

August 2004

8th U.S. Army's

# ROK Steady

## Ready for Iraq

**"Strike Force"  
departs peninsula  
on new mission**





Iraqi roleplayers “protest” to a member of the 2BCT during certification before the brigade’s deployment. *Photo by Pfc. Michael Noggle.*

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A member of the 2BCT trains at the Rodriguez Range Complex in preparation for the brigade’s deployment to Iraq. *Photo by Cpl. Kim, Taek-hyun.*

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# ROK Steady

The only peninsula-wide magazine for the 8th U.S. Army Community



A visitor to the 2004 Boryeong City Mud Festival reacts after getting splashed in the face with mud during opening day festivities. The annual festival ran July 16 – 22 and attracted visitors from around the world. This is the festival's seventh year. *Photo by Sgt. Andrew Kosterman.*

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# 2BCT now focused on new mission in Iraq

By Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell  
Commander, 8th U.S. Army

On May 18, Korea time, the U.S. Department of Defense announced that the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, located in the Republic of Korea, would deploy to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. As "Strike Force" departs the peninsula this month, it marks the first time that forces we traditionally considered forward deployed in the Republic of Korea have been called upon to further deploy to support operations elsewhere in the world.

Most of the U.S. Army units stationed around the world have already participated at least once in either Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan or as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

This month's deployment in no way reflects a lessening of our commitment to the ROK-US Alliance as part of the combined defense team. This Alliance is stronger today than it was in the past and will become even stronger in the future.

The departure of this one brigade will not have a detrimental impact on the defense of Korea, as many have incorrectly speculated. The combined defense team – consisting of two of the most capable military forces in the world – remains capable of deterring north Korean aggression, and is prepared to fight and win tonight if deterrence fails.

The U.S. continues to demonstrate our steadfast and strong commitment to our Alliance by implementing an \$11 billion enhancements program across our services. The Army enhancements to the

combined defense team include the initial Patriot PAC-3 upgrades, AH-64D Longbow Apache helicopters, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to 2ID, upgrades to our command, control, communications, and computer networks, and most recently, the announcement of the Patriot Air Defense Artillery Brigade deployment to Korea this fall.

In addition to those forces I have just mentioned, the U.S. brings to bear the rapid deployment capabilities of U.S. forces from off the peninsula should they be needed. This comes in the form of Army,

Deterrence is not about numbers, but about capabilities and the ability to employ those capabilities to achieve decisive results. We have increased our deterrence here on the peninsula and will continue to do so. Although we are reducing the actual numbers of Soldiers on the peninsula with this deployment, our capabilities continue to increase.

The 2BCT is a trained and ready force that is prepared to fight tonight and win. The Department of Defense and the Department of the Army know this and that is one of the key reasons for selecting this unit to take part in the Global War on Terrorism.

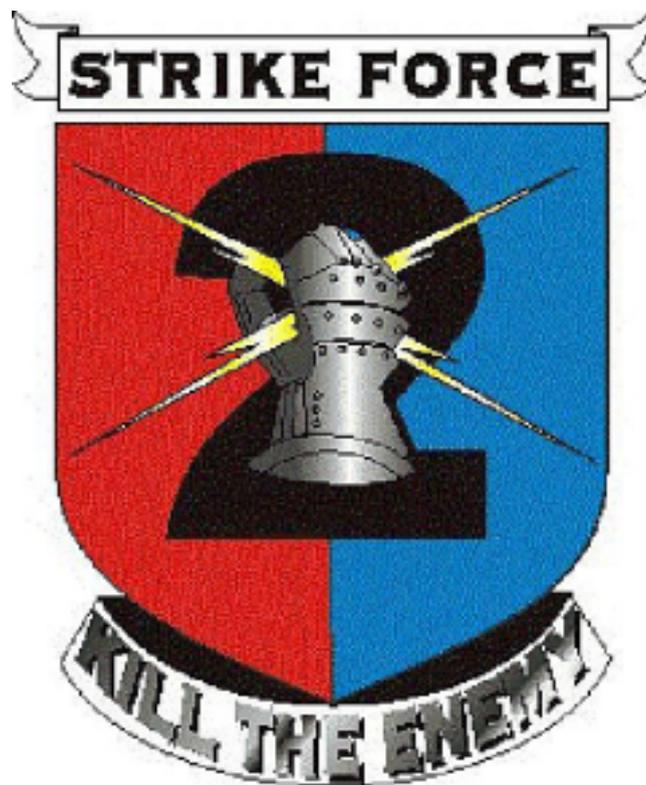
I have faith and confidence in the leaders, the non-commissioned officers and Soldiers of the 2BCT -- they have conducted their missions here in Korea superbly and they will continue to exhibit their professionalism, commitment and courage as part of the coalition forces in Iraq. The 2BCT has helped preserve freedom for the Korean people for more than 50 years – now the 2BCT will do the same for the Iraqi people.

Our Soldiers understand the price of freedom – they willingly leave their homes and families so that other people can live their lives in peace and freedom. It is my hope and desire that all of the Korean people understand this commitment and that it is made not only to the ROK, but now to another people that need our help as well.

Please join with me in keeping the "Strike Force" in our prayers for a safe and successful mission.



Campbell



Navy, Air Force, and Marine forces that are rapidly deployable to the peninsula in time of crisis. Let there be no mistake, we remain manned, trained, and ready to fulfill our mission everyday – our mission is deterrence – and should deterrence fail, our mission is to defeat any aggression against the Republic of Korea, shoulder-to-shoulder with our ROK partners.

# Equipment leaves peninsula for Iraq thanks to 20th ASG

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Williams  
19th TSC PAO

Since the Korean War, the emphasis of U.S. Army logistics on the peninsula has been on receiving units and equipment into the theater. Units from the 19th Theater Support Command train year-round for this essential wartime mission, especially during key exercises, such as Ulchi Focus Lens and Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration, better known as RSOI.

This summer, however, that all changed.

In May, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, received orders to deploy to Iraq, and the focus suddenly shifted on how to deploy a brigade and all its equipment off the peninsula to another theater of operations.

The 20th Area Support Group, 19th TSC, played a significant role in this change of mission.



**A Soldier ground guides a Bradley Fighting Vehicle onto one of two transport ships that will take the 2BCT's equipment to Iraq.**

“For the 20th ASG, it was a great opportunity to train on its wartime mission of conducting reception, staging and onward movement for forces deploying to Korea,” said Lt. Col. Brian Imiola, deputy commander for the 20th ASG.

“The only difference was that instead of receiving units coming into Korea, we were pushing a Brigade Combat Team off the peninsula,” he said.

But, deploying the brigade's equipment was not a simple task, Imiola said. To ensure a smooth deployment process, the 20th ASG coordinated efforts of more than 430 Soldiers from units all over the peninsula.

“The success of the whole operation was the teamwork between the different units involved,” he said. “Right from the start, a great working relationship was developed between the 20th ASG and 2ID.”

Other units involved in the process included the 837th Transportation Company, the 25th Transportation Company, the Korea Region Office, the 501st Corps Support Group and the 55th Theater Materiel Management Center.

“The 20th ASG provided overall command and control from Busan,” he said. “This included developing the plan, coordinating for facilities, coordinating for external support from other 19th TSC units and KORO, tracking the status of deployment and providing and coordinating mainte-



**A Soldier prepares to drive a Bradley Fighting Vehicle onto the transport ship that will take the 2BCT's equipment to Iraq.**

nance support to 2ID deploying forces.”

Just getting the equipment, which includes Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, from Area I to Busan involved around 40 separate train runs and 200 truck trips, Imiola said.

Once the equipment arrived in Busan, it was staged at Pier 8 and adjacent military and commercial piers to be loaded onto ships, he said. “The ROK Port Operating Group provided invaluable support in allowing us to use their compound to stage vehicles,” Imiola said.

Soldiers in Busan worked 12-hour shifts in temperatures up to 94 degrees – even hotter inside the ships – to receive the equipment, then load it onto transport ships, he said.

“The Soldiers from HHC, 20th ASG, 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), 61st Chemical Company, along with 2ID Soldiers, did a superb job in safely downloading almost 40 trains and uploading two ships with more than 1,600 pieces of equipment,” Imiola said.

For many Soldiers, this was their first experience with supporting a deployment.

“It was not what we expected,”

**see ASG, Page 18**

# Home away from home

## 18th MEDCOM officer enjoys company of father, family in Korea

By Pfc. Michael Noggle  
Staff writer

When 2nd Lt. Nikia M. Marshall, a nurse at the 121st General Hospital Multi-Care Inpatient unit, graduated from officer candidate school last November, she was excited to come to Korea for her first duty assignment.

Not only was she eager to be in a new cultural environment, but the assignment also meant joining her father, Sgt. Maj. Michael M. Marshall, the deputy chief of staff for personnel at 18th MEDCOM.

“For us to be stationed here together has been great for all of us,” said the elder Marshall, who along with his wife, have lived in Yongsan since January 2003.

“When I got here it was easy to do my in processing, because I had my family,” she said. “My father or mother were there to drive me to finance and housing, all the difficult things I needed taken care of.”

Marshall said she appreciates the time she is able to spend with her parents and especially enjoys the home cooking.

“Sometimes after a rough day at work I just stop by the house to get some dinner from my mom and visit with them,” she said.

Marshall’s parents have always been supportive of her goals in life. While at first, her father was surprised with her decision to join the Army, he said he is extremely proud of her accomplishments. He was even present at her graduation from officer candidate school to give her her first salute.

“I think she’s a step in the right direction,” he said. “A nurse in the military is a crucial job, especially the way the world is today. I think she has a good feel for the job.”

Marshall said she is still undecided about how long to continue her



*Courtesy photo*

**2nd Lt. Nikia M. Marshall receives her first NCO salute from her father, Sgt. Maj. Michael M. Marshall, after graduating from officer candidate school prior to arriving in Korea.**

military career, but definitely plans on getting her master’s degree and going to medical school.

As for her father, he recently departed the peninsula to go to the final duty station of his 30-year career. His son plans on joining the military in October to pursue a career in the medical field as well.

Marshall said he is grateful to 18th MEDCOM for having such a

great working environment and is also thankful for the opportunity to have been stationed here with his daughter.

“I am so proud to be able to serve in the same unit as my dad,” said Marshall. “I saw a lot of the things he does as a leader and that was important to me. He has been a great mentor and it’s been cool being here with them.”

# Soldier, KATUSA, NCO of the Year

## Servicemembers compete to be best of the best warriors

By Pvt. Shin, Hee-suk  
8th Army PAO

The 2004 8th United States Army Noncommissioned Officer, Soldier, and KATUSA of the year were announced at the Dragon Hill Lodge, July 16.

The winners of this year's board competition were: Sgt. Samuel E. Cowell, B Company, 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade; Cpl. Kim, Yoon-keun, 82nd Combat Support Equipment Company, 44th Engineer Battalion, Engineer Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division; and Spc. Wilfredo A. Mendez, A Company, 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade.

"It feels great," said Cowell. "It is a great honor to be able to represent all the noncommissioned officers of 8th Army and to move on to the next level. I will do my best at the next level as well."

Beginning this year, the competition was extended from a one-day ceremony to an event spanning six days.

Day one began with registration.



**A Soldier stands blindfolded during the mystery event, which tested competitors' knowledge above and beyond their normal training.**



**The Soldier, KATUSA and NCO of the year for 2004 stand with Command Sgt. Maj. Troy J. Welch at the conclusion of the ceremony.**

The next morning, Soldiers took an exam and a written essay on their knowledge of the Army. Afterwards, they were brought out into the wilderness and tested on their day and night navigation skills.

On day three, the Soldiers qualified on the M16A2 rifle at Reynolds Range, Command Post Tango, Sungnam city. The Soldiers were then required to perform their common

task training in front of judges on everything from evaluating a casualty to clearing the M16A2 rifle.

The following day was the mystery event, consisting of tasks that tested the competitors' knowledge above and beyond their normal training. Four different stages were set up, where each Soldier was asked to complete tasks such as responding to a

radio transmission, drill and ceremony, assembling an M16A2 rifle blindfolded and conducting a vehicle maintenance inspection.

On the final day of the competition, the Soldiers, most of them very nervous, appeared before a board, where they were judged on their appearance and how well they answered questions.

"Young Soldiers go up in front of those boards and sit in that chair and have lots of sergeants major go at them," said Command Sgt. Maj. Troy J. Welch, command sergeant major of 8th U.S. Army. "It is not a fun experience for that person on the receiving end, and that is why the Soldiers deserve a word of compliment."

Although the prizes were in the winners' hands, all the participants were winners. The nominees congratulated the winners, and the winners praised the competitors for their commitment.

"The most memorable thing in this competition was the interaction among the competitors," said Mendez. "We all supported each

see BEST, Page 18



**A ROK JSA guard stands at “ROK Ready” while guarding the north and south sides inside the Blue House.**

**By Spc. Daniel Love**  
*Staff writer*

**A**s the Joint Security Area prepares for the transition to a force composed more heavily of Republic of Korea Soldiers, ROK Soldiers are training to replace their U.S. counterparts to make a smooth transition.

Leaders have said that a unit’s numbers aren’t as important as its capability, and though the number of U.S. Soldiers in the battalion is changing, the unit’s mission and quality are expected to remain the same.

“The purpose of the transition is all about capabilities,” said Lt. Col. Paul E. Snyder, commander of the United Nations Command-Joint Security Battalion. “This is only one change of many in the JSA that has happened over 50 years. The battalion has gone through many evolutions over time. The change is evolutionary, not revolutionary.”

In a ceremony June 3, Snyder took command of the battalion,

which will change its ROK/U.S. ratio from 60/40 to 93/7. His job differs from the one held by commanders before him, as he focuses on the transition of forces.

“Besides just performing the mission I have to be focused on getting the unit through the evolution. Perhaps previous commanders could focus on the mission and training and not have to worry about transition.”

Not every Soldier who served under previous commanders will be leaving. 200 Soldiers who were previously in the JSA will stay.

“It will be different but people have to realize that about one-third of the ROK security battalion that will perform the security mission will be comprised of people who are already assigned to the JSA,” said Snyder. “There is going to be that continuity for the next few years until they ETS. Those soldiers will form the foundation of the battalion. I don’t see wholesale degradation in the unit or any less ability to conduct the mission.”

Soldiers leaving the JSA will go to

other units in Korea or in the States. Many JSA Soldiers have said they don’t want to leave due to the quality of the mission and fellow Soldiers.

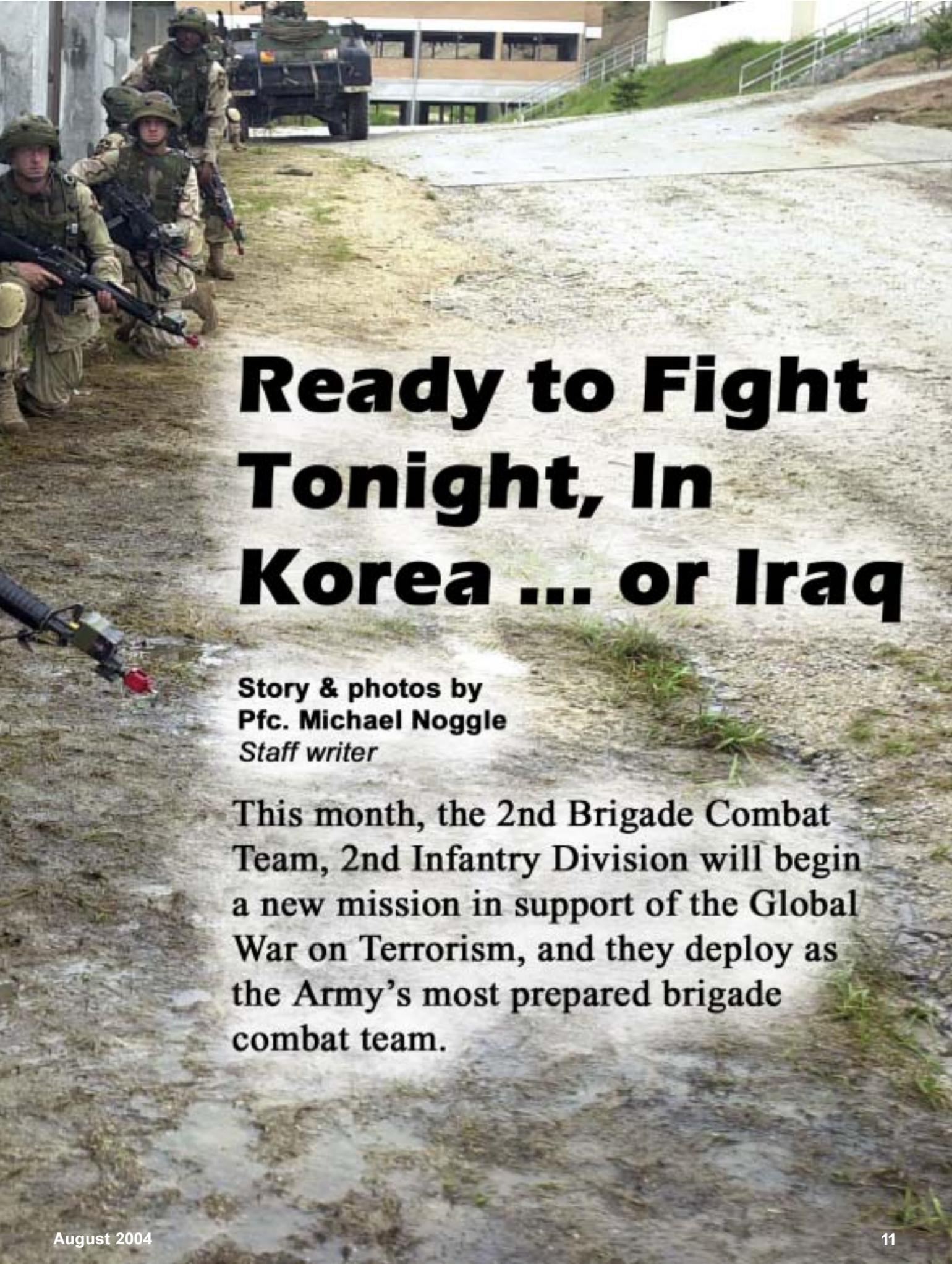
“There’s a certain amount of anxiety with guys dealing with a follow-on assignment, with large numbers of people leaving in a short amount of time,” said Snyder. “Our KATUSA Soldiers are leaving and wondering where they’re going to be assigned. The guys like it up here. Working through that is another challenge.”

Snyder said the U.S. and Korea have been talking about a reduction in U.S. presence at the JSA often in recent years.

“Just because the number of U.S. Soldiers is being reduced, what isn’t leaving is the commitment of the United Nations command to the Republic of Korea,” said Snyder. “The composition of the unit will be different but its overarching principles aren’t changing. This is a strengthening of the alliance, showing the new capabilities of the ROK Army.”

**2nd BCT Soldiers** prepare to move in a nearby building while setting up a perimeter. Most of the training was focused on urban warfare. *Photo by Pfc. Michael Noggle.*





# **Ready to Fight Tonight, In Korea ... or Iraq**

**Story & photos by  
Pfc. Michael Noggle**  
*Staff writer*

**This month, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division will begin a new mission in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and they deploy as the Army's most prepared brigade combat team.**



**(Above) A squad moves in on a residential home in a simulated Iraqi village. (Right) After departing a Bradley, a Soldier from 1st Battalion 9th Infantry Regiment A Co. stands watch while the rest of his squad exits the vehicle.**



Since the announcement of its deployment during May, the brigade has undergone intensive training in preparation for the different climate, culture and urban warfare they will soon face as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“What we’ve focused on over the course of the last several weeks has been theater specific tasks that have to be executed to standard,” said Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, commanding general of 8th United States Army.

Not only is the deployment a major transition for the brigade, it also marks the first time forces traditionally considered forward deployed in the Republic of Korea have been called upon to further deploy to support operations elsewhere in the world.

“I’m very impressed that these Soldiers are moving from their mission here in Korea to a mission in Iraq,” said the Honorable David J. Dunford, former U.S. ambassador to Oman and liaison to the Iraqi Ministry of Affairs. “It’s a very different



(Top, left) Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, (center) commanding general of 8th United States Army and (left) Maj. Gen. John R. Wood, 2nd Infantry Division commander, gather to see their Soldiers in action. (Middle) An overview of the mock Iraqi village where Soldiers train in urban warfare. (Bottom, right) Soldiers meet with the mayor of the Iraqi village as they attempt to control a protesting crowd.

culture. They're facing that here and it will at least be more familiar to them when they get over there."

Dunford and many other civilians shared their knowledge of Iraq throughout the exercises and training. This enables the brigade to become aware of what to expect from the Iraqi civilization.

"All of this is designed to put our Soldiers in difficult situations," said Lt. Col. Robert D. Bialek, 2nd Bde. executive officer. "We try to make our Soldiers as prepared as possible as we get ready to move forward."

With the "ready to fight tonight" attitude, Bialek and others are confident that the brigade is prepared for its new mission.

According to Lt. Col. Joseph A. Southcott, commander of 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, every day of training has been vital for his Soldiers and he feels they are ready to execute any confrontation they face.

"This unit is exactly the right unit to do this mission," said Southcott. "The Soldiers are fired-up and motivated about this training and about our mission over there."

While the desire and anticipation is in the Soldiers, there is still much that can only be learned on the job.

"They need to be vigilant," said Campbell. "They have the skills set. They need to continue to hone those skills and be vigilant, not complacent, and offensive-minded when confronted with threats, and they'll be fine. I'm very confident we'll deploy the best-trained, best-prepared, best brigade to Iraq."





*Pic. Michael Noggle*

**Abdul Hassan Fallah gives feedback to 2BCT Soldiers during training at a site in the Rodriguez Range Complex.**

# For the love of two countries

**By Sgt. Lisa Jendry**  
Editor

Shortly before the Iran/Iraq War, twelve-year-old Abdul Hassan Fallah was sent from his home in Baghdad to the United States by a father who feared that the Iraqi government, Saddam’s government, would make him join the army for a cause he felt was not right for his son.

Twenty-four years later, Saddams’ regime has fallen, terrorism still exists, the son does not support the cause the father feared, but he has found an army he can support – the U.S. Army.

Fallah has made it his mission to educate Soldiers and civilians about Iraq.

Fallah, now a U.S. citizen who resides on the West Coast with his wife and two children, was recently in Korea to prepare members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd

Infantry Division, for the culture and environment they will soon face during their deployment to Iraq.

“I can’t hold a gun against my people but I will put a positive influence and I will educate the Americans as much as I can, whether they’re civilians or military, on what the Iraqi people are like,” said Fallah. “It was my wish to come here and do what I’m doing,” he added. “In a way, I felt that I owed something to this country and I want to give something back.”

Fallah said it’s unfortunate there are Iraqis who harbor so much hate and violence towards the U.S. and its servicemembers.

“It puts almost like a footprint on the Iraqi people and that allows the other part of the world to stereotype the Iraqi people and they’re not like that,” said Fallah. “The Iraqi people are very humble, very kind and giving and their dignity and soul and

**see FALLAH, Page 18**



*Sgt. Lisa Jendry*

**Fallah instructs 2BCT Soldiers on the correct way to search an Iraqi. Soldiers must be very aware of their body language and techniques when searching an Iraqi or their home as even the smallest movement or gesture that we consider to be normal, can be found to be offensive in the Iraqi culture.**

# Army prepared to support Soldiers' families during 2ID deployment to Iraq

By Pfc. Michael Noggle  
Staff writer

Spouses of Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division deploying to Iraq were invited to a live teleconference at 8th Army Headquarters with Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, Alexandria, Va.

Those in attendance were informed about the Army's Family Support Groups and were allowed to ask questions pertaining to the Army Family Support Groups and Child Service Programs.

Decker feels the Army does a great job in allowing families to get in contact with their loved ones overseas. However, he also felt there are ways to improve the current system along with family readiness.

At the very beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers were given short notice about deploy-

ments, making it challenging for units to establish solid Family Readiness Groups.

A year later, there was greater command emphasis and predictability on deployments. Family and Support groups were in place, trained and certified.

The Army has not only taken care of the support groups but is also addressing the stress among children who fear what's going on in the Middle East.

"Children today are more aware and news-conscious of what's going on in the world," said Decker.

Decker suggested it is important for spouses at home to keep a positive attitude because it has a reflection on their children.

One way the Army has prevented stress and helped the needs of children is through Child and Youth Services.

The Boys and Girls Club of America also provides a support

network for families. Operation Child Care provides short-term respite and reunion childcare for members of the National Guard and Reserves returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Operation Military Kids creates community support networks for military youth.

While one of the biggest concerns is the children, the Army One Source has been extremely successful in dealing with problems spouses and families may have at home.

This information and assistance line runs non-stop on the Internet and telephone. Most calls and emails deal with emotional well-being, military life, everyday issues, financial problems, legal issues and any family issues.

"We need all the information up front," said Decker. "Any of the contact information and any concerns anyone might have, all up front."



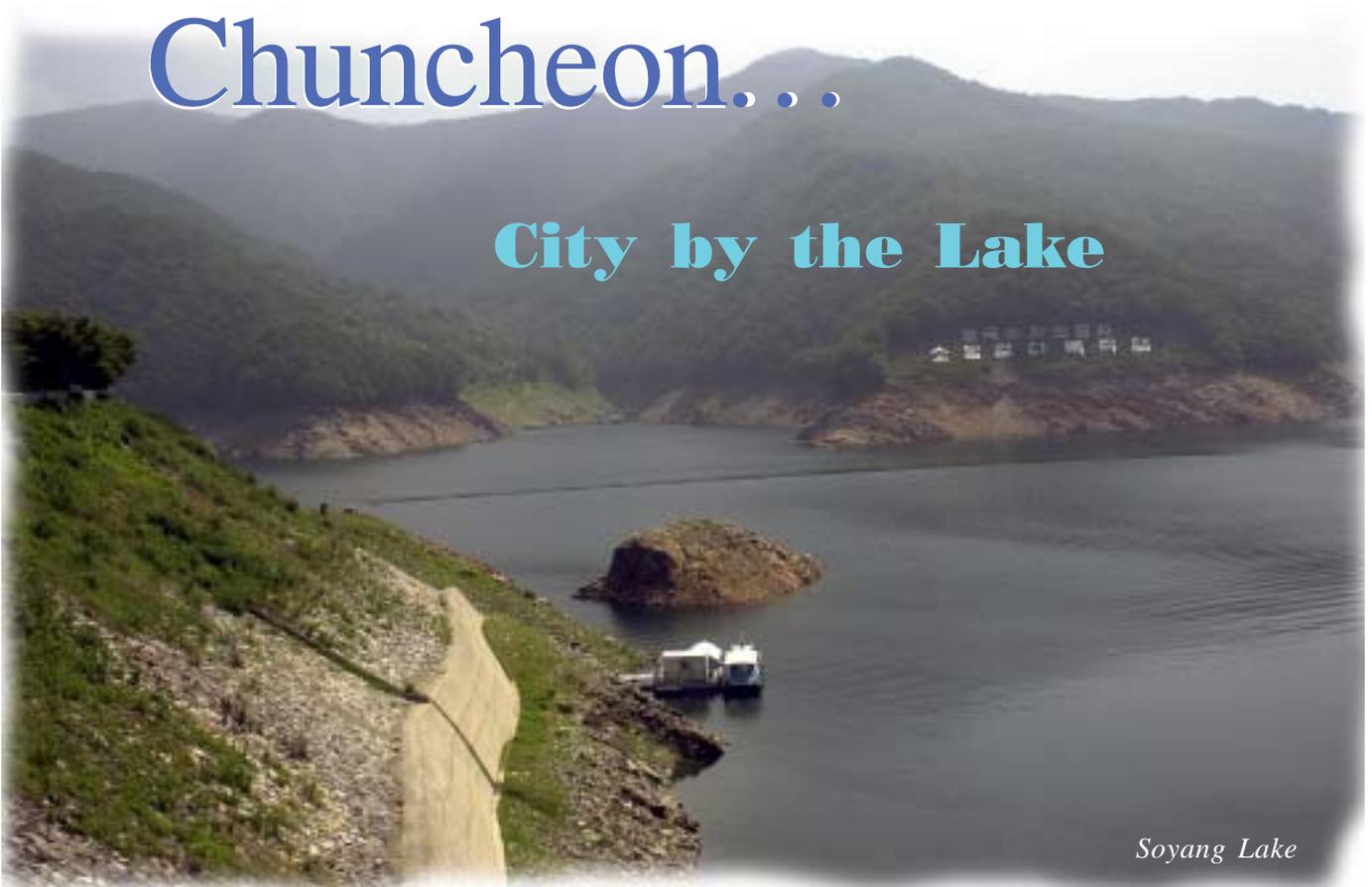
Support for families of  
deployed 2nd Bde Soldiers  
can be found at:  
[www.desertstrike.armyfrg.org](http://www.desertstrike.armyfrg.org)

*Pfc. Michael Noggle*

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker listens to a spouse in attendance asking about the Army's family support programs.

# Chuncheon...

## City by the Lake



*Soyang Lake*

**Story and photos by  
Pfc. Michael Noggle**  
*Staff writer*

**W**ith its clean lakes and beautiful mountains, Chuncheon has become one of the most popular tourist areas in Korea.

The capital of Gangwon Province, Chuncheon is located in the center of the Korean peninsula.

One of the easiest ways to reach Chuncheon is the East Seoul bus station in Gangbyeong. You can get to the station by either taxi or subway. The bus ride is about two hours depending on traffic and there are taxis at Chuncheon Bus Station that can get you to where you want to go.

Upon arrival to the city, one of the main attractions is the Soyang Lake and Dam. It is easiest to travel by taxi (about a 25-minute ride) from the downtown area. There are a lot of hiking trails, small souvenir stores as well as snack stands. When you reach the docks, there are ferryboats that will take you to either Mt.

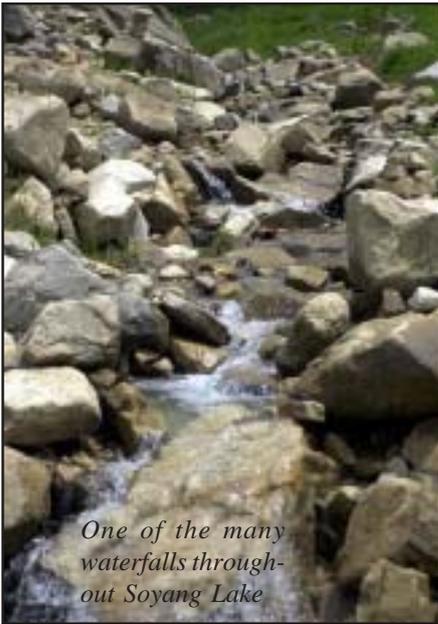
Bongsan or Mt. O-bong. Each place has a historical temple, many waterfalls and a lot of mountains, so be prepared to walk a little but the scenery is well worth it.

The downtown area has been transformed into modern-day shopping centers throughout the years. Named after the popular shopping district in Seoul, Myeong-

dong Street has a variety of clothing, food and shoe stores. The nightlife features movie theaters, nightclubs and more people venture out at night.

If your appetite is for Korean food, then the popular Dakgalbi chicken would be a perfect solution. Dakgalbi is prepared with chopped chicken, cabbage, onions, sweet





*One of the many waterfalls throughout Soyang Lake*



*Dakgalbi Chicken*

potatoes and rice cakes. Finding the street is a little difficult because it's a small street in one of the Myeong-dong alleys, so you may need to ask one of the local residents for directions.

A good idea would be to stay overnight in a hotel because there is so much to see. You can locate one anywhere in the downtown area or a popular one is the Sejong hotel, which every cab driver knows about and is about five minutes away from the downtown area.

*Buddist Temple, Mt O-bong*



*Myeong-dong Street*

## ASG Continued from Page 6

said Cpl. Yang, Yung-yaе, a chemical specialist with the 61st Chem. Co. “We thought ground guiding would be easy until we started ground guiding and staging vehicles. We had never seen tracked vehicles, but we all worked together as one team for the same mission.”

“The key to this mission was that leadership was in

the right place, to ensure that Soldiers were trained in deployment and redeployment readiness,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Loetz, a wheeled vehicle maintenance manager with the 20th ASG. “This exercise determined that Soldiers can deploy from anywhere in the world, no matter where they are.”

## BEST Continued from Page 8

other. We all wanted all of us to do the best and wished the best for each of us,” he added.

All participants along with friends, families and personnel from their units, gathered for dinner and anxiously awaited the winner’s names to be announced.

“Those kids were representing their units. They are proud of that and their morale is high because of that,” said Welch. “If they don’t walk out of the banquet feeling good

about themselves, then it’s something personal.”

Kim, KATUSA of the year, emphasized teamwork during his speech after receiving his award.

“I would not have been able to win this award without the help of my fellow Soldiers,” said Kim. “It is the harvest of all the officers and NCOs who trained me and gave me inspiration.”

Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, commander of 8th U.S. Army, was

present at the ceremony to encourage the Soldiers and reward them for their hard work.

“Excellence grows out of a choice,” said Campbell. “A choice to sacrifice. A choice to work hard and a choice to devote many hours of time, effort, energy, studying, training, and mastering the skills of a warrior. This is the nature of the Army. I appreciate the winners for showing unity and dedication to all of us.”

## FALLAH Continued from Page 14

honor means everything, just as much as what it means to the American Soldier or the American family, and they will do anything to defend that.”

Fallah said he feels that being both Iraqi and American has given him a great advantage.

“It gives me the opportunity to let the Americans know what the Iraqi people feel like and it also gives me the chance to live free and to speak freely on what I want to say and not be afraid that I’m going to get jailed or hanged,” he said. “I’m fortunate and lucky and I thank God for that.”

About six months ago, Fallah made a trip back to the war-torn city of his birth to see his ailing father.

“Baghdad is very tired,” said Fallah, “It’s tired of going through wars and it’s tired of agony and fear and terrorism. The people are still the victim. They were the victims for 35 years of the dictatorship and now they’re the victims of the terrorists.”

With so many terrorist groups fighting for the upper hand on Iraq, Fallah said it’s easy for the attention

to be diverted from the Iraqi people who need the most help.

“Winning the minds and hearts of the Iraqi people – that’s a tremendous thing, you don’t know how much you can gain – you can save a lot of lives.”

According to Fallah, communication is a vital part of the whole process.

“Force is not always a good thing, said Fallah. Communication is the best way and I’m here to communicate with the Soldiers – to tell them what I’ve seen in Baghdad and what not to do while you’re in Baghdad. Most Iraqi people see the United States as the miracle worker and they think that the U.S. can do anything and make anything happen in a flash. They think ‘If they went up to the moon, then they can make things happen.’”

He said it is also very important that Soldiers take into account the religious beliefs of the host nation they are going into.

“Iraqi people respect religion a lot and they would die for it,” said Fallah. “It’s in our blood – it’s in us.

We live it every day and we have high respect for it.”

Fallah said he feels it is his responsibility as an Iraqi American to teach and influence Soldiers.

“I’ve looked at Soldiers and just because you wear the uniform, doesn’t mean that inside, you’re not just as human as an Iraqi person. You’ve got feelings, you can get happy, angry and many other emotions. You have family and I have family. You have a job to do and I’ve got an obligation to give to the Army because I feel that I’m responsible.”

As the 2BCT departs the peninsula to a different country, environment, people and culture, Fallah said he hopes that his training has given them a new respect for the people and culture of Iraq.

“To be able to be a part of this makes me feel great,” said Fallah. “I’ve been putting in 16 to 18 hours, just like you guys out there in the field and I guess I don’t really have to do that – I could just say a couple of things and go back in my room, but it’s what I want to do ... it’s what I want to give.”

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# 韓 THE CHOSUN GIFT SHOP 조선

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# Final Frame

A Soldier looks on as a protest breaks out in a mock Iraqi village causing Soldiers to protect those in the area as well as themselves.  
*Photo by Cpl. Kim, Taek-hyun.*

