



BATTLE SIGHT



Issue 007

30th Brigade Combat Team

15 September 2004



Published twice each month for the Soldiers and families of the 30th BCT. Questions or comments concerning this news letter can be sent to the Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Matthew Handley matthew.handley@us.army.mil

If you would like to submit stories or digital photographs for consideration for publication in the Battle Sight, contact Master Sgt. Mike Welsh michael.welsh3@us.army.mil
Photo journalist
Cpl. Matthew Putney matthew.p.putney@us.army.mil
Information Operations Maj Tony Quinn tony.quinn@us.army.mil

Public Affairs Guidance for dealing with the media

- Always check to see if the media rep is credentialed. If not credentialed, suggest they contact the 1D PAO, Maj. Neil Obrien at the DIV HQ.
- Never discuss current or future operations. Topics such as Force Protection and ROE are off limits.
- Everything is on the RECORD when talking with the media.
- Stay in your lane and only discuss what you know and NEVER speculate.
- Be prepared by knowing three things you can say about yourself and three things about your job.
- Avoid using any military jargons. Keep it plain and simple.
- If you do not know the answer, then just say you do not know. NEVER lie to the media.
- Set the record straight if the media has the facts confused.
- Have your chain of command notify the PAO about the interview.

Remember, if we do not tell the story, the media will be forced to write it on their own. We can be proud of what we are doing for OIF and the sacrifices our families are making. Let the world know that you are making a stand and what you are willing to defend.

Cover photo;



Maj. Gen. John Batiste (left), Commander, 1st Infantry Division, presents the Combat Infantry Badge to 2nd Lt. Bryan Perez, B Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, at Forward Operating Base Caldwell. Also shown in the photo next to Perez from B Company in order are 1st Lt. Christian Smith and Capt. Michael Allen, as well as Capt. Matthew Stapleton, A Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

GWOT Medal

Defense Department Introduces Global War on Terrorism Medals

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 2004 – Military members serving at home and abroad in the war on terrorism will now be recognized for that service. Defense officials announced today the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

Individuals who have deployed to operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to those who served in airport security operations in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

“These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world - - for both current and future operations,” stated a DoD news release.

Individuals can receive both medals if they meet the individual criteria, officials said. To be awarded the expeditionary medal, individuals must have been deployed outside the United States for OEF or OIF for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. The time requirement is not needed if the individual engaged in combat, was wounded or killed in action, or was medically evacuated for any reason, officials said.

The area of eligibility encompasses the U.S. Central Command area, excluding the lower Horn of Africa; Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas, according to the release.

Each day aircrew members fly sorties into designated areas counts as one day of deployment toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

(Source of information; DefenseLink website)

Individuals engaged in actual combat may be eligible for battle stars on the expeditionary medal. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for them, the release states.

Personnel eligible to receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated or support operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Service medal eligibility dates run from Sept. 27, 2001, until May 31, 2002, for individuals who served in airport security operations. The same 30- or 60-day requirements apply to the service medal as to the expeditionary medal.

“Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for processing appropriate regulations for processing awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin,” the DoD release stated.



The front of Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal features a shield adapted from the Great Seal of the United States. The back includes the eagle, serpent and swords from the medal's front-side design along with the inscription “War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.” The medal's final approval was announced Feb. 26. (Armed Forces NewsService)

AROUND AO HICKORY



Master Sgt. Donnie Blackburn, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 30th Brigade Combat Team, operates the computer generating visual graphics for a class on civil rights to a group of Iraqi Army officers from the Kirkush Military Training Base. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



Soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medic Badge during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Caldwell. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Sgt. First Class William Little (left), Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor, and Spc. Shalita Cassidy, A Company, 105th Engineer Battalion, prepared culinary items for the Regional Security Council meeting in Khanaqin. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Spc. Mario Bonilla and Spc. Juan Rojas both with B Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor, work on a vehicle at FOB Base Cobra. (Photo by Cpl Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



Sgt. Barbara Campbell (US Soldier right side of the table) C Company, 230th Forward Support Battalion, provides instruction for the Iraqi Army on medical suturing techniques at the Troop Medical Clinic, Forward Operating Base Caldwell. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



Spc. Jerrod Curry, (left), G Battery, 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, is presented the Brigade Coin from Brig. Gen. Dan Hickman, Commander, 30th Brigade Combat Team, for exceeding the standards. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)

One Year Ago - September 20, 2003

30th BCT ordered to active duty

(Photos by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)





“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

Spc. Marva Indira Gomez and her husband died in a tragic car crash September 2004. Spc. Gomez was with her husband as they traveled to get back home to see the rest of her family on R&R Leave from Iraq.

Spc. Gomez was admired by all that she came in contact with and was respected for her loyalty and dedication by her fellow Soldiers. The contributions and presence of Gomez will be greatly missed by her unit. Our thoughts and prayers are with the 828th Finance Detachment and the family of Spc. Gomez.



The 828th Finance Detachment, say a final good-bye to a significant member of their unit during a memorial service at FOB Caldwell, Iraq. Spc. Marva Indria Gomez died in a automobile crash with her husband during her R&R Leave September 2004.

JSTARS helps fight insurgency war

Written by Master Sgt Mike Welsh,
Public Affairs NCO, 30th BCT



Spc. Adria Hadlock, Headquarters Headquarters Battery, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, prepares to monitor the Common Ground Station consoles as radar imagery is received from a JSTARS aircraft. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

FOB CALDWELL, IRAQ - "Hickory 18, this is Granite Thunder 17, send it", replies Sgt. Donald Huntington, Headquarters Headquarters Battery (HHB), 197th, Field Artillery (FA) Brigade, during a short burst of secure radio traffic over his headset.

Huntington is sitting under the glow of tactical lighting in a modular high tech van full of secure communication gear and computers. This is all being accomplished from a tactical location in the eastern part of Iraq. Huntington and his coworkers stay in constant contact with the Brigade Fire Support Element (FSE) and the JSTARS (Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System) radar operators. Passively the JSTARS jet aircraft flies high above Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers in the 30th Brigade Combat Team are jointly working with specially trained Common Ground Station (CGS) operators from the 197th Field Artillery Brigade. Mission requirements have made the CGS a hub linking joint service assets together with the common goal of defeating the insurgents threatening the sovereignty of Iraq.

The mission — JSTARS data is received by the CGS operators in their multi-million dollar vans. Each CGS van can track hundreds of vehicles moving on the ground over a vast geographical area in Iraq. Simply put, track the ground moving targets and vector Multi National Forces to the exact location.

"We can determine the exact speed, the direction, pin point location, number of vehicles, identify if it is a wheeled vehicle or track, as well as see the target in real time on the computer stations. The operator is constantly selecting a variety of digital maps and 3-D images. We can store data to go back over and look for trends and patterns", added Huntington.

Huntington is a National Guard Soldier from the New Hampshire Army National Guard. The dedication and motivation Huntington feels for his mission is obvious. Being remote, Huntington and his team have had to complete repairs to the system without the maintenance team that normally supports this type of operation. Back home Huntington is studying to become a Physician Assistant.

"Look at this section, this is the MSR (Main Supply Route) going out of the FOB. Those icons are six Bradley's heading out on a mission. This shows the speed and it is telling me that these are track vehicles", points out Huntington on the operator's console.

The men and women making up this top notch section have completed an intensive 39 week course at Fort Huachuca, AZ for this military specialty. Their classroom instruction was effective, detailed, and the very best, however it never could have prepared them for the challenges they face in an insurgency ground war.

"When we pick up targets from the JSTARS aircraft, we can coordinate with the Fire Direction Center and the Brigade Tactical Operations Center. Immediately they can direct ground patrols or the Quick Reaction Force to any area of tactical interest", said Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) Edward Olson, HHB, 197th FA Brigade. "What we have been tracking is a lot of border crossing activity. Now we can vector a combat patrol and the Iraqi Department of Border Police to investigate some of these vehicles", commented Olson. Additionally, Olson said "Maintaining good comm's with the ground units has been our biggest challenge".

"During the missions we are getting support from the Air Force flying the JSTARS E-8 jet aircraft and we have also done some joint missions using the Navy P-3 recon aircraft", added Olson. "Overall things have gone very well for the most part", commented Huntington.

JSTARS aircraft use the Boeing 707-300 series aircraft platform and are flown by the US Air Force and the Air National Guard. Battlefield commanders are presented an effective edge with JSTARS and its multiple capabilities for sharing real time intelligence. Since its early development stages in 1996, JSTARS has undergone multiple revisions and upgrades.

The primary feature of the JSTARS is an all

weather system radar. The radar can be controlled to scan various degrees of elevation and azimuth for moving ground targets. Controllers on the aircrew maintain a secure data and voice link with the CGS.

“This mission is unique in the fact that we have the CGS team from the 197th Field Artillery, New Hampshire National Guard and the 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery from the North Carolina National Guard making up the artillery team in a combat theater” said Olson. “Some of our Soldiers come from different states such as Maine or Vermont for example” said Olson.

“We are demonstrating the concept of a One-Army Team and it’s a seamless integration into the Army’s 1st Infantry Division. This is being done for the first time and we are developing new procedures practically on every mission”, remarked Olson.

“JSTARS can also be used to determine the point of origin and the retreat path insurgents might take after launching mortars or rockets at a FOB”, stated Olson.

“This has not been a big shooting war for field artillery, so doing this mission makes me feel like I am making a significant contribution to the war fight, added Olson. Olson has been in the Field Artillery family for over 17 years. Back in New Hampshire Olson is a manager for the Lowe’s Corporation. “Lowe’s has been great. They have been very supportive of their Soldiers that are deployed”, concluded Olson.

“It’s been a good experience so far on this mission”, said Spc. Adria Hadlock, HHB, 197th, FA Brigade. The Maine native joined the National Guard in October 2002 looking for a different kind of challenge. “I knew that I would most likely end up getting deployed if I did this when I joined”, added Hadlock.

Hadlock is a 96H (Military Intelligence Imagery Specialist) and has spent most of her short military career thus far in AIT (Advance Individual Training) and now in Iraq. “Our shifts in the van fluctuate depending on the mission. They might average sometimes seven hours and they could go as long as ten to eleven hours” added Hadlock. “I think this has been exciting. Being here in Iraq you really get to do your military job and I might not have ever gotten this experience back in the states”, concluded Hadlock.



Sgt. Donald Huntington (left) and Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) Edward Olson, both with Headquarters Headquarters Battery, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, are supporting the 30th Brigade Combat Team with the integration of the Common Ground Station and JSTARS capability. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



This Common Ground Station unit mounted on a HMMWV (High Mobility Multi Purpose Vehicle) is part of the 197th Field Artillery Brigade and is used to monitor radar imagery from a JSTARS aircraft operated by the Air Force over Iraq. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

105th Engineers continue FOB improvements

Written by Pfc. Marcus Wiggins,
HHC 105th Engineers



Container Housing Units (CHU's) are unloaded and emplaced by contractors working with the 105th Engineer Battalion at FOB Caldwell. (Photo provided by the 105th EN BN)

Forward Operating Base (FOB) Caldwell has rapidly grown into a small city on the Kirkush Military Training Base. The area now occupied by the 30th Brigade Combat Team at FOB Caldwell was non-existent when the units arrived last March. However, since then the SWEAT Team (Sewer Water Electricity Air Trash) has been working non-stop improving the facilities and quality of life for Soldiers. Basically, the FOB had to be built from the ground up. This has been no small task considering that the 30th BCT ramped up immediately for combat operations after arriving and the construction had to be conducted simultaneously.

What is the SWEAT Team doing? SWEAT Team members are busy maintaining sewer, water, electric, air and trash services on the FOB. The start point for many of their tasks now originates with individuals submitting work orders for malfunctions in any of those areas.

Work orders are submitted at the FOB Mayors office. Honoring work orders is a small but vital part of the SWEAT Teams job. The most demanding part of their job is setting up CHU'S (container housing units) This project for the SWEAT Team is done in conjunction with Soufan, a contracting company from Lebanon that helps prepare the CHU'S for the Soldiers to live inside at FOB Caldwell.

The 105th Engineer Battalion has been the backbone of all of the transformations at FOB Caldwell and many other FOB locations. Future long range improvement projects at Caldwell includes two basketball courts, a softball field, golf driving range, indoor swimming pool, soccerfield, and a 2-mile paved jogging trail with workout stations. Additionally, there is a plan for two mini theaters and concrete sidewalks.



SWEAT Team member Staff Sgt. T.J. Smith, Headquarter Headquarters Company, 105th Engineer Battalion works on a high power line at FOB Caldwell. (Photo provided by 105th EN BN)



105th Engineer Battalion SWEAT Team (Sewer Water Electricity Air Trash) - Front row left to right; Capt. Luke Burnett, Sgt. Tremaine Carr, Staff Sgt. Todd Butcher, Sergeant First Class Timothy Pressley, and standing in the back row Sgt. T.J. Smith. (Photo provided by the 105th EN BN)

Iraqi Army gets communications training

Written by 1Lt. John Moynihan,
HHC 30th BCT, Signal Section

FOB CALDWELL, IRAQ - The message was clear. "If you can't communicate, you're likely to fail your mission", said Maj. Timothy Harrison, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 30th Brigade Combat Team (30th BCT). Iraqi soldiers learned this lesson, as well as basic Signal communications and modern technologies in a discussion with Harrison, who just happens to be the Brigade Signal Officer (S-6).

Trainers from CMATT (Combat Military Assistance Training Team) asked Harrison, who is a National Guardsman from Burnsville, NC to provide a comprehensive overview of military communications for the Iraqi Army at the Kirkush Military Training Base (KMTB). CMATT provides training and mentoring for the Iraqi Army at KMTB, which is adjacent to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Caldwell.

"They needed somebody to explain things like call signs, standard procedures and other communication basics", commented Harrison. Members of the Iraqi Army communication command (G6), were given an overview of voice and data communications systems of the

30th Brigade, such as SINCGARS (Single Channel Ground and Radio System) radios, TACSAT (Tactical Satellite) Radios, and Iridium satellite telephones. Harrison also covered Multi National Force data networks such as SIPRNET (Secure Network) and NIPRNET (Non-secure network).

Included in the review for the Iraqi Army were details concerning capabilities of the equipment, as well as radio operating procedures, communications security, and contingency plans in the event of a compromise or equipment failure.

The Iraqi Soldiers were given a tour of the Light Digital Operations Center (LDOC), a new vehicle fielded by the Army and provided a demonstration of SINCGARS radio operations in a HMMWV (High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicle).

"I think that the training was very beneficial. They should have a good understanding of where they need to go and what steps they need to take to have communication capability", concluded Harrison.



Maj. Timothy Harrison, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 30th Brigade Combat Team, demonstrates communication procedures for Officers representing the New Iraqi Army at the Kirkush Military Training Base, Iraq. (Photo by 1Lt. John Moynihan, HHC 30th BCT)

30th BCT installs radios for Iraqi Army

Written by Cpl. Matthew Putney,
30th BCT Public Affairs

FOB CALDWELL, IRAQ- Sergeant 1st Class Frances Cherry, 105th Engineer Battalion is in charge of a detail of seven Soldiers from the 30th BCT, (Brigade Combat Team) assisting the 6th and 7th Battalions of the Iraqi army.

The 30th BCT Soldiers are installing radio communication equipment in the new quarter and five-ton vehicles of the Iraqi Army. "We have already installed 37 radios in the 7th Battalions vehicles, and when we are finished with the 6th Battalion we will have installed an additional 37 for a total of 74 radios," said Cherry

"Without the help of the 30th BCT Soldiers these radios would not have been installed," stated Sergeant 1st Class Bruce Grazier of the AST (Advisory Support Team) working with the Iraqi Army. "Thanks to the Soldiers of the 30th BCT our combat capabilities and effectiveness goes way up with our ability to communicate," said Grazier.

Staff Sergeant Fredrick Johnson of the AST who coordinated getting the Soldiers of the 30th said "This is a great example of one coalition partner helping another to achieve a common goal against a common enemy."



Radio Installation Team from left to right; Sgt. Daniel Berowski, G Battery, 202nd ADA, Spc. Julian Ramire, HHC, 230th FSB, Sgt. First Class Francisco Figueroa, G Battery, 202nd ADA, Cpl. James Evans, HHC, 105th EN BN, Spc. Tatjuana Hackett, HHC, 30th BCT, Sgt. First Class Francis Cherry, HHC, 105th EN BN, Sgt. Glen Bunch, HHC, 105th EN BN, Staff Sgt. Fredrick Johnson, AST. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



An Iraqi Soldier tries out the new Motorola radio installed in light duty trucks being used by the new Iraqi Army. Soldiers from the 30th Brigade Combat Team installed the Motorola mobile radios in the vehicles at the Kirkush Military Training Base, Iraq. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)

Joint Command Centers being created in Iraq

Written by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh,
30th BCT, Public Affairs NCO

FOB CALDWELL, IRAQ - A major step has been taken towards improving the communication capability of emergency services and Iraqi Security Forces under the direction of the 1st Infantry Division, with the creation of Joint Command Centers (JCC) in multiple cities and towns.

The concept of the JCC focuses on bringing together in one central location representatives from the Iraqi Police (IP), Iraqi National Guard (ING), a Fire Department representative, a local hospital representative, as well as Multi National Force members.

Already the MNF has started equipping JCC locations with communication equipment such as base station radios, computers and high speed internet service, fax machines, multiple telephones, as well as mobile radios for the IP and ING patrols. The intent is to enhance the speed and effectiveness that Iraqi Security Forces and emergency personnel can respond to the needs of the Iraqi citizens and at the same time allow different agencies to communicate with each other.

“Capt. Mills, there is a possible IED (improvised explosive device) under the water tower” reported Mayor Mohammad Maroof

Hussein, inside the radio room at the JCC in Balad Ruz. Balad Ruz is a small bustling town near Baqubah in the Diyala Province. The Mayor was inside the JCC as several officers from the 6th Battalion, Iraqi Army and their counter part from the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, Maj. Pete Fedak, got their first look at this dynamic operation which first opened on September 1.

Mills collects more information about the suspected IED from the Mayor and coordinates the Explosive Ordnance Detachment to the scene which has safely been secured by the IP. The response is launched smoothly and rapidly all from one effective location. All of the key personnel are in the JCC working as a team. Capt. Thomas Mills is with Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, and he works in the JCC as the Liaison between the Iraqi Security Forces and the MNF.

In the eastern area of the Diyala province the MNF has assisted the Iraqis with establishing JCC locations in Balad Ruz, Mandila, Khanaqin, Jalula, and Qara Tapa. Eventually, the JCC plan includes networking all of these JCC locations together by computer and radio.

Further information comes in about the possible IED near the water tower. “Mortar rounds were found by an IP patrol” said Mills. “Right now they don’t think there are any wires showing, but we told them just to secure it and stay back” added Mills. Commenting on the mission of the JCC, the Mayor stated, “I hope to work side by side with the Iraqi Army, IP, ING, and alongside with the Coalition Forces” concluded Mohammad Maroof Hussein.



Capt. Thomas Mills (left), Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor receives urgent information from Mayor Mohammad Maroof Hussein, at the Balad Ruz Joint Command Center, concerning a possible IED located inside the town. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Maj. Pete Fedak, Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (left) Lt. Col. Gregory Wilcoxon (center), Commander, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, explain to officers from the 6th Iraqi Army the functions of the Joint Command Center (JCC) in Balad Ruz. The JCC brings together representatives from the Iraqi Police, Iraqi National Guard, the Fire Department, and also from the hospital in one central location. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

FOB Rough Ride handoff to ING

Written by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh,
30th BCT, Public Affairs NCO

FOB ROUGH RIDER, Iraq—Forward Operating Base Rough Rider has been the home for Task Force Mountaineer since March 2004. However, last Wednesday this military camp near the ancient city of Mandila was transferred to the 206th Battalion of the Iraqi National Guard (ING).

Task Force Mountaineer, comprised mainly of units from the 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, and other elements of the 30th Brigade Combat Team have been the guardians of FOB Rough Rider since they arrived in Iraq seven months ago as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

“This ceremony supports the fact that the ING is ready and able to perform their mission for the new Iraq”, said Lt. Col. Gregory Wilcoxon, Commander, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor. “I’m confident that B Company, 206th ING is capable of providing security from this location for the people of Iraq” continued Wilcoxon.

This predominantly agriculture community in eastern Diyala continues to benefit from the close relationship between local government leaders and the Multi National Forces (MNF). The bridge that connects the local leadership is a weekly Security Committee meeting held with each of the local Mayors, ING representatives, Iraqi Police Chiefs, and Coalition partners. Results of the meeting have been a sharper focus on infrastructure improvements and a generous sharing of information relating to security issues.

The ceremony at FOB Rough Rider was attended by the Governor of Diyala, Dr. Abdullah Shahad al-Jabur, as well as Mayor Abas Hussein of Mandila, Mayor Moh-

Jabur, as well as Mayor Abas Hussein of Mandila, Mayor Mohammad Maroof Hussein of Balad Ruz, and several other community leaders, Sheiks, Iraqi Police Chiefs, and representatives from the Department of Border Police.

Also in attendance at this special ceremony was Brig. Gen. Dan Hickman, Commander, 30th Brigade Combat Team. According to Hickman “This ceremony marks another milestone in Iraq’s progress towards security and stability.

“Iraqi security forces are bringing peace to Iraq. They have gained the confidence and competence to destroy the enemy within Iraq and will pursue them with determination. We will continue to fight along side them as partners towards our common goal of peace in Iraq”, concluded Hickman.

Governor Abdullah Shahad al-Jabur said after the ceremony “The Coalition is doing a marvelous job training our people and setting good standards for the ING, while building a new Iraq. We know they are risking their lives helping the people of Iraq”.

The 206th Battalion of the ING has been well trained and is composed of dedicated Soldiers willing to protect all Iraqi citizens. Many of the ING Soldiers and Officers have been trained by MNF partners, as well as attended military training programs offered by the MNF at the Kirkush Military Training Base. Jointly the MNF and the ING have been conducting patrols in Diyala for some time. Additionally, the ING has been provided patrol vehicles, radios, and emergency medical training from the MNF.

“We feel very grateful for the help of the United States”, said Lt. Col. Ali Khaki, Commander, 206th ING Battalion. “The United States removed the worst dictator on the earth. We will never forget what the United States did for us”, continued Khaki.

ING Soldiers have a tremendous responsibility in the new Iraq and take significant risk against insurgents. Some may wonder what motivates Iraqi citizens to join the ING. “Some people join to prove themselves. For me, it was a chance for me to do something for my country, to protect Iraqis that have a new chance”, said Khaki.



Soldiers of B Company, 206th ING, have taken another significant step in bringing peace and security to Iraq. During a military ceremony, B Company assumed command of FOB Rough Rider, which was the former home of a Coalition Task Force Mountaineer. (Photo by Master Sgt Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Lt. Col. Ali Khaki (left), Commander, 206th Battalion, ING talks with Brig. Gen. Dan Hickman (right), Commander, 30th BCT, during the ceremony transferring FOB Rough Rider to the ING. (Photo by Master Sgt Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

Teamwork keeps parts moving

Written by Cpl. Matthew Putney,
Public Affairs, 30th BCT

FOB CALDWELL, IRAQ—“It’s like Wal-Mart, Lowe’s and Advanced Auto Parts all rolled into one.” That is how Chief Warrant Officer (CW3) Mark Brady of B Company 230th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) describes the “Class Nine Yard”. The area next to the DFAC (Dinning Facility) with row after row of palletized supplies, military equipment parts, MRE’s (Meals Ready to EAT) water and anything else the 30th BCT needs to be combat ready. Brady who has 24 years of service is the Officer In Charge (OIC) of the yard.

It is his daunting task of receiving, separating, storing and ultimately distributing all the stock that is trucked into the yard. “We call it the Class Nine Yard, but we also handle class 1, 2, 3 packaged and 4. It may look as if the yard is not getting any smaller or the same stock is there all the time, but that is not true. We get a delivery of new stock called a “push” about every three days,” said Brady.

The push comes up from Logistical Supply Area (LSA) Anaconda. It occurs when the supply lane for the 30th BCT becomes full. Then the items are palletized on the large aluminum pallets and loaded onto trucks for shipping to Caldwell. Once the trucks and trailers arrive at Caldwell they are staged in one area and the connexs are put in another.

Working with Chief Brady in the stock control room is (CW3) Melony Cardoza from Headquarters Headquarters Company (HHC) Division Support Command (DISCOM) 1st Infantry Division. Chief Cardoza explains how the system for getting what is needed works.

“The units e-mail or drop a diskette with their requests to the stock control room. The computer system reads the request and tells you if the item is on hand in the yard, or if it is elsewhere. The system will look throughout

the theater including Kuwait for that item. If the item requested is not in theater it will be obtained stateside through the distributor or the manufacturer,” said Cardoza.

Each pallet is equipped with a radio frequency (RF) tag. Satellites pick up the radio freq. enabling it to be tracked while in transit. “Any combat related item such as tracks or anything that could deadline a piece of military equipment has priority. We get it in and push it out to the unit that needs it as fast as possible,” said Cardoza.

There is also an area set aside for turn ins. A turn in is anything the military can use again. These items include tracks, engines, starters, road wheels, alternators and batteries. These items are palletized and sent back to LSA Anaconda. Eventually they will be sent back to the manufacturer for rebuilding, refurbishing and reuse.

Sgt. 1st Class Lance Schneider of A Co, 230th FSB is the NCOIC (Non Commissioned Officer In Charge) of the yard. One of his many duties is to oversee the positioning and unloading of the truckloads of new stock. There are over a hundred connexs out in the yard, and the new stock must be put in the correct one.

“We are two companies (A Co and B Co 230th FSB) working together as one supply unit for the common good of the 30th BCT, if we fail to meet the unit’s requirements, the units are not able to fulfill the Soldiers needs, which is a direct impact on combat readiness. This is why we do our job, because we are Soldiers, from the BDE Commander down to the privates.

“For the Soldiers who are out on patrol, the ones turning the wrenches, and the ones in between, we need to get them their parts, their food, their water and anything else they need to do their jobs. This is what motivates us and this is who takes care of us, the individual Soldier,” said Schneider.



Sgt. Jessica Romero, B Company, 230th Forward Support Battalion, operates a forklift in the Class Nine yard at Forward Operating Base Caldwell. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



Keeping the 30th Brigade Combat Team equipped and stocked in a combat theater requires efficient coordination and support from the Class Nine parts yard team. Everything from tactical vehicle parts to air conditioners are staged in this enormous area at Forward Operating Base Caldwell. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)

The Hick-a-Billy’s

Written by Matthew Putney, Public
Affairs, 30th BCT

FOB COBRA, IRAQ— A small group of 30th BCT (Brigade Combat Team) Soldiers have come up with a great way to raise morale and make fun of some of the everyday factors that shape Forward Operating Base (FOB) living. The Hick-A-Billy Hayride is a two-hour comedy show filled with song parodies, singalongs and costume changes.

With songs like Digging Up Bombs, Jodi, and every ones favorite Take This FOB and Shove It, the show has something almost every Soldier can relate to. Spc. Emery Altman, HHC, 30th BCT, said “There is just too much material here and too many things to poke fun at.” Altman who does stand up comedy at clubs back in the states, is the front man for the group. “All the song ideas come from the Soldiers in the group and their everyday surroundings,” says Altman.

The boys have real talent. With Altman up front, Capt. William “Buck” Rodgers of HHC, 30th BCT, on banjo, Sgt Matt Clark HHC 150th on base, Sgt Steve Carpenter, Service Battery, 113th Field Artillery on drums, Sgt Joe Byrd, B Company, 230th Forward Support Battalion...well we’re not sure what he does,

and the man on lead guitar, fiddle, and banjo is Sgt David Lee Parker of HHC 230th FSB. Parker who is a chaplain’s assistant plays in a small blue grass band back home on the weekends.

“After the shows the Soldiers come up and say how much they enjoyed the show, how they can relate to it and would love to see it again,” said Parker. The songs are written to tunes the Soldiers know, that way they can sing-a-long and have a good time. Parker who sings a song called the “Guardsman” says “The song is pretty popular back in the Charlotte area, thanks to a visiting reporter from WBTV, who brought a recording of the song back with him”.

“The inspiration for the songs is FOB life. That is something we as Soldiers have in common,” stated Parker. “This show is for the Soldiers by the Soldiers, no one asked us to do it. We just wanted to get peoples minds off things and raise their morale. Soldiers who have seen the show seem to agree with me,” stated Altman. The Hick-A-Billys are currently working on new material for a show in October, hopefully.



Left to Right; Sgt. Joe Byrd, B Company, 230th FSB, Capt. Buck Rogers, HHC, 30th BCT, Spc. Emery Altman, HHC, 30th BCT, Sgt. Steve Carpenter, Service Battery, 113th FA, Sgt. Matt Clark, HHC 150th Armor, (name unavailable), and Staff Sgt. David Parker, HHC, 230th FSB. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)