



TASK FORCE DANGER

Press Release

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FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq. Recent progress in the four provinces of North-Central Iraq is continuing to allow the division to shift its efforts away from combat operations and place more and more energy into stability and civil-military operations. Projects designed to improve the quality of life for Iraqis and promote economic development continue throughout Task Force Danger's area of operations. The Task Force continues to assist the sovereign Interim Iraqi Government in providing a safe and secure environment by removing weapons and killing or capturing anti-Iraqi forces from communities across our four provinces. We have achieved irreversible momentum across the battle space, from Baqubah, to Kirkuk, to Tikrit, to Balad, and most recently, to Samarra. Training and joint operations continue to yield positive results as Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) become more capable. The intent of this bi-weekly press release is to inform the public of the great work our servicemen and women are doing in Iraq and to garner support for our Soldiers and their families.

Making a Difference in North Central Iraq

Task Force Danger, in full partnership with the Iraqi civil and military authorities, continues to ensure a secure and stable Iraq. During the past two weeks, several division initiatives have demonstrated significant momentum towards achieving that



goal. Units at every level continue to work together with the Iraqi people to make an enormous impact on the security, government, and economic development of Iraq.

Transfer of Sovereignty Strategy Calls for Local Control

Task Force Danger Soldiers are working hard to train, equip, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces to be self-sufficient in the months ahead. We are working in partnership with the Iraqi National Guard (ING), the Iraqi Police, and the Iraqi Border Police to provide security and set the conditions for national and provincial elections in January 2005. The goal is to achieve local control with the 11 and soon to be 15 ING battalions, numerous provincial and city police departments, and border police units in Task Force Danger's provinces of Salah Ad Din, Diyala, Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah. We are well on our way to accomplishing this mission as we conduct full spectrum, counter-insurgency operations. The ISFs are becoming more and more proficient as thousands of dedicated, loyal, and courageous Iraqis fight for the future of their country. In Task Force Danger, there is no question about the outcome--the future will be a free and democratic Iraq.

Taking the Elements of Violence off the Streets

In the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Danger area of operations have resulted in an estimated four Anti-Iraqi Forces killed, three wounded, and an additional 79 detained. Significant ammunition seized from caches included more than 54 rockets; three complete mortar tubes; 1,799 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 103 small arms weapons and rocket propelled grenade launchers; 70 fuses; 119 mines; 36 pounds of



explosives; 50 blasting caps; and nine grenades. Major equipment confiscated included 56 rocket propelled grenades and two surface-to-air missiles. In the past two weeks, 1ID operations have also seized \$25,000 US Dollars, four million Iraqi Dinar, and four anti-Iraqi force vehicles. Within the past two weeks in the division's area of responsibility, 54 improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the loss of life at the hands of anti-Iraqi forces.

Task Force 1-7 Conducts Joint Operations with Iraqi Security Forces

In recent weeks, the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 conducted an increasing number of joint operations with elements of the Iraqi Police and Iraqi National Guard (ING). As part of an increasing effort to transition security duties, the ISF is becoming more and more a part of daily operations. Many of these operations feature deliberate raids or checkpoints intended to capture insurgents suspected of trafficking weapons, distributing propaganda, and conducting improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Bayji along Highway 1. Some of these operations have utilized soldiers from the Bayji and Tikrit ING battalions and up to 100 Iraqi Police officers. In Bayji, Task Force 1-7 works closely with Charlie Company, 201st ING Battalion. Task Force 1-7 continues integrating the ING and Iraqi Police into its operations as they begin to mature. Starting anew, these forces were created to provide for public safety in the new Iraq. Equipping, manning, and training these forces has been a major focus for Task Force 1-7 since arriving in Bayji in March of this year, and the success of these efforts is fundamental to the division's efforts in Iraq. The ING has matured under the guidance of the Coalition Forces and is ready to take on independent operations. In addition to preparing the ISF



for assuming more responsibility, ongoing joint operations also serve to improve the reaction of the townspeople to ISF operations. When the Iraqi people see the Iraqi Police or ING soldiers alongside Coalition Forces, acceptance of the operations is increased and the people gain more faith in their new security forces.

1st Infantry Division Hosts Monthly Governors' Conference

Beginning in the coming months, over \$2 billion in US taxpayer money will be spent on projects throughout the four provinces of the 1st Infantry Division. The plan was discussed during a press conference following a 25 August monthly Governors' Conference hosted by the 1st Infantry Division in Tikrit, Iraq. Each provincial council will decide how the money will be spent. During the monthly Governors' Conference, Charlie Hess, director of the Project Coordination Office headquartered in Baghdad, reported that more than 200 projects within the provinces of Kirkuk, Diyala, As Sulaymaniyah, and Salah Ad Din will begin by the middle of October. Projects will include water systems, schools, medical clinics, bridges, and electrical activities. Kirkuk Provincial Governor Abdul Rahman Mustafa hailed the move, saying local leaders must have a say in what projects are undertaken in Kirkuk. By the end of the year, Hess said more than 1,000 projects throughout Iraq are expected to start. Good things are indeed about to happen for the good people of Iraq. During the Governors' Conference, a number of topics were discussed including the situation in Samara, the status of Iraqi security forces in the region, the resettlement of Iraqis in Displaced Persons Camps, improvements to the country's infrastructure and quality of life, and the creation of jobs. Governor Hamud Shukti of Salah Ad Din and the Commanding General reiterated their



commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the security concerns in the City of Samarra.

Multi-National Forces Bring Electricity to Remote Villages in Sulaymaniyah

In the village of Cany Miran, we now see the first hand benefits of the rural electrification projects recently completed in Sulaymaniyah Province. Cany Miran is a small village far away from any populated areas and electrical distribution lines. The cost to build lines to this remote area is far too high to make it possible, and to provide poles, conductive line, and transformers to the village is a multi-year project. This small farming community had been isolated from many of the new freedoms and benefits of the new Iraq. After a new 63 KW generator was provided, the 30 families that live in the village now use electricity to light their houses, pump water, and power small appliances like televisions and radios. The school and clinic now have electricity, and everyday life seems a little easier. The generator provides enough electricity for approximately 100 families. The fuel for the generator is delivered on a monthly basis. On average, the generator operates 10 hours a day. This is the first real contact that the village has enjoyed with the outside world and it is the first electricity any of the villagers have had since the establishment of the town. Multi-National Forces have provided generators to ten villages like Cany Miran in the Sulaymaniyah province.

2nd BCT's Economic Development Team Funds Renovation of Iraqi Banks

As part of their mission to improve economic growth and development of the Kirkuk Province, the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Economic Development Team (EDT)



reopened two banks after they were renovated with Commander's Emergency Relief Program funds on 29 August. Devastated by fire and looting in last year's war, the Baba Gurgur bank was renovated with more than \$29,000 for structural, plumbing, and electrical repairs. The Baba Gurgur bank offers eight different banking services to approximately 15,000 individual account holders, government accounts, and private businesses in Kirkuk. The second bank EDT facilitated funds for was the Rafadain Bank, which is the oldest bank in the city and was in need of serious repairs. Due to faulty plumbing and inclement weather, the Rafadain Bank was suffering from mildew and water damage. Also, a broken gate secured the vault, which stored a weekly balance of 3.5 Billion Iraqi Dinar and \$800,000 US Dollars. More than \$43,000 from CERP funds paid for the renovations, plumbing, and electrical work within the Rafadain Bank. The funds also covered the installation of air conditioning units bought by the Coalition Provincial Authority. Following its improvements, the Rafadain Bank became even more of a key player in Kirkuk's economy with the 34,000 individual accounts, government accounts, and private businesses that utilize its banking services. The banking system in this province is still in its infancy stage. The EDT is planning to do similar renovations to the other 12 state-run banks in hopes of boosting the economy throughout the province. Currently, the second of three phases in Kirkuk Province's banking system makeover is underway. The second phase is to renovate other banks throughout the province and the third phase will be to connect the banks using Internet.

Gatafan Primary School Opens



On Wednesday, September 1, 2004, Soldiers from Bravo Company, "Regulators," Task Force 1-77, participated in a grand opening ceremony at the Gatafan Primary School in downtown Balad. The Gatafan Primary School grand opening is the most recent event in Operation Tiger Cub, Task Force 1-77's effort to repair or rebuild local schools, in order to help give the Iraqi children a chance at a brighter future. Gatafan School is attended by nearly 200 students from the surrounding neighborhood and employs eight teachers and one headmistress. The school, built in the early 1980s, had become severely damaged after two decades of neglect. The roof was collapsing in many places, the sewage system was inoperable, and there was no clean, safe place for the students to play during the school day. These poor conditions led the Balad City Council and Task Force 1-77 to identify the Gatafan School as a priority project. The grand opening ceremony was attended by members of the Balad City Council, Soldiers from Bravo Company, and dozens of local residents and children, many of whom will be students there when school starts in the coming weeks. Following the ceremonial ribbon cutting, guests were given refreshments and took a tour of the new school. Renovations included replacing the old roof, completely rebuilding the restrooms and septic system, and building several courts for the children to safely play. The project, which cost more than \$31,000, included building a new wall around the school. The children who attended the event were given an additional treat when Soldiers handed out toys, stuffed animals, and school supplies. The children received the supplies, donated by friends and family members of Soldiers in the Task Force, with great enthusiasm. The Gatafan Primary School grand opening ceremony is the second school grand opening in the Task Force 1-77 area in the last two weeks. Operation



Tiger Cub has supported groundbreakings on three new area schools, with another eight new schools anticipated to begin in the coming weeks. To date, Task Force 1-77 has spent more than \$250,000 in efforts to improve area schools.

TF 2-11 FA Closes Soldiers Compound in Altun Kupri

As a result of Altun Kupri's committed government and competent Iraqi Security Forces, Task Force 2-11 officially handed a forward operating base over to the city of Altun Kupri on 1 September. Multi-National Forces (MNF) have occupied the base since April 2003 in order to ensure security and stability to the city of Altun Kupri. In February 2004, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon "Outlaws" of Battery C, Task Force 2-11 took over military operations from the compound, which will now be used as a municipal building by the city government. "The first seeds of Democracy within Altun Kupri were planted by the coalition and these seeds will continue to grow because of the city's community", 1st Lt. Robert Elzer, a fire direction officer with the Outlaws said during the hand over ceremony. Altun Kupri is a community of ethnic diversity, dedicated to the ideals of democracy, which has chosen to put the needs of the community ahead of political and personal goals. It is the advancement of those ideals, by an entire community, that led to the decision to make Altun Kupri the first city to see the closure of a coalition forward operating base. During the Outlaws' time in Altun Kupri, they assisted in the relocation of an Iraqi National Guard company to provide additional presence in the city and also helped fund renovations to the Iraqi Police station. Over the past months, the police and ING have assumed more and more security operations within the city as part of the transition of authority to the Iraqi people. Now, with Altun



Kupri's ISF running all security missions, Task Force 2-11 has left the city's stability in their hands. Because of a well-trained ISF and competent government in the city, Task Force 2-11 is confident that Altun Kupri is ready to move forward on its own.

TF Danger Continues Full Spectrum Operations

The 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Warrior) and Iraqi Security Forces conducted successful, synchronized, non-kinetic operations throughout the Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah provinces. In the city of Kirkuk, the Provincial leadership continues to hold bi-monthly meetings to keep the populace informed of various issues from elections to recent vehicle borne improvised explosive device attacks. Task Force 2-11 continues to build an effective fighting Iraqi Security Force. International Police Advisors recently graduated the first police Train-the-Trainer course in Sulaymaniyah. The Task Force 2-11 team completed a 211th ING Battalion literacy program and pre-basic training course. The Warrior Brigade Combat Team continues to push the Iraqi Security Forces to the forefront of issues and security in the Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah provinces.

Over the past two weeks, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Duke) made a significant impact in reducing the number of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Western Diyala, down thirty percent from last month. Task Force 82 continues conducting counter-IED patrols along Blue Babe Highway to contribute to the significant reduction in IEDs. A significant event was the capture of a mortar team that fired 17 rounds at FOB Gabe. Using all of the brigade's assets, to include counterfire radar, unmanned aerial vehicles, and Kiowa Helicopters, the mortar team was tracked and captured in



three separate buildings without incident by Iraqi Police and 3BCT soldiers. Seven suspects observed in the attack were arrested, and a ski mask with Arabic writing and a videotape showing men firing mortars at FOB Gabe were found in the captured vehicle. Task Force 2-63, with the assistance of the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, continues aggressively conducting counter-mortar operations. Task Force 2-63 also continues training with the ING located at FOB Scunion, as well as assisting Khalis Iraqi Police with the installation of a new checkpoint on Highway 2. Task Force 2-2 dispersed humanitarian items to displaced Kurds in Dali Abbas. The battalion distributed sports equipment to Abu Sayda youth center and began a 14-day computer training program for 205th ING Battalion soldiers. Task Force 1-6, through engagements and patrolling, has continued to make Baqubah a safer place. Task Force 2-63 soldiers also passed out IED flyers, posters and "I love Iraq" stickers to community members in a continuing effort to aid the ISF in gaining community support. In addition, 3BCT also celebrated Labor Day with various sporting events and activities throughout the week. All task forces continue work with ING and ISF training programs throughout the province.

Over the past two weeks, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) continued to provide security and to improve the infrastructure of the Salah Ad Din Province. Life is looking up for a boy from Ad Dujayl named Abdul Jabar. This 8-year-old boy was discovered to have a congenital heart defect, one that is regularly corrected during infancy in the United States. Thanks to the efforts of Company A, Task Force 2-108, it was arranged for Abdul to be taken to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa, Florida. The surgery was performed free of charge and was successful. COL Zelman, TF 2-108's surgeon, was able to visit Abdul in the hospital during his R&R leave. Abdul



has now been discharged from the hospital, and he is spending two more weeks in Florida with his Grandmother and their host, Dr. Bahaa El-Hadidy, a retired professor from the University of South Florida. We look forward to seeing a healthy and smiling Abdul and his family when he returns to Ad Dujayl. Over Labor Day weekend, the soldiers of the 299 Forward Support Battalion were fortunate enough to enjoy a day of relaxation and competition with one another. On Saturday, 4 September 2004, Soldiers competed in a variety of recreational events, including softball, volleyball, horseshoes, dominos, spades, basketball, and tug-of-war. In each of these events, the top three teams were awarded points, which went towards winning the coveted Battalion Commander's Cup. The battalion's food service personnel set up a BBQ lunch under tents, and soldiers enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, ribs and chicken throughout the day. During the closing ceremony, CSM Emery announced the third, second, and first place winners of the day while LTC Pate presented the units with their trophies. On 1 September 04, Task Force 1-18 and Iraqi Security Forces conducted a second celebration of partnership and camaraderie. Approximately 850 representatives from all of the ISF groups responsible for security throughout Task Force 1-18's area of operation joined together for and participated in a day of athletic competition, military skills competition, and social activities. The event occurred at Saddam's well-known Birthday Palace (as seen on CNN when Saddam Hussein walked out onto the balcony and fired his shotgun into the air) in Tikrit. The competition featured teamwork-oriented events including soccer, HMMWV push, aid and litter carry, and a 50 meter relay with weapons assembly and disassembly. The purpose of this event was to build strong bonds between the ING, Iraqi Police, the Life Support Service, and coalition personnel.



At the conclusion of the day's events, the 201st ING Battalion Commander, COL Dhakil Hassan Hamood, awarded streamers of achievement to the winners of the day's events. After the competition and awards ceremony were complete, all shared stories of the day's events over a typical Iraqi feast catered by a local restaurant from the city of Tikrit. With the help of Task Force 1-7, the people of the city of Ash Sharqat recently celebrated the publication of the first local newspaper in recent memory. Started with funding from 2BCT Commander's Emergency Relief Program (CERP) funds, the paper is administered by local authorities with Task Force 1-7 oversight and will become a self-sustaining operation. Additionally, it provides the city government with a voice to counter anti-Iraqi forces propaganda and gives the townspeople hope and pride in their community.

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery (Drumfire) continue to superbly execute a wide variety of non-standard missions. The Division Fire Support Element hosted the division's Iraqi Senior Advisory Council, consisting of the senior leadership of the 1st Infantry Division and over 40 prominent Iraqis from the four provinces, representing various religious and ethnic backgrounds. The task of this advisory council is to gain a better understanding of the cultural, economic, and political environment in the Task Force Danger area of operations. This meeting is held twice a month and provides keen insight on various topics. Additionally this week, soldiers from the "Golden Lion" Battalion, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery delivered 10,000 soccer balls to the Division's Movement Control Center at FOB Speicher, where they will be further distributed to each of the Brigade Combat Teams and will be handed out in conjunction with local ISF to school children in the upcoming weeks. The partnership between the



1st Infantry Division and ISF is crucial, and the credibility of the ISF will be enhanced by these measures. Additionally, through "Operation I Can," members of the 201st ING Battalion distributed donated school supplies to schoolchildren in the Tikrit area. And finally, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery has continued to clear the area of North-Central Iraq of Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA). More than 200,000 pounds were removed these last two weeks from a former Iraqi Army depot, near FOB Speicher. This particular ammunition holding area is the fifth location that has been cleared since the 1st Infantry Division's transfer of authority in March. To date, DIVARTY has transported or destroyed more than 22 million pounds of CEA for the 1st Infantry Division. The deliberate clearance of enemy ammunition is a significant mission required to achieve security in Iraq.

The soldiers of the 30th Brigade Combat Team (Hickory) continue to engage the local leadership at all levels and help the Iraqi Security Force mature through training programs to prepare them for initial entry training. Task Force 1-252 conducted two major leader engagements recently with the Khaniqin district Sheik Leader's Conference. This regular meeting is an opportunity for the varying ethnic tribal leaders to come together to work a variety of issues. Local media covered this meeting. On September 8th, the Governor of Diyala and leaders from the PUK, PDK, other political parties, mayors, and leaders from all over the Khaniqin district met at the youth center in Khaniqin. They discussed the Iraqi Property Claims Commission process and the very sensitive issue of displaced Kurds and Arab citizens who are now returning after having been relocated by Saddam's Arabization program. This event brought into the open the strong opinions on the resettlement issue. The meeting was followed by a press



conference attended by 13 media outlets from Khaniqin, Sulymania, and Baqubah. The coalition forces were very much in the background as the Iraqis acknowledged that they must work through and solve this problem as Iraqis. The Nasser Academy, the 30th Brigade Combat Team sponsored ISF training academy at Kirkush Military Training Base and FOB Caldwell, continues its two-week rotation of preparatory training for the Iraqi National Guard, Department of Border Enforcement, and Iraqi Police. This training is designed to give new ISF soldiers and police the basics in weapons handling, map reading, buddy aid, and individual movement techniques. The Task Force 1-120 ING training program in Tuz continues a similar program for the 209th ING Battalion. The 6th Battalion of the Iraqi Army (IA) continues to conduct missions under the tactical control of the 30th Brigade Combat Team. This week the soldiers of the 2nd Company of the 6th IA Battalion became engaged in their first contact with anti-Iraqi forces while on patrol south of Balad Ruz. While on patrol with their trucks and motorcycles, with C Company, Task Force 1-150 in support, the IA lead elements pulled over a suspicious vehicle. When the occupants exited the vehicle brandishing AK-47 assault rifles, they ignored multiple warnings to put their weapons down. The two men then moved behind the vehicle for cover and one of them threw a hand grenade at the IA soldiers, who then began to engage the terrorists, killing one and possibly wounding the other as he escaped on foot. A search of the vehicle netted six AK-47 rifles; an RPK machine gun and ammunition; several hand grenades; an RPG launcher with four rounds, two high-explosive and two armor piercing; and IED detonating material.

In the last two weeks, the 4th Aviation Brigade (Dragon) continued to support Task Force Danger. The Gunfighters of 1-1 Aviation flew 582 hours the last two weeks,



executing critical oil infrastructure, route, and oil pipeline security missions. They have also escorted convoys and supported ground forces during cordon and search and combat patrol missions. The Eagles of 2-1 Aviation and their OPCON company of A Company, 106th Aviation Mad Dawgs flew over 570 hours in the last two weeks supporting the Division Command Group, VIP visits, and moving Soldiers and Iraqi military and civil leaders around the battlefield. They have maintained an outstanding readiness rate while balancing mission execution. The 601st Aviation Support Battalion Typhoons continued to support the Dragon Brigade and 1-4 Cavalry by completing 2,792 aviation work orders and repairing 545 Non-Mission Capable vehicles to date. They continue to provide outstanding maintenance support to the brigade, to include aircraft phases on Apaches and Blackhawks as well as supporting both 1-4 Cavalry.

The 201st Forward Support Battalion has been providing world-class support to the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Duke) ever since February of 2004. Based at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, near Baqubah, their primary mission is to provide logistics, maintenance, and health care support to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team units based at outlying FOBs, some up to an hour away. This demanding mission requires the battalion to traverse some of the deadliest roads in Iraq, logging 35 combat logistics patrols since the end of August, moving everything from rations and water to ammunition and petroleum products. The 201st patrols routinely escort civilian trucks that supply the dining facility and move 5-ton trucks loaded with personnel bound to and from R & R leave. In a typical two-week period, the 201st Forward Support Battalion's Supply Support Activity will process in excess of 50 pallets loaded with mission essential materials and will also process approximately 636 material release



orders. In the same period, the fuel handlers provide up to 214,000 gallons of fuel to vehicles and aircraft alike. The maintenance section, responsible for keeping the brigade's tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and trucks rolling, has closed 342 work orders. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team soldiers depend on the C Company soldiers to man the battalion aid station for everything from routine medical and dental care to inoculations and, in many instances, serious trauma. During the last two weeks, C Company provided medical care to 320 3rd Brigade Combat Team soldiers. The efforts of the soldiers in the 201st Forward Support Battalion provide a foundation that will set the conditions for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to establish a safe and secure environment for the people of the Diyala Province.

The 1st Infantry Division Engineer Brigade (Devastator) continues to make a difference at the Bayji Power Plant. Just part of a series of improvement projects, construction began on a new Healthcare Center and a chemical warehouse at the Bayji Power Plant. The Division Engineers' Electricity Ministry Team is overseeing the construction of the Healthcare Center for the employees of the Bayji Power Plant. The Healthcare Center will service more than 4,000 people, employees of the power plant, and their family members. A chemical warehouse is also being constructed at the Bayji Power Plant. The chemical warehouse will improve operational capacity of the thermal power plant. Both the Healthcare Center and Chemical Warehouse are 50 percent complete.

The 1st Squadron, 4th US Cavalry (Sabre) was successful during the last two weeks conducting route clearance to keep vital routes trafficable, conducting raids to capture high value targets, and breaking up a kidnapping ring. Task Force Sabre conducted



simultaneous raids last week in Ad Dawr and Ad Duluiyah, bringing six suspected anti-Iraqi force leaders to justice, helping to further stabilize AO Sabre. The Squadron also conducted Operation Lawton, resulting in the capture of another group of anti-Iraqi forces, some considered high value targets to the Squadron. Thanks to the precise investigative work from the S2 shop, three individuals, who proved to be associated with a kidnapping group in Samarra, were detained. The Squadron continues to produce important results for Task Force Danger.

Conclusion

Task Force Danger continues to simultaneously conduct combat and stability operations that are leading to a secure environment and improved infrastructure. Our Soldiers are making a huge difference in Iraq. Our family members are behind us 100 percent. The price has been high, but the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger are resolute and steadfast. We will accomplish the mission. We have made great strides, in partnership with the courageous people of Iraq, towards their future of civil and military self-reliance. The American people should be very proud and confident in the outcome of the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission. Duty First!



For more information on the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger: www.1id.army.mil
