor maintenance and refit plants for the T-54, T-55, and T-62 tanks in the Iraqi inventory.

The complex also included facilities for assembly of the T-72, and would eventually build armor and tank bodies. Iraq did import T-72 kits, which were intended to lead to a transition to production. In 1993, they resumed production of the T-72, assembling tanks from kits bought before the war.

Iraq's military also used the Al Taji factory complex as the primary location for Iraq's indigenous long-range missile program. Activities included Air Frame design, construction and modification, and liquid fuel rocket engine development and production. The UNSCOM teams destroyed prohibited missiles, support systems, development and construction equipment and specialized tools and dies.

Plans were found for a 1,000 machine centrifuge cascade at Taji. Based on performance achieved by the Iraqis with their prototype centrifuge, experts had estimated the potential output of the centrifuge of about 10 kilograms of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium annually.

Because of these facilities, Al Taji was a main target for bombing runs during Desert Storm in 1991.

On the last night of Desert Storm, a pair of F-111F Pave Tack Equipped aircraft based at Taji Air Base in Saudi, carried newly developed GBU-28 Penetrator Bombs to attack the Command Bunkers at Al Taji. This was one of three bunker systems utilized by Saddam Hussein during the war.

In 1998, Al Taji was bombed again during Desert Fox air strikes, with 13 different targets being hit.

The base came under U.S. control during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, known as Operation Iraqi Freedom. By the end of the year, U.S. forces used Al Taji as a vetting location for Iraqis who were being considered to be officers in the new Iraqi army through the Jordan Training Initiative.

Army engineers began work on 6 camps in Iraq improving the infrastructure for U.S. forces; Al Taji was one of them, which became known as "enduring camps."

The former Iraqi air force base renamed Camp Cooke on March 23, 2004, in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke, 1st Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major, who was killed Dec. 24 during a combat patrol in Baghdad when his vehicle

struck an improvised explosive device.

In Sept. of 2004, Camp Cooke was officially renamed Camp Taji. The camp became a joint base with the Americans living and working on one side of the 5,500 foot long runway, while the Iraqis are on the other side. Between the two sides is the "bone yard." A grave site for Hussein's war machine. Tanks and other military machines have found their final resting place where many were built.

The Iraqi side of the camp is home to the Taji Training Center which trains new Iraqi military recruits. When the center opened U.S. Soldiers were in charge of the training, but that responsibility has been handed over to Iraqi soldiers.

In order to help foster relations between the two forces U.S. Corps of Engineers made improvements to the Iraqi side of the camp. This includes the renovation of two health clinics and a 500-seat theater that was destroyed at the beginning of OIF. The theater is used for entertainment purposes as well as for ceremonies and training purposes.

On the Iraqi side of Camp Taji is the Al Taji Prison which housed those arrested on warrants, detention orders and convicted prisoners. The U.S. military ran the facility until March 15, 2010, when they transferred security responsibilities to the Iraqi Ministry of Justice. This was the last detention facility handed over to the Iraqi authorities.

Soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade will now help write another chapter in Camp Taji chapter. From this camp they will fly full spectrum aviation operations throughout Iraq to protect the local population, sustain security and support to counterterrorism operations and Iraq's transformation to an enduring strategic partner.



Photo by Sgt. First Class Jeff Troth

**Regime remnants** A tank from Saddam Hussein's army finds a final resting place at the Camp Taji Boneyard

IMBA AVIATION BRIGADE  
FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION  
LYING THE FIGHTING

