

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2009-2010

SENTINELS

VOL I, ISSUE I

49th Military Police Brigade

OCT 31, 2009

Promoting PARTNERSHIP



49th encourages unity throughout brigade



336TH
Military Police
Battalion



93RD
Military Police
Battalion



607TH
Military Police
Battalion



203RD
Military Police
Battalion



151ST
Military Police
Battalion

Our plan: Partnership

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th MP Brigade Commander

It's an honor and a privilege for me to command the 49th Military Police Brigade during its second tour in Iraq. Over the past several months, Soldiers of the 8th MP Brigade worked hard to lay the groundwork for our success, and I plan to build on their efforts as we bring to a conclusion our police-training mission.

The country of Iraq has changed drastically since the brigade left in 2006, and it's evolved right before the eyes of many of our Soldiers after the transition on June 30.

These are exciting times for members of our brigade; we are watching – and participating – in the shaping of a nation and history itself.

Iraq is a sovereign country - its people don't need our help with "transition." Our focus, instead, should be on partnership, and reaching our goal of establishing a competent Iraqi Police.

We must remember our role is one of support, but the lead belongs to the Iraqi government and people. We are here to build up, encourage, advise and respond. I know our Soldiers and Airmen are capable, and will carry out this shift in approach seamlessly. This is a positive change, one that indicates progress on the part of the Iraqi leadership, and offers hope for a prosperous and stable Iraq. It is our privilege to take part in this transformation, and it is my intent that we complete our work here with honor and distinction.

We will face tremendous operational challenges over the next few months. I have no doubt our units in the field will overcome these obstacles; I never cease to be amazed by the ingenuity of our Soldiers and the initiative of our leaders when given a mission.

It is my privilege to serve as your brigade commander, and I look forward to leading and working with you all.



Currier: Leadership, the key to overcoming challenges

As brigade commander, my most pressing concerns center on the challenges facing our leadership. Leaders, we will be challenged and tested daily during this deployment, constantly pushed to the limits of our ability and endurance. At every echelon of this Brigade, we must deliver the leadership our subordinates deserve.

It is imperative we set a command climate for our Soldiers that is both strong and sober - we must always place the mission first, but not at the expense of our core val-

"The line that separates officer and enlisted ... is not a line that suggests one Soldier is better or less important than the other."

ues. It's this balance of integrity and industriousness we need to instill in our Soldiers.

Those who have worked with me for any length of time understand there are a handful of themes and principles central to my command approach.

I demand all Soldiers be treated with

respect and dignity – respect is an Army Value. Therefore, I have a zero-tolerance policy toward inappropriate relationships. Such relationships most often involve a leader taking advantage of a subordinate, and always involve disrespect for another Soldier. The need to address this issue has

already occurred within our ranks, and, if I am to be realistic, I can expect to face this subject again. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you echo my intolerance for fraternization, or any other relationship that might hinder the effectiveness, morale and well-being of our Soldiers.

The line that separates officer and enlisted, supervisor and subordinate, married and single, is not a line that suggests one Soldier is better or less important than another.

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Video Contest

The second annual Peer to Peer Video Contest, sponsored by the US Army Combat Readiness Safety Center, has begun. The Army wide competition encourages Soldiers to create safety videos. Winners will receive up to \$2,000. For more information, log onto: <https://safety.army.mil/peertopeer>

Hall of Fame

Nominations are open for the annual Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Deadline is Dec. 31. The intent is to honor OCS graduates who have distinguished themselves in their military or civilian careers. More information is available at: www.infantry.army.mil/ocs

Veterans Affairs

The US Department of Veterans Affairs encourages deployed servicemembers to see what benefits are available to them. Potential VA benefits include educational assistance, health care, home buying assistance and disability compensation. Log onto: www.va.gov

Say it Loud

"It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to demonstrate. It is the Soldier who salutes the flag; who serves beneath it."

Wild Guesses

1. Give me food and I will live. Give me water and I will die. What am I?
2. Whoever makes it, tells it not. Whoever takes it, knows it not. Whoever knows it, wants it not. What is it? (Answers below)

1. Fire. 2. Counterfeit money

SENTINELS

COMMANDER, 49th MP BDE
Brig. Gen. Donald Currier

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, 49th MP BDE
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, 49th MP BDE
1st Lt. William Marquez

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC
Sgt. Kenneth Bince

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
Spc. Eddie Siguenza

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Unit Public Affairs Representatives

SENTINELS is the product of the 49th Military Police Brigade for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2009-2010. It is produced for personnel of the 49th MP BDE and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of SENTINELS are not necessarily the official views of the US government, the Department of the Army, or any part of Multinational Forces, Iraq.

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Iraqi Police train under the watchful eyes of Alabama's 217th Military Police Company and civilian instructors at Camp Liberty at the Police Center of Excellence.

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Back to School

The 810th Military Police Company distributed school supplies, toys and candy to an all-girls youth school in Basra. The meeting with children left a lasting impression on the Soldiers.

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Into explosives

Air Force and Iraqi civilian explosives teams got together with the 206th Military Police Company to detonate a cache of explosives. The 206th got important on-hands training.

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Ready for football?

November is the heart of football season. See what key college matchups are lined up. Also, the 336th Military Police Battalion will go head-to-head with the defending Super Bowl champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers Nov. 20.



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The US Veterans Affairs Office speaks out on its annual holiday that is always honored on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.



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Friendly Fire

Too many cases of negligent discharges are happening. One cause is complacency. Soldiers are to be reminded of clearing weapons before acting.



Welcome to all our leaders

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles
49th MP Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Welcome Soldiers, NCOs and officers of the 49th Military Police Brigade. Since this is the first letter to all, I have a desire to speak about several issues that pertain to us as a whole. I would like to first and foremost officially welcome you to Iraq. Many of you were here before and some of you were here multiple times. Regardless of your tours here and abroad, I would like to express the following thoughts not just as my own but as those expressed from the 1st Cavalry Division command sergeant major, Multinational Corps command sergeant major and the Multinational Force command sergeant major.

KEEP THE FORCE BUSY. As we execute the responsible drawdown, Soldiers have reasonable time off and the ability to become complacent. This is when Soldiers become creative and place themselves in compromising positions. I would like to personally challenge every noncommissioned officer to fill the Soldiers time with individual and collective tasks during the regular duty day.

During off-duty time, I would hope that we are embracing quality physical

training and group functions that enhance and build the team. There is no reason to pass on PT. All of us can use a little more time at the gym and some of us can use a lot more time at the gym. Push away from the deserts and take vegetables. Consider the South Beach Diet or the Adkins Diet.

For those of you that are tired of these diets, out Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Peter Cross, has mastered the P-90X exercise diet and workout routine. His efforts have started a craze here in our Headquarters and Headquarters Company. If you want a challenge, this is it!

EDUCATION. The commanding general is a strong supporter of higher learning! We have a multitude of educational programs here on post and on the internet. I challenge every Soldier and NCO to expand their current level of knowledge and open as many doors to your future as possible. Visit your post educational advisor for classes that are available to you! For those who are considering a career as an officer, this is the ticket. Remember, you must have a bachelor's degree if you are considering becoming a commissioned officer.

ETHICS. This is a core value and I would like to share a frightening fact. Here in this theater we are having a serious rash of inappropriate relationships. Command teams publish, train and attempt to reinforce the Army's command policy and we are still having a growing problem.

I encourage all Soldiers to revisit this policy and live by it. I also ask that we all

live the Soldiers Creed and the NCO Creed. Both documents are not simply creeds that are printed on paper and pushed into a desk or hung on a wall. They are documents of honor, respect, pride, integrity, self empowerment, dignity and loyalty.

SAFETY. Now I hope this will draw some real attention. SAFETY!! During a visit with the Corps command sergeant major, I was alarmed to hear that someone had made a poor choice to discard seven fragmentation grenades in a trash can that just happened to be a burn barrel. Yes, you heard me correctly. I hope this disturbs you as much as it does every command sergeant major in theater. Not only could this have turned into a major disaster, but how did it happen in the first place? NCOs, **Hold The Line.** Simple accountability is our business. If it takes another five minutes to do the right thing, please get involved and make it happen.

Safety does not stop there. Reinforce the battle buddy mindset every day. As simple as it sounds we can do better. Do the right thing and tell your buddy, "hey, wait one second and let me go with you." It's the least we can do for each other. Mission First, Soldiers Always. Hooah.

MENTORSHIP. Every Soldier and NCO should expect this. Counselings are mandated by policy and we cannot improve if we do not know that we are deficient in a specific area. Embrace counselings and grow from them. All Soldiers should expect counseling. If you are not getting it, confront your NCO. In writing this, you might think that all

sounds good. However, I just confronted the commanding general not 20 minutes ago and scheduled a time for my next counseling.

NEGLIGENT DISCHARGES. Wow, where do I start? Soldiers and NCOs: At all levels I really need your full support and diligence on this one! For those who are either departing theater or are about to depart, I really need you to slow down and ensure that we are doing all of our pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections.

I also need every vehicle commander to stop, think and act on your clearing barrel procedures. I can't afford one Soldier to be injured or worse! Every Soldier is priceless and worth their weight in gold to me. Please **Hold The Line** on this one, be heavy handed and keep the force safe. For those of us new to theater, I ask the same.

I have made several trips to the CASH and visited Soldiers for various reasons. I hope I never have to visit a Soldier as a victim of an accidental or negligent discharge. Again, I ask for your complete support and diligence.

I hope that my column is the only column that you are interested in reading, but I know this is probably not the case. What I do ask is that you have a safe and prosperous tour, return to your family and stateside unit better than you came in. I am extremely proud of each and every one of you! As I make my rounds, I hope that you come up to me and introduce yourself. If you have concerns, please feel free to speak to me. See you on the battle field.

49th Brigade Heroes for October

563rd Military Police Company, New York

SPC JOHN NASTVOGEL

SPC Nastvogel is assigned as the Alpha team driver for second platoon. He has performed his duties with exceptional proficiency. He ensures his squad leader's truck is always well prepared. He is always willing to assist other Soldiers. SPC Nastvogel has maintained the APFT badge, scoring a 300 despite a rigorous combat environment. He has completed the 40-hour MRAP and Caiman courses. SPC Nastvogel has recently taken the F.A.S.T. class and improved his G.T. score by 10 points. He has been recognized by his peers as a true team player. He is constantly seen teaching and mentoring junior Soldiers on the Unit's mission, regardless of their duty position. He has become the 'go to guy' for pre-mission briefings and rehearsals.



551st Military Police Company, Kentucky

PFC HARLEY WHEELER

Pfc. Wheeler distinguished himself by taking the initiative in teaching and coaching his peers and NCO's on the operation, maintenance, and serviceability of the Mobile Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (MVACIS) and the Rail Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (RVACIS) scanning devices at Entry Control Point Six. By completing the week long certification, he was able to conduct 10-level maintenance on the MVACIS/RVACIS machines finding and correcting faults while coordinating for a contractor to correct the systems defaults. Because of his technical proficiency on vital pieces of equipment, PFC Wheeler directly impacted the SECFOR mission at his ECP by contributing to the safety of not only his peers, leaders, and coalition forces but the safety of the Iraqi Army and the civilian personnel who enter the International Zone.



810th Military Police Company, Florida

SPC EDWARD LEVINE

SPC Levine has been an asset to his squad the entire deployment. He has willingly shared his knowledge and past deployment experiences to inform and encourage soldiers. He takes his role very seriously and understands the importance of his mission. SPC Levine knows his assigned weapons inside and out. He keeps up with preventative maintenance of all his equipment at all times without being told to do so. SPC Levine continually follows orders without hesitation or complaint and volunteers to fill in as needed. To this regard, his increasingly positive attitude in the last few months has boosted the morale of others in the unit. His continued motivation and dedication to mission are an example for other Crusaders to follow.



HEROES OF THE MONTH is a program led by the 49th Military Police Brigade command sergeant major. All units are encouraged to nominate a particular Soldier for his/her outstanding accomplishment, sacrifice and dedication to duty. Contact your chain of command for further information.



New command, same partnership

49th succeeds 8th MP Brigade on Oct. 12

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, IRAQ -- The 49th Military Police Brigade has the handoff. Its offense is officially on the Iraqi field.

The time has arrived for the 49th to put its team into action after the 8th Military Police Brigade handed over its responsibilities Oct. 12 during a Transfer of Authority here. The 8th encased its guidon while the 49th revealed its green and gold colors, signifying the change of the guard.

"Welcome to the team," said Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, deputy commanding general for Iraqi Security Forces. "You and your leaders are taking charge with incredible momentum behind you. You are the right organization to take the handoff and hit the line at full speed."

The California Army National Guard unit succeeds the 8th, an active duty unit from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. It assumes operation of four battalions comprised of close to 4,800 Soldiers.

"Four years ago, the 49th unified Iraqi Police training throughout all regions of Iraq. We played a decisive role in establishing the Police Transition Team (PTT)," Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th commander, said. "It is likely we will bring that mission to a close in Iraq. It is our duty, then, to close this chapter with honor and integrity. It is a duty of which I know we are capable."

It's been more than a week since the 49th arrived here. It has been transitioning with the 8th to make a smooth handoff.

Each command section, ranging from personnel to special staff, shared knowledge

of the current operation. Now the 49th will implement its methods to assure its overall mission is met.

"To our Iraqi guest, be assured you are gaining a true, tried and proven leader, one that is no stranger to this land," Col. Byron A. Freeman, 8th commander, told the crowd that included Iraqi dignitaries. "I pray on behalf of all the (8th brigade Soldiers) that you, and most importantly your families and friends, will receive many blessings as we have during your time here in Iraq. Bring everyone home safely."

Freeman called for a moment of silence to honor 11 servicemembers who died within the past year. They died with honor, he said. They died trying to make a difference.

"The 8th has done more than what was needed. While all of them gave some, sadly, some gave all," Maj Gen. Aylward added.

This is the 49th's second deployment in three years. From 2005-2006 it commanded three battalions and focused on PTT missions. Thousands of Soldiers trained Iraqi Police in villages, towns and cities in various regions. The 49th spent its first tour establishing the training, support and reporting system to validate Iraqi Police as a professional and capable police force.

"There will still be the presence of military police in Iraq, but not at this level. This is absolutely the final chapter. I would say we'll be turning out the lights on MP mis-

sions in Iraq," said Col. Grace Edinboro, 49th deputy commander.

This time, the 49th's role of will be one partnership. Iraqi Security Forces are taking the lead on all combat and police missions. Iraqis take the lead while Soldiers observe, advise and report; and whenever possible, give Iraqi Police credit for what they do.

"We are in Iraq during a time when that nation is at a crossroads," Currier said. "If we do our job well by assisting the Iraqi



US Army photos/SGT Ken Bince

Soldiers from different units served as the color guard during the Oct. 12 Transfer of Authority. The 49th Military Police Brigade succeeded the 8th MP Brigade.

Also, dignitaries from the Iraqi Police show their support for the incoming brigade with their presence.

At left, Brig. Gen. Donald Currier (left) presents a gift to out-going commander of the 8th MP BDE, Col. Byron Freeman.

government in building credibility with the populace, we may be able to influence the outcome of the entire conflict."

More than half of the 49th Soldiers have already deployed overseas. This is Currier's fifth mobilization and second to Iraq with this unit.

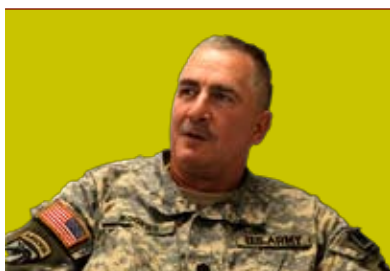
The 49th is California's only military police brigade. The unit was recently awarded the Governor's Outstanding Unit Citation, designated by a yellow streamer with thin blue stripes that is attached to the unit's guidon.

Based in Fairfield, Calif., the unit's previous mobilizations include the 1992 Los Angeles riots and their 2005-2006 tour in Iraq.



SPECIAL STAFF

The 49th MP BDE assembled a reliable team to help with specific matters throughout the brigade. Feel free to contact the following in their respective duties:



**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
ADVISOR**

LT. COL. PAUL ROGERS

Lt. Col. Rogers' responsibility is to assure everyone is treated fairly according to law. He will do everything he can to resolve issues at the lowest level. But bear in mind: Discrimination will not be tolerated.

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SPIR 242-7104

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INSPECTOR GENERAL

**CAPT. FRANCISCO
FLORES**

Problem solving is Capt. Flores' role. He will deal with your complaints as long as they have been properly addressed. He can only resolve cases on the basis of fact. You have the right to speak to him without fear of reprisal.

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SPIR

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CHAPLAIN

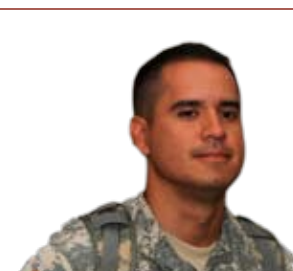
**LT. COL. DANIEL
VIVEROS**

Trials and tribulations come with every deployment. Often, the cure is spiritual guidance. Chaplain Viveros is a source in which to confide. He opens his door and offers his friendship to those who need just that: A friend or brother. You can talk to him confidentially.

NPIR 847-3014

SPIR 242-4688

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER**

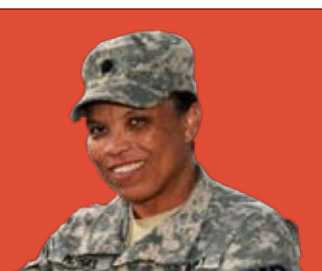
**1ST LT. WILLIAM
MARQUEZ**

1st Lt. Marquez helps the brigade tell the story of the Soldier to the public. He will assist in informing national, international and internal media of the hard work and sacrifices our Soldiers perform. Everyone has a unique story. What's yours?

NPIR 847-2814

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**SEXUAL ASSAULT
RESPONSE COORDINATOR**

**LT. COL. BARBARA
MCPhAIL**

Sexual assault is a severe crime and has no place in this brigade. If you are or have been a victim, please contact Lt. Col. McPhail. You will get an immediate response. Step forward because help is available.

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NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE

When a Soldier experiences negligent discharge, it's a breakdown in weapons handling discipline. Failure to properly clear a weapon puts everyone at risk of personal injury or death.

**Preventing a negligent discharge
is everyone's business.**

THINK SAFE AROUND ALL WEAPONS



Meetings of minds

By 1ST LT. WILLIAM MARQUEZ
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- While on an Oct. 25 mission to Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher, Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, spoke to an audience that included the Command and Staff of the 607th Military Police Battalion headquarters company, the company commanders of the 607th, and many of the leaders from the 317th Military Police Battalion headquarters company.

Gen. Currier focused most of his remarks on the importance of building relationships with higher headquarters and adjacent units, and the progress of the Iraqi Police and the Police Transition Team (PTT) mission.

"Our job is to support maneuver units. We need to build strong relationships and get along with the units we support," Gen. Currier said. "We are enablers for maneuver units."

However, he also made it clear that he wanted his units to do those missions that only MP units could do, and wanted to know when his MP companies were not doing MP missions.

"I want to know when you are not doing PTT. I don't want us to just sit around on a (Forward Operating Base), eating chow and waiting to go home. I want us doing what nobody else can do. I want us to continue training Iraqi Police

either inside the wire or outside the wire," said the general.

The brigade commander was very impressed with the companies conducting PTT in Northern Iraq. The strong relationships they built with the Iraqi Police and the focus on specialized training, as opposed to training in basic policing, reinforced his belief that Iraqi Police still needed the assistance of the military police.

Currier said, "We are beyond teaching the Iraqi Police how to stay alive with T-walls and physical security. We can still add value to the relationships we built over the past six years. We can teach them, as many of you are, how to communicate, investigate, professionalize and specialize."

The 363rd MP Company, of Grafton, West Virginia, when responding to possible crime scenes or enemy attacks, offers a good example of a strong partnership between the Iraqi Police and the soldiers of the 49th MP BDE.

"Once the event happens, a simultaneous call is made to the Iraqi Police. We go out with the first responders, and advise them on how to preserve the crime scene," said Capt. Zeltwanger, 363rd company commander.

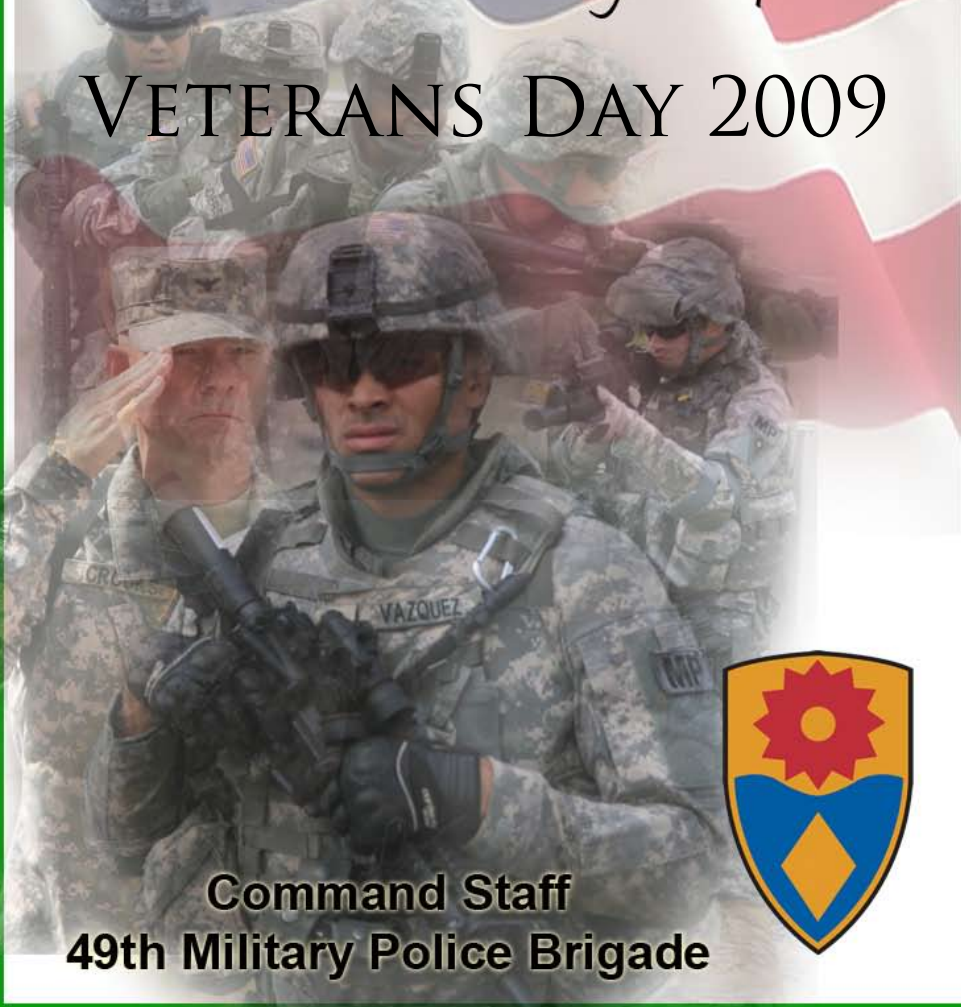
Teaching Iraqi Police how to protect evidence that can be used to prosecute criminals and terrorists is another example of how they're still learning from the 49th's military police.

Thank you ...

*For your service
and sacrifices.*

*The Eleventh Hour of November 11
we set aside to honor you
as well as those who have gone before us.*

VETERANS DAY 2009



**Command Staff
49th Military Police Brigade**

Facts about Veterans Day

The Veterans Affairs Office provides questions and answers about the upcoming holiday:

Q. Which is the correct spelling of Veterans Day?

- a. "Veterans Day"
- b. "Veteran's Day"
- c. "Veterans' Day"

Answer: Veterans Day (choice A).

Veterans Day does not include an apostrophe but does include an "s" at the end of "veterans" because it is not a day that "belongs" to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans.

On what day of the week will Veterans Day be observed?

Veterans Day is always observed officially on Nov. 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. The Veterans Day National Ceremony, like most ceremonies around the nation, is held on Veterans Day itself. However, when Veterans Day falls on a weekday, many communities choose to hold

Veterans Day parades or other celebrations on the weekend before or after Nov. 11 so that more people can participate.

What is the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime.

In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

Finishing strong with honor

... Continued from Page 2 ...

Instead, these boundaries provide a structure upon which efficiency and good morale are dependent.

Respect must be mutual and reciprocal. It is difficult to respect someone who is not adhering to Army standards.

Further along these lines, our Soldiers' spouses and families have bestowed upon us a trust we must hold as sacred. If we express any tolerance for inappropriate

relationships among our troops - particularly our married Soldiers - we risk betraying our families' good faith and endorsing behavior that is contrary to Army values. And while I have neither the energy nor the time to serve as the brigade's "morality police", I hold no leniency for adulterous behavior, should it be discovered. I expect your commands to mirror that stance.

As leaders, we must remain diligent in the face of the imminent

drawdown and evolving mission before us. The sands are shifting beneath us, and this uncertainty demands stable and focused leadership, so that our Soldiers finish strong, and with honor.

I am proud of each of our Soldiers, Airmen and civilians. We face tough challenges ahead, but we have a great team. I am confident we will embrace our challenges and accomplish our mission with distinction.

Veterans Day 2009

"To us in America, the reflections of (Veterans) Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given to America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations ..."

President Wilson, November 1919



REAL - TO - REEL

Around the 49th Military Police Brigade ...

Sgt. Westley Conway, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, with the 301st Chemical Company works with Iraqi Police to secure an area on a recent mission. Also pictured is Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Gilliam, of Morehead, Kentucky.

Spc. Alexander Berlin, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio with the 551st MP Company, conducts mission prep by performing maintenance on his 1151 prior to leaving out for his mission at Entry Control Point 6. SPC Berlin keeping operational and functioning properly is a crucial part of his teams success and safety in Iraq.

Camp Taji -- Staff Sgt. Marc Paugh, a native of Lima, Ohio with the 591st MP Company, is having his drivers conduct vehicle movement drills before their mission. "My drivers need to know where to place themselves in the convoy," stated SSG Paugh. "Conducting drills ensures that the Soldiers know what their responsibilities and duties are while out on mission. Should anything happen the Soldiers will know what to do."

Baghdad -- Spc. Zachary Bradshaw, a native of Richmond, Kentucky, with the 301st Chemical Company, performs a preventive maintenance check on this MRAP before a mission. Spc. Bradshaw is a driver for his team.

Pfc. Ryan Coleman, a native of South Mills, North Carolina with the 551st MP Company, receives his promotion to his current rank on the roof of Saddam's Palace, Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Iraq, in early October. PFC Coleman is taking the next step toward leadership with hard earned promotion.

Baghdad -- Spc. Jason Woodruff, a Human Resources Assistant with the 301st Chemical Company, is a native of Brooksville, Kentucky, updates records with SPC Larry Williams, a mechanic also with the 301st.

BOTTOM LEFT:
Christopher Bontrager, 351st MP Company, greets local children in the Rabiya market as Rabiya Iraqi Police chat with business owners in the background.

Cpl. Richard Perales of the 351st MP Company and Rabiya Shurta patrol through the Rabiya market.

BELOW LEFT: *Sgt. Kevin D. Vaughn, a native of Memphis, Tennessee who is assigned to 591st MP Company, practices giving an intravenous injection in the back of an MRAP in cramped conditions. "This would be the environment in which I would have to give one," stated Sgt. Vaughn. "It is best to simulate combat as much as possible."*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

2ND LT. ROMEO HIZON
591st MP Company

PFC. MARSHALL A. PROVINCE
591st MP Company

STAFF SGT. DIANA KELLY
551st MP Company

SPC. WILLIAM WRIGHT
301st Chemical Company

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN ASKIN
301st Chemical Company

UPARS!

Unit Public Affairs Representatives!
Contact 1st. Lt. William Marquez,
49th MP Brigade Public Affairs Officer,
to get your photos on our next issue!
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Spc. Thomas Koeplin, a Salem, Indiana native currently serving with the 591st MP Company, conducts a joint inventory with the Tarmiyah Local Police Station arms room officer in charge. "Accountability is the key to success," stated SPC Koeplin. "You can tell that the officers take pride in their station by the way they maintain their equipment."

Observing special Iraqi training

Alabama Army National Guardsmen monitor training of Iraqi law enforcers

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Sometimes, standing in the shadows is not so bad, says Staff Sgt. Christopher Mello. In this case, standing as an observer as Iraqi Police train to become better officers is “the whole point of what we’re doing here,” Mello explained.

The noncommissioned officer in charge of Camp Liberty’s Police Center of Excellence (PCOE), which is run by the 217th Military Police Company, 336th Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, says the program his Alabama National Guard unit established exposes this nation’s public law enforcers to skills that go beyond what was previously learned.

“The big thing they’re learning is professionalism,” said Mello, whose team runs the operation while state department contractors enforce the training. “It’s a positive thing for them because they’re learning techniques they haven’t had before. They do have a motivation to learn. We see it in the classes they go to. They’re actively talking and participating. They enjoy doing the practical exercises where they learn hands on.”

The partnership formed by the PCOE program connects US military and civilian personnel with Iraqi Police. The main intent, says Mello, is to enhance what the Iraqis already know about police work.

Stationed in a secluded section of Camp Liberty, the PCOE occupies a quarter-acre of training area. Its main facility is a basketball court-sized building that’s used as a classroom and “Shoothouse,” where doors and cubicles provide other forms of police training.

The 217th inherited the facility upon their August arrival. Within three months, three Iraqi Police groups completed the training which can take up to four weeks.

“This program takes the Iraqi Police past their basic training and gives them more



217TH MP CO., Alabama

specialized training so they can be proactive against crime,” said 1st Lt. Joseph Bennett, 217th’s officer in charge of PCOE. “They cover a large area. They cover from investigative techniques to patrol techniques, such as how to approach people in a market or someone who has called in a complaint or crime. They learn how to interact with them, how to treat them. They need to know how to treat those people, how to give them respect to get that information so they can prevent further crime.”

Class sessions include forensics training and crime scene investigation, Bennett explained. When classes conclude, the Iraqi Police undergo movement training. They learn phases of properly entering and clearing a building, both in high and low visibility. Instructors use hands-on training that includes self defense techniques.

“We want them to know that they are the police. We want to bring them up, take charge and take control of their country,” said Mello. “We want them to learn professionalism. They have to act professional so they’ll have the community’s trust that



US Army photos/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

TOP: Iraqi Policemen move in one formation toward a building occupied by criminals. They move under the eyes of civilian instructors and members of the 217th Military Police Company during training at Camp Liberty’s Police Center of Excellence, a facility that provides training in advanced police tactics and techniques.

LEFT: An Iraqi Police officer eyes a hallway inside the Police Center of Excellence.

they’re doing their job.”

“There’s a four week class. Each week, there’s a different curriculum,” Bennett added. “First week is investigative techniques. We cover evidence collection, scene

and evidence security. Like if you walk into a room, you don’t just walk around and try to find stuff. You take in the whole room.”

Bennett said every officer who has gone through the PCOE program has picked up a valuable lesson.

OPSEC OPSEC OPSEC

I heard him.

I listened to everything.

I heard him laugh.

I heard him joke.

I heard where he’s going.

I waited.

I killed him.

I’m laughing now.

And now I’m listening to you.

OPERATIONAL SECURITY. It’s serious business.

(CRIME TIME

SEXUAL ASSAULT is a crime.

It can happen to men and women of all ages.

Sexual assault is intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or the abuse of authority when the victim does not or cannot consent.

Rape, nonconsensual sodomy and indecent assault are all forms of sexual assault.

Crime victims have a right to:

- * Be treated with fairness, dignity and respect for one’s privacy
- * Be reasonably protected from the accused
- * Be notified of court proceedings
- * Be present at public court proceedings unless the Court determines otherwise for good cause
- * Confer with the attorney for the Government in the case
- * Restitution, if appropriate
- * Receive information regarding conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender from custody

CONTACT LTC BARBARA MCPHAIL IF YOU’VE BEEN A VICTIM OR WOULD LIKE INFORMATION TO PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT:

NIPR 847-3194

SIPR 242-7211

barbara.j.mcphail@mnd-b.army.mil

Back to school

Soldiers, Iraqi Police unite to distribute school supplies

By STAFF SGT. ALINA KENNEDY

810th Military Police Company

CAMP BASRA, Iraq – On Oct. 11 Staff Sgt. William Moore took his 810th Military Police Company squad to Al Saraha School in Basra, Iraq to distribute school supplies, toys, and candy.

Upon arrival, there was a mix of emotions.

The facial expressions were varied. Some little girls smiled with joy, some jumped with excitement, and some cried because they were scared. Pfc. Teri Templin, from Eustis, Florida, who was a fill-in for the squad that day, explained that when she removed her helmet and let down her hair to fix it, she can remember the awe in the girls' eyes. They couldn't believe that there was a female soldier standing before them. In their country women are not allowed to join the Army.

When asked about the mission, squad leader Staff Sgt. Moore said, "This is what it's all about. This is what we're trying to do, be a part, make a difference, the best we can."

In just a few short minutes the girls warmed up to the squad. They gave thumbs up and high fives. They began to speak with the soldiers and show off their English. English is taught beginning in third grade. Each child who received items from second squad showed the utmost appreciation.

During the distribution of supplies such as pens, paper, crayons, markers, candy and sandals, the Head Mistress pointed out the less fortunate children who needed these items the most. Specialist Evelyn Perryman says "I feel we did make a difference that



810TH MP CO., Florida

"This is what we're trying to do, be a part, make a difference, the best we can."

-- Staff Sgt. William Moore

day."

The school's name means Honesty. Honesty and purity was a feeling felt by many soldiers who were there that day. The school currently has 250 students. The ages range from four to 13 years old. Classrooms are small and desks are hard to come by. Every desk is shared by three girls. The Head Mistress was very excited to have U.S. Forces visit her school.

Pfc. Templin explained that this was the best day she has had since she left her house



U.S. Army photos
SPC JULIO ESTREMER



TOP: Staff Sgt. William Moore, from Cleveland, Tennessee, and member of the 810th Military Police Company, partners with Lt. Hussam from a local Iraqi Police Station in Basra to pass out school supplies and candy to the girls who attend Al Saraha Girls School on Oct. 11.

LEFT: Spc. Enid Conley, of Miami, Florida and the 810th Military Police Company, holds the hand of the teacher's daughter while at Al Saraha Girls School in Basra on Oct. 11.

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. William Moore stops to pose for pictures with students from Al Saraha Girls School in Basra, Iraq after his squad distributed school supplies.

on Jan. 2. The head mistress had all of the children get in what the Army would call formation. The children all listened carefully to their teacher and followed all instructions. Pfc. Templin described the children as well-disciplined. She said that the way the girls stood, marched in line, and called out the school motto also reminded her of the military.

The school supplies, toys, and candy distributed were all donated by Staff Sgt. Moore's civilian employer, Bradley County

Juvenile Detention Center.

Staff Sgt. Moore's supervisor at his civilian job asked what she could send to him in Iraq and he explained that the local children needed school supplies. In eight days he had numerous boxes of gifts for the children.

Efforts like these would not be possible without the support of those back home. Staff Sgt. Moore expects to visit the school several more times before the 810th MP Company leaves Basra.



Courage among the ongoing changes

Lt. Col. Daniel Viveros
49th MP Brigade Chaplain

Some units from the 49th MP BDE have gone or are soon to go through both the Relief in Place (RIP) and Transfer of Authority (TOA) process and ceremony.

It kind of reminds me of Moses and Joshua almost four millennia ago. The RIP process and the TOA ceremony having been completed, God's charge to Joshua is, "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them" (Joshua 1:6).

"Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts."

-- Basketball Coach John Wooden

Joshua was now to lead well over a million people including women and children. His mission: take the land of Canaan. Humanly speaking, Joshua had very little if any military training and very little if any combat resources.

God's admonition to Joshua, "Be strong and courageous." In the exact same way, God has commissioned us to complete our mission here in Iraq. He could commission Joshua and you and me because the mis-

sion is really His. He would provide all the resources Joshua would need and all the resources you and I need to successfully accomplish our mission.

Comparatively speaking, who is better equipped to carry out his mission, Joshua or you and me?

Who is better trained, humanly speaking, Joshua or you and me?

Remember, "It's courage that counts." God bless you.

Things that go BOOM!

BASRA, Iraq -- The 206th Military Police Company's third platoon was recently selected to take part in an Explosive Ordnance Detachment (EOD) led controlled detonation.

Elements from all squads took part in the training. Soldiers worked with Air Force and Iraqi Special Forces EOD in the controlled disposal of munitions consisting of rockets, mortars and land mines that were confiscated from Basra during raids and warrant searches.

The mission consisted of a security detail escorting the EOD elements to the detonation site, providing security overwatch while the Air Force EOD demonstrated the proper setup and disposal of unexploded ordinance (UXO).

"It was interesting to watch the two different EOD elements come together and share the knowledge they gained in the

field," says Spc. Jeffery Mills from Clyde, New York.

The Iraqi Special Forces squad got hands-on experience preparing the ordinance and the proper use of C-4 in the disposal of explosives. Several third platoon Soldiers had the chance to handle the C-4 under careful supervision of the EOD teams.

"We got to touch the C4, prep it, mold it and then apply the substance to the UXO's," said Cpl. Ted Blank from Hudson, New York.

After the explosives were placed in a pile, plastic explosives were strategically placed for proper disposal. All elements drew back to a more than safe distance to continue securing the site and watch the fireworks.

"The explosion felt like someone opened our Humvee doors and slammed them back closed as hard as they could," added Blank, describing the blast that followed.

"The cloud was so dense it

206TH MP CO., New York

seemed to block out the sun. It was just one big mushroom cloud of smoke and debris," said Spc. Paul Croteau from Clifton Park, New York.

After the explosion cleared and the dust settled, third platoon made its way to the 25-foot diameter crater. All Soldiers climbed into the 15-foot hole to have their pictures taken.

Now that third platoon has worked with EOD on numerous occasions, the bond between the two has grown stronger and allowed for easier communications and mission possibilities for both groups.

"The excitement never wears off when working with these guys. When you go out with EOD on a mission, you're almost guaranteed an explosively good time!" joked one of the Soldiers.



Shot heard around Basra administered by the 206th

BASRA, Iraq -- With the weather changing and the temperature dropping, for many of the Soldiers in Iraq it's time for the annual shot. Even though it is not the normal climate many of the New Yorkers of the 206th Military Police Company experience this time of year, it is still time for the seasonal influenza vaccination. On Oct. 22, the personnel staying at the Basrah Operations Command (BaOc) got poked.

Capt. Allan, physician's assistant, and Staff Sgt. Dean, a medic, from the 17th Fires Brigade came to the BaOc to help the 206th's senior medic, Sgt. Frati, administer the vaccinations. The 206th was not the only unit getting shot that day. EOD, MITT, and all of the personnel living on the BaOc were also receiving vaccinations.

Spc. Jones was among the many Soldiers to receive the vaccination, and from his and Sgt. Frati's facial expression, everyone enjoyed the whole process. Master Sgt. Cook said, "It was the most pleasant and enjoyable experience."

However, there were Soldiers who weren't so thrilled. The concern about getting sick from the vaccination had many Soldiers worried. All who were given the shot were told that the viruses in the flu shot are killed (inactivated), so you cannot get the flu from a flu shot. Some minor side effects that could occur are soreness, redness, or swelling in the injection site, low grade fever and aches. Spc. Drummond of the 635th Signal Brigade said, "It wasn't so bad; it was just a little prick."

The majority of the 206th Soldiers are on Contingency Operating Base Basrah, and with the help of the rear element most of them were able to receive the vaccination with ease. Of the 181 Soldiers in the unit, 86 percent of them were administered the Flu vaccination.

Even with many Soldiers out on mission and the unit split up, the 206th worked together.

Thanks to the help of Capt. Allan and Staff Sgt. Dean, the 206th was able to meet their suspense.

With the influenza vaccinations administered, the Soldiers on the BaOc have one less worry.

With the help of the entire unit the Soldiers and all the personnel living there will keep the runny noses, coughs and sore throats away. There will be no need to be concerned about getting sick when the Army keeps their Soldiers healthy and mission ready. Nothing can beat down the United States military, not even the flu.



SGT Frati administering the flu vaccination to SPC Jones.

Negligent discharges can be prevented

The definition of negligent discharge is the firing action of a weapon absent the intent of the one holding the weapon.

A safety-survey team looked at negligent discharges during Operation Iraqi Freedom II; all of them involved a violation of one or more of the five safety rules:

1. All guns are always loaded. (Even if they are not, treat them as if they are.)
2. Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy. (For those who insist "this particular gun is unloaded," see Rule 1.)
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are



Always have a buddy check your weapon. Treat all weapons as if they're loaded.

on the target. (This is the Golden Rule. Its violation is directly responsible for about 60 percent of inadvertent discharges.)

4. Identify your target, and what is behind it. (Never shoot at anything that you have not positively identified.)
5. Keep your weapon on safe until you intend to fire.

Negligent discharges are not a problem isolated within the Army. They are easily preventable, and all Soldiers are trained on the problem. Soldiers are taught weapons safety from the moment they are issued their first rifle in Basic Training.

The safety rules are ingrained throughout basic training and Officer Candidate School. These individual actions, when forgotten for just a moment, result in a negligent discharge.

Some may say mishaps and negli-

gent discharges will always happen because there are always Soldiers doing dumb things.

Saying that humans make mistakes is a devil's advocate view towards safety. What if your mistake costs the Army one of its own? What if it costs you a Soldier in your section or squad, or maybe one of your friends?

Soldiers not in a combat specialty may not be accustomed to handling weapons on a regular basis. Some feel this fact accounts significantly for the recent increase in negligent discharges.

Carrying a loaded weapon all the time should

make you more comfortable and familiar with it.

Soldiers should not become complacent. Army soldiers need to be taking weapons to the field back in CONUS, even if they are support personnel.

This will get soldiers into the proper mindset when it comes to weapons handling while deployed.

Army NCOs need to be diligent with monitoring clearing procedures, and not allow their soldiers to become complacent.

Monitoring for complacency and giving Soldiers more time with weapons may be the simple solution.

Wrong relationships: Not worth the risk



LT. COL. TIMOTHY RIEGER, Command Judge Advocate

As Soldiers, a special trust and confidence is reposed in us to place the mission above our own self-interest.

In other words, as Rick Warren famously states, "It is not about you!"

At present, approximately 25 percent of the investigations and military justice matters in our brigade involve allegations of inappropriate relationships, whether

consensual or not. The brigade has current, active cases alleging adultery, rape, bigamy, fraternization, sexual assault, and other inappropriate relations, all of which are crimes punishable pursuant to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Army Regulations, and brigade policies.

Commanders are obligated to ensure good order and discipline, the purpose of military justice. Recently, four male Soldiers from the brigade

were prosecuted for filming female Soldiers in the showers. While some of the cases are ongoing, other cases are final with punishments imposed that range from rank reduction to private (E1) to confinement in correctional barracks.

Punishments include fines, extra duty, and separation from service characterized as Other than Honorable.

In the past, the brigade has relieved a battalion commander. Recently, two company commanders and a first sergeant were relieved

for inappropriate relationships of one type or another (fraternization, adultery).

Rapists could be sentenced to death, or spend the rest of their lives in prison at Leavenworth Correctional Barracks.

Don't be "That Guy!"

Remember your Army Values, and live the Non-Commissioned Officer and Officer creeds.

Above all, exercise good order and discipline.

Iraqi Police learn weapons qualification from Military Police Soldiers

By SPC BRANDON K. BROWN

218th Military Police Company

HAWIJAH, Iraq – It's early and the range is set up. The 218th Military Police Company awaits the arrival of Iraqi Police from stations around the Hawijah district.

They show up loaded in trucks, ready and eager to be trained by US Soldiers. They line up in groups awaiting their chance to shoot, but first they have to go through a quick overview of their weapons.

After checking their weapons, it's time to line them up on the firing line. The first eight shooters step forward and get into the prone position. Instructions are given by the Iraqi Police district training officer, Capt. Falah. The

218TH MP CO., Kentucky

attentive IPs load their rifles, get a good firing stance, and are ready to engage their targets.

The order is given: Fire!

The officers fire their weapons without any hesitation. They refer back to their prior training with US Soldiers, and all in the first iteration qualify. This is just one example of the success of our partnership with the Iraqi police.

The next group of officers steps forward and tries to outperform their colleagues that just fired. The enthusiasm among them is visible. As all the groups



Soldiers from the 218th Military Police Company serve as range cadre for Iraqi Police. Truckloads of qualifiers showed up to fire at stationary targets.

go through, all of them qualify as a first time "go."

All of the Iraqi Police are pleased with their efforts. They begin to leave.

But just when instructors think training is done, more trucks filled with IPs roll up.

The new officers have the same eager look in their eyes. They are ready to learn how to fire and we are ready to train them.

As they finish firing, the day is almost done. The IPs help clean up and close down the range.

Finally, the day is done and the Soldiers are proud that they have trained the IPs. Now the IPs can take this training and build on it.

From Bucca to Basra with the 810th Military Police Company



Bucca, Iraq – Members of third squad, third platoon, 810th Military Police Company, instruct Iraqi Police how to properly search a building. Their focus was on weapons safety and basic communication while maintaining tactical movement. Shown are Staff Sgt. Jeremy Grice, from Coconut Creek, Florida, Sgt. Frank Wyatt, from Garner, North Carolina, and Sgt. Brian Baldwin, from Toney, Alabama.



US Army photos/STAFF SGT ALINA KENNEDY

Staff Sgt. Michael Burke, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida is shown the Arms room at an Iraqi Police Station on Oct. 20. Staff Sgt. Burke shows a Czechoslovakian made AK-47. Part of the mission of military police in Iraq is to help police stations set-up training programs. An issue commonly brought up is weapons training. Staff Sgt. Burke is working with International Police advisors to establish a weapons training curriculum with their Iraqi counterparts.



Basra Iraq – Members of 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, 810th MP Company are given treats "for the road" by Iraqi Police Officers after an Oct. 14 leaders meeting. First squad has made steady progress in building the relationships between Iraq and U.S. Forces in the Basra area. Shown are Spc. Alexander Aguilar, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Sgt. Kristen Lee, of Cookeville, Tennessee, and Spc. Brett Volin, of Spring Hill, Florida.



U.S. Army photo/SPC MICHAEL KELLY

Basra, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Gabriel Desequeira from Zephyrhills, Florida, and Staff Sgt. Randall Alderman from Lakeland, Florida enjoy the hospitality of the station commander and other Iraqi Police. They are served a traditional tea called Chai during an Oct. 10 meeting between leaders. Chai has become a favorite among military police visiting Iraqi Police stations. It is customary to serve food and drinks to extend a warm welcome to guests.

Leaders meetings key to US-Iraq partnership

DIWNIYAH, Iraq – SGT Eric Donaldson, squad leader assigned to 543rd Military Police Company, is shown conducting a Key Leader Engagement (KLE) with Lt Col. Kareem, Qadasiyah Iraqi Highway Police deputy commander and Capt. Ali, Qadasiyah IHP training officer.

On the left is International Police advisor Alan Anuszewski, who works on Forward Operating Base Echo.

This KLE was conducted to help ensure that the Highway Patrol Station and its IPs are receiving the supplies, training and supervision needed to successfully carry out their security missions as highway police.

The Qadasiyah Highway Police secure miles of hard ball

and dirt road for more than 400,000 people and conduct random vehicle searches as part of their mission. Key leader engagements are a vital part of the Military Police mission here in Iraq to help secure a better life for the people.

Other topics such as power, water, and the local economy are discussed during these leader engagements. The station commander often meets with local Sheiks to get feedback from them on what their community needs and how their respective security issues are being resolved. This information is then passed onto other Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces who then coordinate and use local resources and Provincial Reconstruction Teams to help the citizens of Iraq meet their local needs.

543RD MP CO., New York



U.S. Army Photo/SPC ROBERT FRANZEN

SOLDIERS, IRAQI POLICE MAKING THE GRADE

BY SPC BRANDON K. BROWN

218th Military Police Company

HAWIJAH, Iraq — A course was held for Iraqi Police (IP) investigative officers on Forward Operating Base McHenry.

John Tucker, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry law enforcement professional, taught a class on evidence packets for seven Hawijah district IP investigative officers. The evidence packet consisted of the general report, witness statements, timelines, suspect statements, documentation of evidence and photographs.

This course discussed how each document plays an important role in the prosecution of criminals.

The following week, a course was held for 10 Hawijah district investigative officers. Topics that were discussed included undercover operations

218TH MP CO., Kentucky

and the importance of community policing operations.

All participants were determined to complete each block of instruction with a full understanding of the material covered. At the end of the class each IP officer felt they had a good understanding of how the proper collection of intelligence can better facilitate investigations, overcome and defeat terrorism, and help save innocent Iraqi lives.

At the end of both courses, it was evident that the IP Investigative Officers understood all materials covered. They can start putting their training into effect and teach fellow Iraqi Police.

This is just another example of how US Soldiers and Iraqi Police work together hand and hand.



John Tucker (far left), 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, a law enforcement professional, and an interpreter teach a class on evidence packets.

Education in Iraq

By 1ST LT. WILLIAM MARQUEZ

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Even here, an education is within reach. On Oct. 21, at the 1st Cavalry Chapel, counselors from Camp Victory's education center spoke to 49th Military Police Brigade Soldiers about the educational opportunities available while they're deployed. The counselors presented information regarding financial aid, availability of tests and courses, and opportunities to teach courses themselves.

"Earning a degree or license makes you marketable. It puts more money in your pocket for you and your family," said Robin Tomlinson, a retired Army first sergeant and now an educational counselor.



Soldiers can receive up to \$4,500 while attending school, either online or in a traditional classroom. However, if a Soldier fails a course, he will need to re-pay the government the tuition assistance. Unless a Soldier is an E-7 or higher, anyone who receives tuition assistance needs a commander's approval before he receives any money.

To avoid owing the government money, Tomlinson recommends that each Soldier receive educational counseling before requesting financial assistance. "Educational counseling helps place Soldiers. Don't waste money on classes that will not help you meet your educational goals or on classes that you are not prepared to complete."

Testing is another means of selecting suitable courses. According to Alice Haas, the test administrator at Victory's education center, "Taking tests can't hurt transcripts. They can only help. Our Education Center can administer military exams, the SAT, LSAT, and many other exams."

If a Soldier is more interested in teaching than taking classes, he can work for the University of Maryland or Central Texas College.

"The University of Maryland courses are primarily academic, and a Master's Degree is required to teach these courses," said Michael Mendes, a university counselor. Jamie Brisbin, a counselor at Central Texas College, said of her university, "courses are usually vocational; vocational experience and a license or an associate's degree is required to teach these courses."

Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Donald Currier sees an opportunity for his Soldiers to further their education.

"Whether it is teaching a class or taking a course, continuing your education will help develop skills that will benefit your military and civilian career, and enable you to do your job better," Currier said. "If one of our Soldiers wants to enroll in, or teach, an online or classroom course, and it does not interfere with the mission, his chain of command should give their Soldier every opportunity to do so."

For further information contact your base's education services officer or call the Victory Education Center at 485-2648.

49th's Motor Pool: Much more than a repair shop



TOP: Spc. Jeremy Cooper, a light wheel vehicle mechanic from the 49th Military Police Brigade, removes a defective half shaft from a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle during a repair at the motor pool at Camp Liberty, Iraq. At right, motor sergeant Sgt. William Steinbrook removes the bolts from a transmission pan during a regularly scheduled vehicle service.

BY SGT KENNETH BINCE

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Tucked inside a clamshell type building, not far from the main headquarters here, a critical mission takes place seven days a week at the 49th Military Police Brigade Motor Pool.

"We have seven personnel here, including me, working on vehicle services, repairs and equipment installations every day," said Sgt. William Steinbrook, 49th MP Brigade motor pool non-commissioned officer in charge.

"When we first got here there was a huge amount of work before us," said Steinbrook, a native of San Jose, Calif. "The whole section worked around the clock to pull all of the tools and equipment out of here and inventory everything."

"Basically, every nut and bolt all the way to the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) replacement engine

49TH MP BDE, California

had to be accounted for," he said.

During this process the mechanics were open for business like usual. "So far, most of our 12-hour work day is spent on HMMWV work orders. When an operator has a problem with a vehicle, they bring it in to be fixed," said Steinbrook.

"This is a great place to work. We have a lot of covered garage space, all of the tools and parts needed to get these vehicles back on the road," said Spc. Jeremy Cooper, 49th MP Brigade, light wheel vehicle mechanic.

Cooper, a native from San Jose, Calif., explained, "Today I am replacing the half shaft on a HMMWV, and yesterday I changed the brakes on another vehicle."

"The constant flow of work

keeps our mechanic skills sharp, and we work hard to get the vehicles back into service as soon as possible," said Cooper.

Regularly scheduled vehicle services are another type of important work accomplished here.

"Every vehicle as well as the generators have motor oil, transmission fluid, air and fuel filters need to be changed on a regular basis, according to the TMs, (technical manuals)," said Spc. Eric Lucas, 49th MP Brigade, power generation equipment repairman.

"This is just necessary preventive maintenance. If you want your car back at home to run well and last for years, you take care of it," said Lucas, a Vacaville, Calif. native.

"Another great part about being stationed at the VBC, (Victory Base Complex), is that we all have opportunity to get more mechanics training under our belts. MRAPs in particular, are new vehicles to most

of us at the motor pool. So far we have sent two Soldiers to complete the MRAP field level maintenance class, and 2 more Soldiers are scheduled for next week," said Steinbrook.

The weeklong class was exceptional, with a tremendous amount of hands-on training, said Sgt. Ricky Marfil, a 49th MP Brigade, light wheel vehicle mechanic.

"I have never worked on an MRAP until I got here like most of the guys, so this was chance to get the latest training on the newest Army vehicles," said Marfil, a Vacaville, Calif. resident.

"The training we took here covered troubleshooting the MRAP's electronic systems, fuel systems, and all the way to engine replacement," said Marfil.

What it all comes down to is this, if nothing moves, nothing happens.



US Army photos/SGT KEN BINCE

Pros vs. GI Joes

The Super Bowl champion Steelers take on the 336th MP Battalion's Steel City

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Soldiers of the 336th Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade, have a unique mission Nov. 20: They're going Mano-a-mano with the defending Super Bowl champion and six-time NFL titlist.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, in appreciation for the Pittsburgh-based 336th, is organizing a virtual challenge where technology will place the Government Issue (GI) Joes on the same field with the pros. Soldiers and football players will play a variance of video games such as *Madden NFL 09*, *Guitar Hero* and *Call of Duty: World at War*.

"The biggest benefit to all of the 336th Soldiers deployed here in Iraq is that events like this confirm that people back home still care about them," said Maj. Harry Lorenzi, 336th executive officer. "They care about the Soldiers' involvement in stabilizing Iraq. In short, the Pittsburgh Steelers, by taking part in this event, are giving the message that people back home still care."

That day, several family members of the Soldiers stationed here will be invited to the Steelers' facility, another benefit the professional team provides.

"Events like this confirm that people back home still care."

-- Maj. Harry Lorenzi, 336th Executive Officer



Details of who will play the Steelers "are still being worked out," said Lorenzi. With more than 100 Soldiers, the 336th might impose a playoff to see who gets to the Pittsburgh playoff.

Addie Zinone, founder of the non-profit Pro vs. GI Joe organization, said its mission is to boost the morale of servicemembers particularly those deployed to war zones.

"We set up real-time video game competitions between professional athletes and Soldiers stationed overseas," said Zinone. "It's a really fun and uniquely interactive event to our American heroes in uniform."

Pro vs. GI Joe uses the internet and Xbox Live, an online multiplayer gaming service. Zinone, a two-time Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, co-founded Pro vs. GI Joe in June

2007. She touched bases with the NFL organization that agreed to present this unique challenge.

"This is one of those random acts of kindness that you often hear about, but seldom see," Maj. Lorenzi said. "When professional athletes take their time out of the day, especially during the heart of football season, it drives home that what these citizen-Soldiers are doing over here is something special."

Everybody wins, Lorenzi added. But come game day, if the GI Joes lose to the pros, "it would be like losing a sparring match with Muhammad Ali. You'll remember it for the rest of your life as a very special memory."

The Steelers are attempting to defend their NFL title following February's 27-23 thriller over the Arizona Cardinals. As of press time, Pittsburgh was 5-2, tied with the Cincinnati Bengals for the AFC North Division lead.

The Steelers travel to Kansas City to play the Chiefs two days after they face the GI Joes.

The Pennsylvania Army Reserve unit's motto is "Steel City."

November's football fever

By SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA

49th Military Police Brigade

College football in November is like a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle in your yard: You just gotta have it.

This is the month when teams dictate their Bowl Series outcomes. It's also the time of Rivalry Week, which occurs at the end of November. Football lovers, this is the time to do your jobs and do them quickly, then get to the television and observe.

Unfortunately, one of the games' major rivalries – Army vs. Navy – doesn't take place until Dec. 12. This game will be the 110th meeting of the military academies. Navy has beaten Army the last seven consecutive years and holds a 53-49-7 all-time record over the Black Knights.

Although this brigade unites Army and Air Force units, the two football branches square off Saturday, Nov. 7.

Games of special emphasis this month are marked below.

2009 College Football Schedule

Saturday, Nov. 7

Florida St. vs. Clemson
Oklahoma vs. Nebraska
Navy vs. Notre Dame
Army vs. Air Force
Louisiana St. vs. Alabama
Ohio St. vs. Penn St.
Oregon vs. Stanford

Friday, Nov. 13

West Virginia vs. Cincinnati

Saturday, Nov. 14

Virginia Military vs. Army
Syracuse vs. Louisville
Virginia Tech vs. Maryland

Iowa vs. Ohio St.

Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh

Michigan St. vs. Purdue

Florida vs. South Carolina

Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma

Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma St.

Stanford vs. USC

Louisiana Tech vs. Louisiana St.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Colorado vs. Oklahoma st.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Purdue vs. Indiana

Ohio St. vs. Michigan

Penn St. vs. Michigan St.

Louisiana St. vs. Mississippi

Oklahoma vs. Texas Tech

Oregon vs. Arizona

California vs. Stanford

Air Force vs. Brigham Young

Army vs. North Texas

San Diego St. vs. Utah

Hawaii vs. San Jose St.

Thursday, Nov. 26

Texas vs. Texas A&M

Friday, Nov. 27

Pittsburgh vs. West Vir-

ginia

Alabama vs. Auburn

Nebraska vs. Colorado

Saturday, Nov. 28

Florida St. vs. Florida

Georgia vs. Georgia Tech

Boston College vs. Maryland

North Carolina vs. North Carolina St.

Virginia Tech vs. Virginia

Mississippi vs. Mississippi St.

Oklahoma St. vs. Oklahoma

Arizona vs. Arizona St.

Washington St. vs. Washington

Utah vs. Brigham Young

Arkansas vs. Louisiana St.

Notre Dame vs. Stanford

UCLA vs. USC

NOTE: Army vs. Navy scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 12



SOLDIER'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

I AM A WARRIOR AND A MEMBER OF A TEAM

I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES
AND LIVE THE ARMY VALUES

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST

I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT

I WILL NEVER QUIT

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE

I AM DISCIPLINED, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TOUGH,
TRAINED AND PROFICIENT IN MY WARRIOR TASKS AND DRILLS

I WILL ALWAYS MAINTAIN MY ARMS, MY EQUIPMENT AND MYSELF.

I AM AN EXPERT AND I AM A PROFESSIONAL

I STAND READY TO DEPLOY, ENGAGE AND DESTROY THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA IN CLOSE COMBAT

I AM A GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

employ PFP
physical fitness program

PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM

SOLDIERS IN THE 49TH MP BRIGADE ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE FITNESS PROGRAM.

EXERCISE. EAT RIGHT. STAY PHYSICALLY FIT.

DON'T BE AFRAID

TO SAY YOU'VE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS. AND THERE IS HELP.
Contact your Unit Victim Advocate or call the Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator hotline at 0770-444-2519. You will get an immediate response.