

DIVARTY assumes authority

TF Iron Steel assumes duties of the Al Rashid district during a Transfer of Authority ceremony

By Staff Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The 1st Armored Division Artillery (DIVARTY) Combat Team accepted authority of the Al Rashid district in southern Baghdad from 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, during a Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony at Camp Falcon on Friday.

With numerous local District Advisory Council members watching the ceremony, Col. Jon Brockman, DIVARTY commander accepted the job of helping rebuild Baghdad's southern district of more than 1.5 million Iraqis from Col. Kurt Fuller, commander of the 2-82, from Fort Bragg, N.C., who has overseen the operations under 1st Armored Division's southern area of responsibility since July.

Fuller and his paratroopers have been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since February 2002, and are currently in the process of redeploying back to North Carolina, where they will stand ready as the U.S. Army's premiere force able to deploy around the world within 18 hours.

As the second brigade colors were carefully rolled up by Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Riley, Fuller seemed emotional as he reflected back to the past four months in what he describes as, "The safest district in Baghdad."

"Because we are able to conduct this TOA today is a testament to the improvement in the security situation now, compared to last July when I took command," Fuller said. "I am very proud of my paratroopers' efforts in this area. I am equally proud of their efforts in rebuilding this area, restoring infrastructure, rehabilitating neglected schools, restoring civil functions and generating a local government structure where one never before existed."

Brockman told the large crowd of onlookers of the colorful ceremony that he hoped to continue moving forward with the many accomplishments the paratroopers have accomplished over the past six months.

Since July, 2-82 has:

- recruited, trained, equipped and employed 2,900 facility protection service guards;
- created a full battalion of nearly 1,000 Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC);
- removed more than 2,000 war wrecks;
- refurbished the Thurwa Veteran's Clinic at a cost of \$130,000;
- hired over 2,000 local citizens to help clear the streets of debris and trash, provide security, and repair the infrastructure; and
- administered the repair of 13 of 16 technical schools at a cost of \$400,000.

"As impressive as this list is, and I am very proud of all the accomplishments we have made," Fuller said. "Perhaps the most impressive part is the simple optimism and cooperation that has solidified across Al



Photo by Maj. Rick Bower

DIVARTY Combat Team Commander Col. Jon Brockman and Command Sgt. Major David Kantor unveils the brigade colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony.

Rashid district as we have worked together, coalition and Iraqi citizen, for the common goal of a free, democratic Iraq."

Fuller said his sincere wish is that all Iraqis are able to make the most of this unprecedented opportunity to build a better life - and make it what they want it to be.

"I know I am leaving this district in good hands," he said. "[Brockman] is a professional warrior and a compassionate man. I am certain he will work with vigor to further advance safety and security, as well as the projects and initiatives that will have real impact on the people of this district."

As the red, white and blue colors of 2-82 disappeared into the drab green protective sleeve, the battle streamers of DIVARTY were unveiled for the first time a DIVARTY has acted as a maneuver element in theatre.

"It is with great honor today that the 1st Armored Division Artillery Combat Team assumes responsibility for the Al Rashid sector of Baghdad," said Brockman. "Our mission remains the same as the Falcons. We will maintain the same high standards of excellence of Task Force Falcons."

Over the past several weeks, Brockman and Fuller have been working together and learning from each other to bring a better end result for the Iraqi people. From cordon and searches to combat raids, the two distinctively different units have been working side-by-side learning about each other and about how to better help positively impact the lives of the residents here.

Brockman said Task Force Falcon's hospitality during the transition period and their willingness to share information about the keys to success in achieving and maintaining a safe and secure environment in the Al Rashid district of Baghdad is the true reflection of the professionalism and warrior spirit of your paratroopers.

"The Falcons are a truly great combat team and their aggressiveness,

— See *DIVARTY*, Page 3

82nd Airborne paratroopers to provide force rotation security

By Joe Burlas
ARNEWS

POPE AFB, N.C. -- Deployed in harm's way for the second time in two years, the first contingent of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade departed for Iraq from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., Jan. 15.

The brigade had been deployed to Afghanistan for seven months between 2002 and 2003.

The latest deployment is scheduled to last between three and four months in order to provide security for the transition of Operation Iraqi Freedom forces, officials said.

The majority of the division's other two brigades are prepping to come home after spending about a year in Iraq. Some Soldiers from those brigades recently returned to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee visited the Iraq-bound 82nd Soldiers for two hours just prior to their departure via two C-17 aircraft. Four additional flights took the remainder of the brigade Jan. 16.

"Over the next two months, 250,000 Soldiers will be on the move in and out of Iraq -- the biggest Army movement since World War II," Brownlee said. "To minimize the danger, we need somebody who already has combat experience. Sorry you got picked on again. When you are really good, you get picked on."

Brig. Gen., Richard Rowe, 82nd assistant division commander, told the departing troops to heed what Brownlee had to say as with two Vietnam combat tours, a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts, the secretary also has vast experience going into harm's way as a combat Soldier.

Brownlee warned that the War on Terrorism will test Soldiers' souls. He added that he and the American people appreciate the service and sacrifice Soldiers and their families make in keeping



Sgt. Joe Pagliai, an infantryman with Company B, 2/505th Infantry Battalion, gets a handshake from Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., Jan. 15.

this nation safe.

"Not only are you bringing hope, freedom and democracy to millions of people in Iraq, you are also safeguarding your country from those who would do it harm," Brownlee said.

Sgt. George Stultz, an artillery forward observer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2/504th Infantry Battalion, is one of the 1st Brigade Soldiers who made the deployment to Afghanistan and now to Iraq.

Married, with four children, Stultz said his wife is just as anxious as the deploying Soldiers because they know their Iraq experience is going

to be different than those they had in Afghanistan. "But she understands that this is the job we do -- it is what we are trained for and we are well prepared," he said.

For Spc. Jason Wheeler, an infantryman with the brigade's Company C, 2/505th Infantry Battalion and who is also making his second deployment in two years with the 82nd, going to Iraq is what he enlisted for.

"What better people than us to go over and provide security for the force rotation," Wheeler said. "I like seeing new places and experiencing other cultures. The Army gives me a chance to do that."

Think Safety

"Steel Sentinel" is an authorized publication of DIVARTY Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. "Steel Sentinel" is prepared by the DIVARTY Public Affairs Office, for members of the U.S. military and civilians at Camp Falcon. Contents are not necessarily official views of, nor endorsed by U.S. government, Department of Defense or the U.S. Army. Military personnel wishing to have an article published in "Steel Sentinel" should email Staff Sgt. Mark Bell at mark.e.bell@us.army.mil or at the brigade headquarters building in the PAO office on the second floor.

Steel Sentinel

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Finance

- PAY INQUIRIES
- ALLOTMENT SERVICES
- COLLECTION FOR SAFETY DEPOSIT-PROGRAM
- CHECK CASHING UP TO \$200
- CASUAL PAY UP TO \$350

LAUNDRY

INDIVIDUAL DROP-OFF ALLOWED
MAXIMUM DROPOFF OF LOAD:
20LBS
THREE DAY TURN-AROUND
PRESS \$1/ PER ARTICLE
PATCH SEW-ON FOR TIPS

Welcome Home..



Bags from 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment are stacked after being offloaded from a truck. 1-94 will call Camp Falcon home until they redeploy.

POSTAL INFO

HOURS FOR PICKUP AND OUTGOING LETTER MAIL 0900-1200 & 1800-2100
ROUTINE RECEIPT OF MAIL ON DAILY BASIS
DAILY OUTGOING LETTER MAIL
OUTGOING PACKAGE MAIL ON SELECT WEEKENDS
Feb 6-7, 20-21 and March 5-6, 12-13, and 26-27

Gym Hours of Operation:
0600-2200
FRULATTI BAR
COORDINATE WITH
SHIRLEY FOR WRESTLING
MAT
(UNIT PT)

PX New Hours Open Everyday 0800 to 2000

Barber Shop hours 0830-1600 Sunday through Thursday	Mensi's Coffee Shop Open 24 hours a day
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Worship Services

Saturday 1700	Chapel	Catholic Mass
Sunday 1000	Chapel	Protestant
Sunday 1300	Chapel	Catholic Mass
Sunday 2000	Chapel	Gospel

DIVARTY, from Page 1

dedication to duty, and selfless service have contributed immensely to the security of the Al Rashid district and allowing it to be one of the most secure areas of Baghdad," he said.

Brockman said his DIVARTY Combat Team (DCT) looks forward to working with the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, specifically the 504th battalion and Alpha Company, 36th Battalion, which call Camp Falcon home.

"We will continue the great efforts and initiatives of [Fuller] and his Falcons by training, supporting, and integrating the ICDC in all of our operations," he said. "We will remain committed to success."

Additionally, he said he will continue to fully support the facility protective services in securing and protecting vital highways and facilities in the Al Rashid sector.

"We will continue to rely heavily on the FPS and we can assure you that we will provide the support necessary for you to do your job and we recognize the great risk that you have taken," he said. "We are committed to working with you in growing democracy in Iraq. Our priorities will remain security, governance, power, and education."

1-94 Field Artillery helps bring Operation Tidal Wave to Baghdad

Story and photos by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom has taught the U.S. military and its servicemembers several lessons.

After months of infantry-style urban operations training, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, have taken the lesson learned from other U.S. Army units during Operation Iraqi Freedom and helped successfully execute Operation Tidal Wave, one of the largest cordon-and-search operations since the end of the war.

While the operations' main purpose focused upon searching for weapons, explosive-device making shops and materials, and insurgent forces, the soldiers had the ulterior agenda of sending a message.

The message: the U.S. Army is working hard to bring peace and stability to Iraq, but we need Iraqi citizens, especially the men, to step up and help us make it happen.

Soldiers converged on the neighborhood knocking on doors, searching homes and residential buildings, and pulling aside all military-aged men.

"This was a brigade-sized operation. Along with searching and seizing weapons and insurgents, we wanted to establish lines of communication with military-aged males," said Capt. Thomas G. Wilson, A Battery Commander, 1-94 FA. "We talked to them and let them know that we need their help to establish security within their neighborhoods."

The artillerymen had to clear possible threats in multi-story apartment buildings, scale walls, crawl through barbed wire, brave farm animals, and patrol through rough-tilled, muddy earth in order to reach every home in the sector.

The men met surprisingly little resistance from residents in an area that has been known for its anti-coalition sentiment, said Wilson.

"Everybody from our area was very cooperative. In fact, they were very hospitable, even offering us tea while we were searching their homes," said Staff Sgt. Wyatt Young, firing platoon sergeant for A Battery, 1-94 FA. "No one gave us any real resistance, and we did not have to physically restrain anyone."

Operation Tidal Wave was the brainchild of Col. Kurt Fuller, commander of the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, and included units from all across 1st Armored Division.

According to Wilson, around 4,000 troops under the operational control of Task Force Falcon were involved in the operation that blanketed an entire neighborhood.

Wilson said that even though the operation was one of the largest he had been a part of, it ran smoothly thanks to the close collaboration of all involved military units.

"The community was a little scared at first, but we had interpreters with us to help communicate and female soldiers from 69th Chemical Company and 501st Military Police Company to ease confusion with the women we came in contact with," said Wilson.

No soldiers or civilians in the neighborhood were injured, and not even a shot was fired during the searches.

"There was no firing at us, and no one got out of control," said Pfc. Austin Weser, MLRS fire direction control operator for A Battery, 1-94 FA. "There was good leadership from the top all the way down. Everyone knew his job and did it well, and things went just as smoothly as I had hoped."

Wilson said 1-94 FA has gone through several transitions since their arrival in Baghdad last summer. Much of the work and training they have done are for missions just like Operation Tidal Wave that require a specific skill set outside the typical artillery training.

Close-quarters marksmanship, patrolling, room-clearing, cordon-and-search, cordon-and-attack and traffic control points are some of the several specialized skills and tactics that 1-94 FA has had to learn.

"Just like any other unit in Baghdad, we have had to train up to meet the new challenges presented by our enemies," said Wilson. "We are not infantry, but we are doing that job. With the right training plan, the right attitude and the leadership backing it you can train any U.S. Army unit to perform these tasks."

The artillerymen of 1-94 FA are proud of what they have accomplished in with such limited training time. With the success of Operation Tidal Wave, these Soldiers have proven

they are ready to meet any challenge head-on.

"If you would have asked me prior to coming here, I would not have believed that these artillery Soldiers would be able to do the job we are doing. It took time to learn these skills and tactics, and I think our performance says a lot about our flexibility and ability to adapt."

"I think that we have shown that regardless of our (military) background, we can adapt and overcome in any task the Iraqis or the Army can give us."



Staff Sgt. Jason Hickman, battery operations center chief for 1-94 FA, takes a look at a large, dark, cylindrical object, likely a weapon or piece of equipment, during a search of a southern-Baghdad home during Operation Tidal Wave. The search was limited by law, one weapon and limited ammunition for home use.

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d have said there is no way
doing," Young said. "We had
ys a lot about this unit's ver-

y occupational specialty) that
throws our way," Weser said.



Staff Sgt. Jason Hickman, battery operations center chief for A Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, surveys the farmland of southern Baghdad while patrolling in between home searches.



Staff Sgt. Jason Hickman, battery operations center chief for A Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, running, leads a team entering a southern-Baghdad apartment complex to search for weapons.

A Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th
k at a family's AK-47 while
Wave Jan 11. Each family is
the defense.

1-1 Cav screens

**Story and photos by Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd MPAD**

BAGHDAD, Iraq - By 4 a.m. on Sunday, more than 600 Al Rashid residents arrived to begin what could be a new career as an Iraqi police (IP) officer. Sponsored by 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, assigned to the 1st Armored Division Artillery Brigade Combat Team, residents spent hours waiting patiently in line during an initial application process at an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) camp in Southern Baghdad.

As more applicants arrived at the muddy, water-filled compound, several dozen ICDC assigned to the Bodingen, Germany-based caval-

ry regiment began searching men for weapons or other illegal items and controlling the large, overwhelming response to the possibility of a new future for Baghdad residents.

From a brief physical examination to random security background checks, Soldiers scrutinized application forms and check for health conditions to ensure the best 500 applicants are submitted for possible selection into the Baghdad Iraqi Police Academy.

Applicants ranged from young 20-year-old adults looking for their first job to career carpenters looking for a new occupational change.

"I want to serve my country and live in peace," said Iyad Hassan, 28, a local carpenter

who hasn't seen work in months. "I think the future of Iraq is good. I know from my heart it will get better. The American soldiers will help our country get better."

Possible applicants must be 20 years old and have a diploma from a primary secondary school, said Sgt. 1st Class Brad Engelhorn, 33, from Mandan, N.D., a noncommissioned officer with Comanche Troop, 1-1 Cav., in charge of the two-day recruitment process.

The initial screening was at the first station that looked over applications to ensure they were properly completed and the applicants met the basic age and education requirements.

Working to help make a better Iraq with a new Iraqi Police makes Pfc. Derrick Nunley's job feel more important as he personal looks over each application with the help of fellow Soldiers.

"We are helping them build a better Iraq," said the 22-year-old mortar man from Desota, Kan. "By being a part of the application process, it shows them that we are actually making an effort to help them get back on their feet."

Nunley said Iraq will only get better when Iraqis start helping Iraqis on their own.

From the initial application review process, regiment medics and physician's assistants saw applicants-- for some their first medical examination in their life. From head to toe, applicants' blood pressure, eyes and abdomen were checked to ensure the Iraqis have an overall health check-up before being selected to attend the academy.

Obesity, uncorrectable bad vision and diabetes will disqualify an applicant from being an Iraqi Police officer, said Capt. Eric Klage, 40, from Chicago, Ill., a physician's assistant assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop.

"First of all, we are looking to make sure they are overall healthy," he said. "We are looking for a history of disease or disorders that would disqualify an applicant. We basically are doing a quick and general head to toe medical check to ensure there are no obvious medical conditions that would hinder in their ability to perform as an Iraqi police officer."

From eyes, throat, lungs and heart checks, the medical staff worked together to move applicants through the process for efficiently and quickly.

Between the two days, the team of several dozen cavalry Soldiers and the company of ICDC providing security and escort service would have seen more than 800 applicants.

"Four days ago we got the mission to pre-screen IP applicants," said Engelhorn. "The troop came together and made this happen."

At the end of the day, Engelhorn hopes that 500 applicants will have their class date to begin training in the new reformed Iraqi Police



Pfc. Ivan Santillanes, 19, from Pasadena, Calif., assigned to Comanche Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, based from Bodingen, Germany, oversees an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) searching an Iraqi Police applicant during a two-day screening process at a local ICDC compound in southern Baghdad.

IP applicants

Academy.

"This is just the beginning process that we do to help the Iraqi people establish their own police force," he said. "These people need to start taking care of themselves. This is the only way this country is going to see change."

(Below)

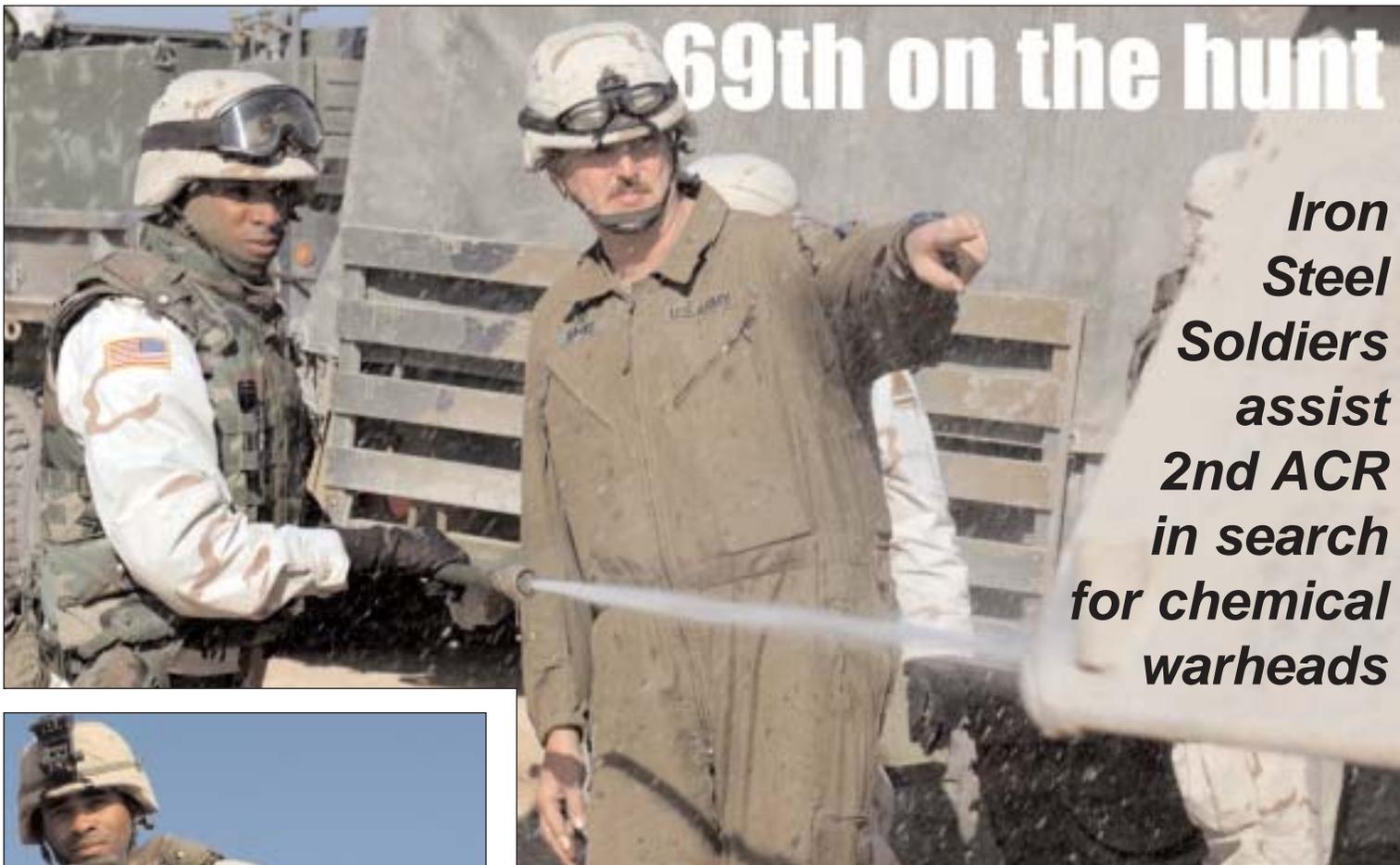
An Iraqi Police applicant fills out required paperwork.



Spc. Kevin Johnson, 24, from Medesto, Calif., Comanche Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, based from Bodingen, Germany, checks the blood pressure of an Iraqi Police applicant.



A PSYOP soldier assigned to 315th PSYOP Company, from Upland, Calif., keeps a close eye on hundreds of Iraqi Police applicants during a two-day screening process at a local Iraqi Corps Defense Corps compound in southern Baghdad.



69th on the hunt

Iron Steel Soldiers assist 2nd ACR in search for chemical warheads



(Above) Sgt. Carlos Barnes, 69th Chemical Company, 1st AD, based in Hanau, Germany, keeps a watchful eye on the water pressure during pre-maintenance on the Fox vehicle. (Top) Sgt. 1st Class Todd Kearns, directs Staff Sgt. Gregory James to spray a particular piece of equipment before use. (Top Right) Two soldiers in their protective gear watch (Below) engineers and 69th Chem. Co. soldiers inspect a suspected site of a chemical warhead. No chemical weapons were found on site.