



## SOLDIERS SHOULD REGISTER NOW FOR SDM, CQM CLASSES

PAULA J. RANDALL PAGÁN

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) Service Rifle Team conducts the Squad Designated Marksman Train the Trainer and the USAMU Service Pistol Team conducts the Close Quarter Marksman Train the Trainers for Soldiers throughout the Army.

The following is the schedule for Squad Designated Marksman (SDM) and Close Quarter Marksman (CQM) Train the Trainers for the next fiscal year.

The SDM classes will be conducted on the following dates:

SDM #1-07, Sept. 25-29;  
SDM #2-07, Oct. 16-20;  
SDM #3-07, Nov. 27 to Dec. 1;  
SDM #4-07, Dec. 11-15;  
SDM #5-07, Jan. 22-26; and  
SDM #6-07, Feb. 5-9.

The CQM classes will be held:

CQM #1-07, Oct. 2-4;  
CQM #2-07, Oct. 23-25;  
CQM #3-07, Dec. 4-6;  
CQM #4-07, Dec. 18-20;  
CQM #5-07, Jan. 29-31; and  
CQM #6-07, Feb. 12-14.

To request a slot, unit training and operations sections must send an e-mail request to USAMU Training and Operations NCOIC Sergeant First Class Edward Hocking at [edward.hocking@usaac.army.mil](mailto:edward.hocking@usaac.army.mil); the request must include the Soldier's full name, rank, social security number, military occupational specialty, specific unit, unit point of contact and telephone number.

To be eligible, Soldiers must be a corporal or above; deploying units get priority. Soldiers' units are responsible for lodging, per diem and personal transportation. Transportation to and from the range with government weapons will be provided by USAMU.

The USAMU supplies the SDM rifles,



ammunition and Advanced Combat Optical Gunsights for the SDM classes. Soldiers attending the CQM classes must provide their own rifles, six magazines and 800 rounds of ammunition. For the additional day of pistol training, Soldiers will need to bring pistols, four magazines, and 300 rounds of ammunition.

Soldiers who do not have weapons or ammunition should call Hocking to see if alternate arrangements can be made. The recommended items of clothing for the SDM and CQM classes are: Sufficient battle dress uniforms for one week of range firing, four rifle magazines, wet and cold weather gear, prescription glasses and/or contact lenses, identification card, M-16 cleaning kit, personnel hygiene items for one week and civilian clothes; for CQM, add Kevlar, IBA, pistol holster and four pistol magazines, optics and night vision accessories.

Any unit requesting a SDM course to be conducted at its own installation must have a known distance range up to 500 yards, a classroom large enough for the amount of Soldiers in the class and travel funding for four to six USAMU instructors. Units should also provide their own rifles, ACOGs, and ammunition (600 rounds per student).

Units requesting a CQM course at their installations must have a 25-meter zero range minimum with the ability to fire 9mm, 5.56mm, 7.62mm and shotgun, and a classroom large enough for the amount of Soldiers in the class and will provide all equipment and ammunition (800 rounds per student). For additional pistol training, units must provide the pistols, magazines and ammunition (300 rounds per student), and funding for up to six instructors.

For more information, call (706) 545-7174/1410 or visit the unit's Web site at [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu).

### Doctrine Corner

FM 3-90.60, *The Brigade Combat Team*, is approved and can now be found on the Reimer Digital Library. (This FM supersedes FM 7-30, FM 3-21.31, FM 3-90.3)



For more information, contact the **U.S. Army Infantry School's Combined Arms and Tactics Directorate** at: DSN: 835-7114, COMM: (706) 545-7114, or e-mail: [doctrine@benning.army.mil](mailto:doctrine@benning.army.mil).

## COMBATIVES TOURNAMENT SET

Fort Benning, Ga., will host an all-Army combatives tournament Nov. 3-6.

Modern Combatives is a functional mixed martial art form combining Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing, clinch hitting, takedowns and groundfighting techniques. Combatives also employs techniques borrowed from judo, kick boxing and Greco-Roman wrestling.

All matches will be conducted at the Lawson Army Airfield passenger terminal. Preliminary matches will start at 8 a.m. Nov. 4; final matches will be conducted the afternoon of Nov. 5.

The competition will be followed by a Combatives Symposium on Nov. 6 in Infantry Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Topics will include safety, trends, and training. The symposium is directed to level 4 and installation combatives instructors.

For more information, visit the Combatives School Web site at [www.benning.army.mil/combatives/](http://www.benning.army.mil/combatives/) or call (706) 545-3512.

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# SWAP SHOP

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## PORTABLE PHOTO PRINTERS CAN AID MISSION

CAPTAIN THOMAS ANDERSON

It is not uncommon for U.S. Army Soldiers to take pictures with local national civilians for nostalgic or mission-related purposes. The Soldiers depart with the digital pictures stored in their cameras, but unfortunately the civilians are typically left with nothing except the memory of the photo shared with the Soldier from the LCD screen. On a recent service project trip to Slovakia as a leader with the post Chapel youth program, I discovered a possible solution to this problem.

Throughout the week-long service trip, our students took many pictures with the Slovakian children as they built a playground together and participated in various sports activities. The Slovakian children always wanted to see the results of their pictures with the Americans on the digital camera's LCD screen. At the end of the week, I used a compact photo printer I brought on the trip to print many of the pictures. Each of our American students personally gave the pictures to each of the Slovakian children in the photographs. The children beamed incredible smiles as their eyes bounced back and forth between the photographs and the real-life American heroes who had built them a playground and shared time with them. The photographs will undoubtedly remain prized possessions in the children's humble day-to-day lives, and the American children were able to keep the digital copies to download on their return from the service project.

### COMPACT PHOTO PRINTERS

Over the last several years, technology and camera companies have developed portable, lightweight, and inexpensive printers that can produce high-quality postcard-size pictures for less than 30 cents per photo. The commander who includes a compact photo printer on his fact-finding and humanitarian missions can potentially reap several benefits.

**Solidify lasting relationships.** Oftentimes, our ability as an Army to touch individual lives of foreign national civilians can be limited. Leaving a photographic memory of their positive encounter with American forces would act as a constant reminder of the difference in attitude and actions of our Army's Soldiers and the terrorists. Payoff would be particularly high in the poorer, remote regions of Afghanistan and Iraq where frequent contact with Americans is limited and many of the civilians might not even own a picture of themselves, much less a photo with American forces.

**Facilitate friendly forces identification.** A particularly uncomfortable situation can occur in the process of taking photographs of local national leaders for Coalition identification purposes. Promising them a printed copy can help ease the possible suspicion that their photograph might be taken for other than benevolent purposes. Posing with them in the photograph can again result in long-term benefits as they remember the engagement an American

leader conducted with them. It is quite likely that they will eagerly show the pictures in initial conversation with the next American with whom they interact.

**Develop civic pride.** The portable photo printer can serve an especially important function when included on local government leader escort missions. Leaving the civilians a picture of them with their elected officials can help reinforce the reality of their representative democracy. When local national soldiers accompany missions, the photo printer could also serve to capture their status as real hometown heroes, volunteers risking their lives (and their families' lives) to defend their country. Asserting the local and national government's authority must always be a priority for U.S. forces.

Printing pictures will not win the Global War on Terrorism. However, it is another tool that commanders can use to influence individuals within the battlespace. Compact photo printers are available in a range of prices and capabilities. Medium-quality compact photo printers range in price from about \$150-200 and weigh around 2 to 2 1/2 pounds. In addition to price and weight, other things to consider when looking for a printer include the print speed and battery/power requirements, ink cartridges and photo paper. Compatibility requirements should also be checked before purchase as some compact photo printers work better with or work only with particular digital cameras. A few examples of printers on the market include the Canon Selphy CP710 Compact Photo Printer, HP Photosmart 325 Compact Photo Printer and the Kodak Easyshare Printer Dock Plus Series 3.



Courtesy photo

*The author, Captain Thomas Anderson, takes a photo of an American student with several Slovakian children during a service project trip to Slovakia. The photo was then printed on a portable printer, and copies were given to the children.*

# FUTURE FORCE WARRIOR PASSES MAJOR MILESTONE

The Army's Future Force Warrior (FFW) system is one step closer to being fielded as the Ground Soldier System following a successful demonstration in August of its electronic networking capability.

Developed and managed by the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center (NSC) with General Dynamics C4 Systems as the lead integrator, FFW is the Army's flagship science and technology program, aimed at integrating "best in class" technologies from the Army's Research, Development, and Engineering Command (RDECOM) enterprise, other government agencies, and industry to enhance the combat effectiveness of the Soldier and Small Combat Unit.

Carol Fitzgerald, program manager for the FFW Advanced Technology Demonstration (ATD), said that last month's success marked a major milestone for the program.

"This was the first of two incremental design phases, in which we have successfully demonstrated network interoperability of the Soldier/Small Combat Unit (SCU) with the future force network," she said. "This achievement satisfied the program's top level goal for its first incremental design and was completed three months ahead of schedule."

According to Fitzgerald, the FFW Technology Program Office delivered early prototypes of the "Increment 2" design, enabling risk reduction of the system that will continue to be enhanced throughout the remainder of the program, which is scheduled to conclude in late 2007.

To achieve this success, NSC has worked with a number of their sister centers, including the Communications and Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC).

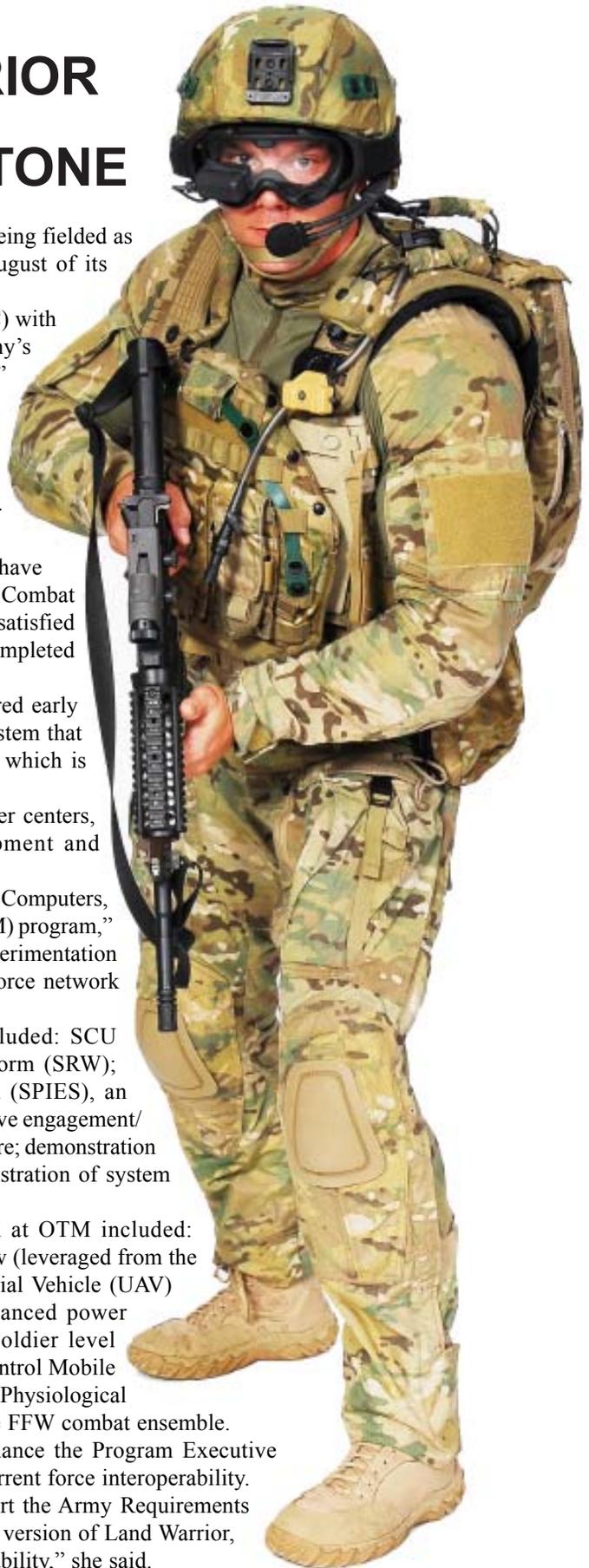
"Natick participated in CERDEC's Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) On-the-Move (OTM) program," said Fitzgerald. "This allowed us to leverage an important Army field experimentation venue to assess multiple developmental technologies addressing future force network integration, including FFW."

The FFW Increment 1 capabilities demonstrated at the OTM included: SCU integration into the future force network via the Soldier Radio Waveform (SRW); demonstration of the Soldier Protective Individual Equipment System (SPIES), an advanced body armor and load carriage system; demonstration of cooperative engagement/networked fires using digital target handoff and Non Line of Sight (NLOS) fire; demonstration of headgear thermal and Image-Intensification (I2) sensor fusion; demonstration of system voice control; and simulation of physiological status monitoring.

In addition, the FFW early Increment 2 capabilities demonstrated at OTM included: demonstration of Leader level Command and Control (C2) via FalconView (leveraged from the U.S. Air Force), system voice control, integrated Class I Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) imagery, look-down display integrated into combat goggles, and advanced power management devices to extend mission duration; demonstration of Soldier level Situational Awareness (SA) leveraged from CERDEC's Command and Control Mobile Intelligent Net-Centric Computing System (C2MINCS) program; Warrior Physiological Status Monitoring (WPSM); and deeper integration of electronics into the FFW combat ensemble.

Fitzgerald said that the FFW is spiraling mature components to enhance the Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier's Land Warrior system, designed for Stryker and current force interoperability.

"FFW will transition to the PEO Soldier in fiscal year 2008 to support the Army Requirements Oversight Council (AROC)-approved Ground Soldier System — the next version of Land Warrior, which supports Future Combat Systems (FCS) and future force interoperability," she said.



# NG COMPANY TAKES FIGHT TO ENEMY IN INSURGENT STRONGHOLD

SECOND LIEUTENANT AARON FLINT

For nearly a year, National Guard soldiers with Alpha Company, Task Force Saber, controlled a sector in the place *Time* magazine cited as the worst place in Iraq — Ramadi.

The Marines operated in the heart of Ramadi on one side of the river, while Alpha Company operated in the urban area on the other side of the river. The urban portion of Alpha's battlespace alone contained upwards of 40,000 people. Faced with the daily threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), small arms fire, sniper and rocket attacks, Alpha's commander, Major Jason Pelletier of Milton, Vt., put together an unorthodox team of tankers, infantrymen, field artillerymen, and Long Range Surveillance snipers from different units across Vermont, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania to stay on the offense in the counterinsurgency fight.

During their time in Ramadi, Alpha, whose parent unit is 3-172nd Infantry Battalion (Mountain) headquartered in Jericho, Vt., successfully held the line in a battalion-sized battlespace for close to a year while serving under Task Force Saber and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 28th Infantry Division. More than holding the line, Alpha took the fight to the enemy, increasing the foothold of coalition and Iraqi Security Forces.

"We took the Iraqi Army from conducting squad-level patrols to owning their own urban battalion battlespace in under a year," said Pelletier of the increased presence of Iraqi Army forces in Ramadi. "We've done it by creating an unconventional combat set that is combined arms in nature."

To hinder the IED threat and provide security for the main routes into and out of the city, Alpha manned observation posts (OPs) with tanks, high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs), and Bradley fighting vehicles from the main combined arms platoons

referred to as "vigilant hunters." From these OPs, the men were able to successfully engage IED emplacement teams on the main routes and overwatch the sector. With a combined arms team of tankers and infantrymen, Alpha was able to combine the optics and the firepower of the tanks and Bradleys with the ground assets in the HMMWV crews.

While manning OPs, the platoon charged with securing the sector at any given time then used their HMMWV crews to patrol the heart of the city. These crews became the eyes, ears, and representatives of the unit on the ground. In addition to regular combat patrol missions, these crews roamed the city and gathered atmospherics on the neighborhoods, checking in with

shop owners and local families on services and any unusual activity in the area.

"It was pretty wild," said Sergeant Brandon Allmond, a 21-year-old tanker from Philadelphia, Pa., who ended up serving as a truck commander with Alpha Company. "When you're roving, it's just your two trucks and the guys in those trucks. You are your own security, you are your own overwatch, and you are your own assault team."

While it was mainly the truck crews roving the guts of the city, they knew they had the Bradley and tank crews watching their backs at all times.

Although a smaller unit, Alpha was able to organize into a highly lethal team. Crucial to Alpha's success were the enablers



Courtesy photos

*The view from a scope on a Bradley fighting vehicle in Ramadi where Alpha Company is conducting operations.*

who contributed their resources to the mission. Several teams composed the enablers offering resources to the mission, including the Task Force Saber intelligence shop, as well as tactical human intelligence teams, Naval Special Warfare teams through their work with the Iraqi soldiers, Marine Corps K9 teams, Civil Affairs groups, counter-IED engineer units, and others.

Part of that enabler team included Marine Corps Major David Berke from Miramar, Calif. Berke and his Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) team started operating with Alpha Company when Berke first came to Ramadi.

“I never thought in my career I’d be on the ground in a firefight with my M-4 (rifle),” said Berke, an F-18 fighter pilot who spent the last three years as a Top Gun flight instructor.

As a piece of the full spectrum combined arms fight, Berke’s ANGLICO teams coordinated air support for the Soldiers when they came under enemy contact or were conducting raids, creating a link between the Army ground units and the Marine aviation units in sector. Berke is used to seeing the fight from 20,000 feet in the air, traveling at 500 miles per hour. Now, Berke is on the ground in the middle of firefights, getting shot at by rocket propelled grenades and going on high-speed car chases.

“The only way to be effective as a direct supporting unit is if I know the battlespace as well as you do,” said Berke. “I need to know the mosques, the soccer fields, and the alleyways. The more familiar I am with the battlespace — the less time it’s going to take me to get the air support you need.”

Besides coordinating air support, he and his team could be counted on as skilled riflemen on the ground. In another sector, Berke was pinned down in enemy crossfire. Fortunately, he was already in radio contact with the F-18 pilot overhead.

“We’re in major contact down here,” yelled Berke.

The pilot, an old friend of his from Top Gun school, immediately fired on the enemy from the air.

“I’m reminded of why I joined the Marine Corps in the first place,” he said. “We are fulfilling the motto that every Marine is a rifleman.”

For the Soldier on the ground, the battlefield is complex with few standard operating procedures on how to respond to a myriad of situations.

Vigilance is key, said Sergeant Brett Clairmont of Richmond, Vt. “I find myself feeling like I don’t have enough sets of eyes — I’m scanning rooftops, windows, scanning the ground for IEDs, and looking long distances for RPGs.”

“Going out there day after day knowing that in a split second it can go from people smiling and waving to the streets clearing and being in the middle of a full blown firefight,” adds Allmond as to what the hardest part of the job at hand. “It’s the anxiety of knowing that it will happen, but just not knowing when.”

No matter what the rank of the Soldier, Captain Gregory Knight of Huntington, Vt., said you’ve got to listen to the Soldier on the ground — the Soldier referred to is the on-scene commander.



*Major Jason Pelletier talks to the Soldiers of Alpha Company in Ramadi, Iraq, during their last week in the theater of operations.*

“That guy knows exactly what situation he is in,” said Knight, battle captain for Task Force Saber. “We do it as a matter of course now, but the complexity and the speed at which things happen is mind-boggling. You can write SOPs all day long, but you’ll never crack the book. For the higher headquarters, it all comes back to providing support to the guy on the ground (who’s) taking the fight to the enemy.”

It’s that “taking the fight to the enemy” that Knight said has made Alpha and Task Force Saber successful.

“You’ve simply got to be aggressive,” said Knight.

Staying aggressive is what guided Clairmont and his fellow Soldiers when they roved the city.

“That’s our preventive measure (roving), that’s why we go back out there,” said Clairmont. “That’s how we prevent the enemy from putting more IEDs in. We know that at some point we’re going to have to go back in, so we need to keep a constant presence in the area. Plus, we feel confident in our ability to detect IEDs.” Just as much as staying aggressive, the soldiers had to be creative.

“If you can dream it, you can do it,” said Staff Sergeant Ed Robinson, a financial analyst for GE Financial in Virginia. Robinson led one of the sniper teams from the 104th Long Range Surveillance Detachment that watched the backs of the vigilant hunter platoons and conducted missions of their own. Robinson said Ramadi was more than just a testing ground for the combined arms team.

“It was simply what is necessary to be effective in this environment,” he said. “Conventional sniper and LRS tactics are not the norm here. We have to combine sniper, ambush, and recon roles into one operation. Because of the nature of the fight, because of the mystery of who the enemy is, you can put different tactics to use and see what works.”

By manning OPs and staying on the offense, Alpha was able to minimize the IED threat.

“IEDs have plagued every unit before us,” said Pelletier. “We’ve been able to sustain single-digit IEDs during our final five months, and we found and disabled 80-90 percent of those.”

Besides stopping and removing emplaced IEDs, Alpha Company had an aggressive focus on locating and detaining the terrorist and insurgent networks responsible for carrying out the

attacks, and then forwarding the criminals to the Iraqi court system for prosecution.

“Critical to our success was our ability to develop and employ a stand alone detainee processing system, at the company level, with the highest court conviction rate in the entire Marine Expeditionary Force,” said Pelletier.

Manning, an infantryman, organized the detainee operations for Alpha Company. He says units need to be aware of what the Iraqi courts need to see from the detaining unit.

“... The Soldiers were bogged down in paperwork and weren’t able to discern contraband as well,” he said. “Out of all the detainees we brought in, our conviction rate was about 30 percent. Once we started our detainee ops program from mid-November on, our conviction rate doubled up to over 60 percent. The bottom line isn’t how many guys you’re sending to (prison). The bottom line is that you’re saving your fellow Soldiers’ lives out there with each terrorist you bring in.”

But all the success did not come without significant heartache. Alpha suffered most of their losses early on. Sergeant Joshua Johnson, who died in January during a support mission for the Iraqi soldiers,

fought in one of the toughest battles in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division before deploying to Ramadi. Second Lieutenant Mark Procopio, assigned to another company, died while rushing to the aid of a downed helicopter. Specialist Will Fernandez, Sergeant Mike Egan, and First Lieutenant Mark Dooley were killed last September while on their way to assist their fellow Soldiers. Dooley cruised straight through the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger School before deploying with Alpha Company.

On Memorial Day, President Bush quoted Dooley’s letter home during an address at Arlington National Cemetery. In the letter, Dooley said, “Remember that my leaving was in the service of something that we loved, and be proud. The best way to pay respect is to value why a sacrifice was made.”

That was the moral compass that guided Alpha Company.

“No matter how hard it is, you can’t come out here, lose someone close to you and then say kill ‘em all,” said Pelletier. “You have to be able to bounce back from that and still have the ability to hand out teddy bears to kids — to demonstrate compassion even after tremendous loss.

The bottom line is that you honor their sacrifice by continuing to do what is right.”

Pelletier said the quote, “War will always be a human endeavor” sums up the counterinsurgency fight.

“We focus so much on all the gear, the F-18s, the up-armor,” he said. “In the end, when you strip it down, this is a person-to-person commitment won by individual Soldiers at the lowest tactical level — the team leaders, squad leaders, and platoon leaders.”

As the Soldiers of Alpha Company made their way back home, they left Ramadi behind — knowing of the hardship they endured, the fine Soldiers they lost, and the success they accrued. They also left knowing that a much larger force would be replacing them in their area of operation, but that the struggle against terror will continue for those still in the fight.

“You can’t duplicate this; training cannot duplicate this,” said Allmond of his tour in Ramadi. “Yeah, I hate it here. But if I had the choice, I’d do it all over again.”

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**Second Lieutenant Aaron Flint**, from Fort Harrison, Mont., served as a platoon leader with Alpha Company, Task Force Saber.

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## SALUTE

*An Iraqi soldier from the 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, salutes his commanding officer during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base O’Ryan July 13. The ceremony marked the passing of authority from a 4th Infantry Division unit to the Iraqi Army.*

Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood, USN