



The Rail Gunner Weekly

41st Fires Brigade



1-21 FA



2-20 FA



589th BSB



HHB

COP Summers now in IA's hands



Capt. Bradford Brannon, commander, Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, 172nd Brigade Combat Team, hands the key to Combat Outpost Summers to Sameer Al-Haddad, receivership secretariat and representative of the prime minister, during a ceremony celebrating the return of the COP to Iraqi authority June 29.

By Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

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41st Fires Bde. PAO

The Service Battery of 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, 172nd Brigade Combat Team, handed control of Combat Outpost Summers, near Suwayrah, over to the 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade during a ceremony June 29.

COP Summers is the fifth and final security station to be returned to Iraqi control before the June 30 deadline for U.S. Soldiers to withdraw from major Iraqi cities.

"Tomorrow you should be standing very tall," Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander and commander of U.S. troops in Wasit province, told the Iraqi Soldiers at the ceremony.

"Iraqi Security Forces are capable of protecting their people," Francey continued. "We stand by you as friends and realize you are in the lead."

"We have all worked together," said Brig. Gen.

Abed Gabr Mazloum, 32nd IA Brigade commander. "Everyone is part of the safety and security of the area."

Capt. Bradford Brannon, commander, SVC Btry., and Sameer Al-Haddad, receivership secretariat and a representative of the prime minister, signed the papers that made the handover of COP Summers official.

In compliance with the June 30 deadline, the 1-77 FA Soldiers moved to FOB Delta after the ceremony. The battalion will take authority of the FOB and U.S. troops in Wasit when the 41st Fires Brigade redeploys to Fort Hood in early August.

The SVC Battery Soldiers have lived and worked with their Iraqi partners on COP Summers since January 2009.

Although the U.S. troops will no longer live among their Iraqi partners, both leaders assured security in the area will continue.

"I promise you and I promise your people to work for security in the area," said Mazloum.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Rail Gunners say thanks 2

End-of-tour awards 3

4th of July festivities 4

Rail Gunners bid farewell 5

KBR honors Force Pro 5

Promotions 5



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41st FB leaders say thanks to support units

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill
41st Fires Bde. PAO

The brigade commander and command sergeant major of 41st Fires Brigade are ensuring that the units who supported their mission on FOB Delta and in Wasit province get recognition.

Over the course of several weeks, the Rail Gunner leadership has presented the brigade's coin to select Soldiers in the support units on FOB Delta.

"During this deployment this brigade task force has been assembled as a composite of numerous units. Because we have a (brigade combat team) mission but are not constructed as a BCT, it was essential to augment us with other capabilities," said Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander and commander of American troops in Wasit province.

Francey said building a BCT was simple on paper, but in execution "we built this airplane while in flight."

"We've had the support of eight different Coalition units and multiple U.S. - based units in support of this operation. It is our honor to take the time to stop by these units and present them with a small token and to say thanks for their hard work and sacrifice in making this a great team," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Hughes, 41st Fires Brigade.

The leadership of each unit decided which Soldiers would receive the honor, based on their performance during deployment, said 1st Sgt. Craig Abel, Company B, 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Florida National Guard, one of the units that was honored.



Sgt. Bruce Posey, tactical satellite team chief, Company B, 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Florida National Guard, receives a 41st Fires Brigade coin from Col. Dick Francey, the 41st Fires Brigade commander, during a ceremony at the 146th ESB headquarters July 1.

Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

"Sgt. Posey was an easy choice, because of his extracurricular activities such as teaching. But the other Soldiers were strictly on job performance," said Abel of Sgt. Bruce Posey, a tactical satellite team chief who has also taught college classes and Functional Academic Skills Training classes at the FOB Delta Education Center.

Other units recognized included: 542nd

Support Maintenance Company; 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, Pennsylvania National Guard; and 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The Rail Gunner command team plans to visit more troops as the brigade's re-deployment to Fort Hood draws closer.



Left: Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander, speaks to troops in 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 28th Combat Aviation Brigade, Pennsylvania National Guard, July 1 before presenting coins to Soldiers during a ceremony to show the Rail Gunners' appreciation of the units on FOB Delta that have supported the brigade during its deployment.

Right: Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander, speaks to Soldiers from 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, July 1, before presenting Rail Gunner coins to the troops in appreciation for their efforts to keep FOB Delta and the surrounding area safe.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

Sections celebrate deployment achievements



Top left: Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander, presents an Army Commendation Medal to Cpl. Vanthony Lane, a member of the command group personal security detail July 1 in front of the brigade headquarters. Along with Lane, the following PSD and command group teammates received the ARCOM: Spc. Nathan Alford, Spc. Kristi Baker, Spc. Edward Folger, Spc. Geoffery Hatten, Spc. Andrew Hillsman, Spc. Cody Kinney, Cpl. Theodore Martin, Spc. Todd McMahan, Spc. Joshua Meuchel, Sgt. Jeffrey Mills, Sgt. James Morrison, Sgt. Timothy Peters, Sgt. Bobby Shofner, Sgt. John Vilchez, Sgt. Shane Weiser and Sgt. Michael Williford. During the same ceremony, Staff Sgts. Christopher Fernandez, Corey Jarels, Cesar Morales and Matthew Wilson, and 1st Lt. Tanyia Bryant, received the Bronze Star Medal.

Top right: Maj. Jennifer Finch, 41st Fires Brigade military intelligence officer-in-charge, pins an Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. David Penton during an end-of-tour awards ceremony in the Analyst Control Element July 2 . The following Soldiers also received ARCOMs: Sgt. Travis Hooser, Sgt. Jon Parker, Sgt. Brandon Traynam, Sgt. Brian Bell, Spc. Mario Sanders and Spc. Rene Caldwell.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

Bottom: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Arnold Guzman, human resources technician and OIC, speaks to his troops before presenting their end-of-tour awards July 2 in front of brigade headquarters. Sgt. Detric Freaney, Spc. Jerome Bell, Spc. Selma Colesbacco, Spc. James Johnson, Spc. Erika Stepter and Pfc. Kimberly Brdar received the Army Commendation Medal; Pfc. Luz Person received an Army Achievement Medal.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO



Worship Opportunities	
Sunday	
<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Traditional Protestant	0900
Latter-day Saints	1030
Gospel Service	1300
Reconciliation service	1830
Catholic Mass (English)	1930
Monday	
<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Catholic Mass	0800
Tuesday	
<i>Mayor Cell</i>	
Bible Study	1930
<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Bible Study	2000
Thursday	
<i>TMC</i>	
Bible Study	1930
Saturday	
<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Catholic Mass	0800
Christian Movie Night	2000

FOB Delta celebrates Independence Day

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill
41st Fires Bde. PAO



Top left: Spc. Robert McGrath, 324th Network Support Company, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, supports his company in a game of horseshoes at the FOB Delta 4th of July party. The winners of the game were: Renegades in first place; Stash in second; and Non-stop Monster Truck Action in third.



Top right: Sgt. 1st Class Robert Knox, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, pitches in the game that won the "Deep Strike" team first place in the FOB Delta 4th of July tournament. "Team Lucky," the 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade Military Transition Team, took second place and 324th Network Support Company, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Bde., placed third.



Above: Players from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, soccer team, enjoy control of the ball in a game against the Ugandan Triple Canopy guards. In the end, the guards beat 2-20 FA and took first place in the FOB Delta 4th of July tournament. 2-20 FA took second place and 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion placed third.



Left: Sgt. Brandon Fowlkes, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st Fires Brigade, spikes a ball against 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Bde., in the FOB Delta 4th of July tournament. HHB eventually came in third, after the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment "Chili Dogs," who won first place, and 589th BSB, who placed second.

41st FB trail party heads to Kuwait to help brigade get home



Left: Spc. Jerome Bell (left) and Staff Sgt. Latrece Westbrook, both of the 41st Fires Brigade human resources section, prepare to say good-bye to FOB Delta, the FOB of Choice, before getting on a plane July 1. Westbrook and Bell will help the rest of the Rail Gunners outprocess from theater while in Kuwait.

Right: Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Hughes, the brigade's senior enlisted leader, brave the heat from the plane engines to say farewell to their Soldiers.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

KBR recognizes FOB Delta Force Protection team



Employees of Kellogg, Brown and Root honored the efforts of the 41st Fires Brigade and FOB Delta Force Protection team during a ceremony at the Mayor's Cell July 2.

*Photo contributed by Capt. Theresa Piasta
Force Protection OIC*

Promotions



Left: Sgt. 1st Class Larry Owens (right) is promoted by Capt. Daniel Scialpi, both part of 41st Fires Brigade legal, on July 1 in the legal annex.

Right: Spc. Geoffrey Hatten, brigade command group PSD, is promoted by his NCOIC, Staff Sgt. Christopher Fernandez, July 1 in front of brigade headquarters.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO