

# 3BSTB MiTT

Volume 9

April 2007



**The news of the deployment extension served as a great morale booster, as seen by the MiTT staff during this important security meeting**

The MiTT spent most of the last month preparing the IA BDE for deployment of a large portion of the unit to Baghdad, only to have the order rescinded by higher Iraqi command...and then re-issued at the last minute. However, the brigade and the MiTT were up to the task and continued planning even after the order was rescinded. When the new order came, the brigade was ready to execute. They trained and deployed units to Baghdad without violating the condensed timeline...too much.



**Local food always seems like a good idea at the time...**



The team completed a lengthy staff training exercise that began during the month of March. "Coincidentally," the majority of this S3-focused class took place during the month that both MAJ Albert and CPT Nix were on leave, leaving CPT Padlo and CPT Gorkowski to teach the classes. But alas, no one can pretend that they know what they are talking about like an S2.

As we hit the middle of March we realized that the time is passing quickly. SSG Palin, SFC Macias, PFC Koch, and MAJ Albert all took off for leave. Much to the team's dismay, this would be the last time Major Albert would work with the MiTT. Upon return from his leave in April, he will be promoted to LTG and take over as the Iraqi Army Division Commander. His family doesn't know it yet, but they will PCS to Iraq in June. Joking aside, he will be the Bronco Brigade S3. The MiTT team is convinced he will quickly learn his role and bring an immeasurable amount of expertise and a very unique perspective to the position. The team welcomes Major Schourek as Major Albert's replacement. We have no doubt that he will pick up right where Major Albert left off, and will offer some new insight into how we conduct business.



**MAJ Shourek poses outside his personal Kiowa that came free with the flatscreen TV.**



**MAJ Albert's last convoy as Shadow 6. Goodbye BFT, hello Powerpoint.**

At the beginning of April, the team sent away three more members of the team. The only one that will return (after he wins more money in Vegas than CPT Padlo lost in the World Poker Finals) is CPT Nix. CPT Johannes was selected for a company command position at FOB Speicher. He will go directly to his new unit upon completion of his leave and take over a Base Defense Company. This is a position that is only available in a combat zone and is comprised of three QRF platoons and one base defense platoon. We said farewell to our favorite DOD interpreter, Nadiar, as he returned home after being in country for over a year and a half. The team wishes the best of luck to CPT Johannes in his new command and Nadiar as he returns to his wife and a normal civilian life.



**Nadiar at the traditional rooftop farewell**



**With CPT Johannes gone, CPT G no longer has anyone to make fun of. CPT G has since undertaken a vow of silence.**

MAJ Schourek came to the team guns blazing and was ready to get some of our young soldiers more involved with the IA. SPC Taveras began working with the IA mechanics training them how to properly forecast PLL, and work on ILAVs and UALRs, and all sorts of other mechanic acronyms that none of us really understand. PFC Ellis spent time in the Engineer section, taking the lead on organizing BDE level Engineering projects. PFC Koch is integrated with the S3 and S7, and is looking for ways to improve training for the IA.



SPC Taveras fires off some 203 rounds at the range



Who has 2 thumbs and glad he isn't still at Warrior??



PFC Ellis keeps us in the game and teaches us this strange version of football

# GET TO KNOW THE MITT

This month's newsletter includes our sixth installment of **Get to Know the MiTT**. In this addition, we introduce our MiTT Chiefs (outgoing and incoming), MAJ Albert and MAJ Schourek. Major Albert was forced to leave the team this month as he was pulled up to the Brigade to be the Operations Officer (S3). Major Schourek came in from one of the battalion MiTTs where he served as both the MiTT Chief and the XO of his coalition infantry battalion. The MiTT Chief guides the efforts of the entire team and sets the precedent for all of the team's daily activities. As previously stated, this is a candid, up-close-and-personal interview that in no way has been altered by the writers of this newsletter.

**Interviewer:** The first question seems obvious...who will be remembered as the better Shadow MiTT Chief?

**MAJ Albert:** It depends on who is doing the remembering...MG Anwar will call it a tie, COL Stackpole won't admit his opinion, and the rest of the team will believe it was MAJ S - all he has to do is get rid of one MiTTREP per week.

**MAJ Schourek:** I will of course! Major Albert slave-drove these guys for eight months! I'm here to party for the last 4!

**Interviewer:** You both have been playing Ultimate Frisbee here at K1, but Major Albert definitely has the experience factor from time in the BSTB. That said, who brings the most game to the game?

**MAJ Schourek:** Major Albert does.

**MAJ Albert:** Well, I don't think I ever went head-to-head with MAJ S when we played, but you have to question your ability if Brian Astwood is assigned to defend you.

**Interviewer:** What do you think about the new jobs that you will be asked to perform? Who's will be more difficult?

**MAJ Albert:** My new job will be a bigger change since MAJ S is still on a MiTT. It is obvious, however, that his will be more difficult...instead of having 15 people to delegate to, I will now have about 60. That's why I bought the first 10 seasons of The Simpsons and the Kevin Bacon Movie Anthology Collector's Edition while I was on leave.

**MAJ Schourek:** Hey, I don't care what anybody says...it's tough tasking out the team to do stuff then going back and reading books and playing video games all night and everything, ok?!



**While at K1, MAJ Albert truly embraced the Iraqi culture!  
Feel free to make fun of him for this.**

**Interviewer:** What is your favorite way to kill time when you're not busy doing MiTT Chief stuff?

**MAJ Albert:** I have a variety of things I do, but I think my favorites are harassing SSG Fatusin, reading Red-Hash Safety Alerts, and attending random Breeze meetings that I'm not invited to.

**MAJ Schourek:** Are we almost finished...I would like to get back to my Dungeon and Dragons computer game sometime tonight.

**Interviewer:** Major Schourek, what changes will you make to the team after Major Albert is gone?

**MAJ Schourek:** I will make sure no one goes on leave from this day forward. Oh wait...I think I'm the only one left! Fine, we'll wear civilian clothes to work and cut the team MiTT report down to 30 mins from 2 hours!

**MAJ Albert:** That's probably not a bad idea, but I would recommend getting the team flat-screen back from the 2-35 MiTT

**Interviewer:** Major Albert, what will you miss most about being part of the Shadow MiTT?

**MAJ Albert:** I am going to miss the weekly Frisbee game, the nightly trivia, the autonomy of being on a remote FOB, the camaraderie, and seven hours of sleep each night

**MAJ Schourek:** He'll miss not doing any work. We **always** wondered what the Brigade MiTT did when I was on the Battalion team!

**Interviewer:** What message would you like to send back to your families?

**MAJ Albert:** I'd just like my kids to know that I still have the authority to ground them while I'm in Iraq, and they are to continue sending weekly video proof that their rooms are picked up.

**MAJ Schourek:** I love you and miss you and can't wait to take leave and come home to see you!

## Leave by *Pedro Macias*

With the last member of the team headed on much deserved R & R soon, we decided to enlighten family and friends on the experience we endure to make it home for those 2 weeks of vacation. And this article is not made just to fill up space, as if we could run out of ideas to fill the pages.

We begin with HHC, 3BSTB ensuring we have a scheduled date to leave FOB Warrior. Once they get the date, the entire MiTT team must assemble a combat patrol, through a city that often makes the newspapers, to drop off the lucky individual a day before the “fly out of FOB Warrior Day.” Once at FOB Warrior, the BSTB is again involved by double checking your name on the manifest and handing over the required leave paperwork.

While at FOB Warrior, individuals get a chance to eat ice-cream, visit friends, and relax at one of the many eateries or MWR establishments. As day 2 begins, with a late wake up (only because there is nothing else to do), we wait until boarding time for the military flight to Kuwait. Once the fortunate Shadow lands in Kuwait, we sit around for a few hours completing a manifest and filling out more paperwork for plane tickets to our final destination. By the time all paper work is finished, Day 3 is beginning. From this point the Shadow then waits from half a day, to a whole day to fly out of Kuwait. Once again, we turn to eating fast food and visiting trinket stores, where we bought all of your presents “from Iraq.” Day 4 starts with an accountability formation, then resumes about 6 hours before boarding time for the flight back to the states. A good thing does happen at the accountability formation, Soldiers are given the civilian flight itinerary for when they land in the U.S.. So once the formation ends, Soldiers begin hunting for phones in an attempt to arrange better flight times to get to their final destination sooner. Upon returning for boarding time, people discuss any changes that were made to the original itinerary. Now, we have at least 6 hours until we board, what could we possibly do??? . . . Well...briefings of course. We begin with “what is not allowed to be taken back to the States.” This is the point when SSG Palin had to ditch his RPG in the amnesty bin. Who would have thought those weren’t allowed?



**Formation #33**

We then go through Kuwait’s Customs and Security Screening. Yup, all bags are emptied in front of Air Force Security Police and inspected. With several hundred people on the flight this takes upwards of 2 hours. Just as all the bags are inspected, Soldiers exit the building to put all large bags into a container for loading in the belly of the plane. It’s also time to find out if your carry on bag will fit into the over-head bin tester. Yup, just like at the airports, but we use senior NCOs to verify the bags fit. If bags do not fit the first time, Soldiers are allowed to reconfigure the bags. If the bag does not fit a second time . . . . . so sad, too bad, it gets tossed in with the bags that go in the belly of the plane.



**Step 1**



**Step 2 (not applicable to laptops)**



**Step 3**

**Note: Steps 1 and 2 are much easier if you take everything out of your bag, and stuff it into your cargo pockets, then put it in back in your bag afterwards**



**Evidently, word got around that SFC Macias was going on leave. The VIPs made sure to attend.**

Well now we're ready to wait about 3 hours for our movement to board the plane. We do another roll call and off we go. Once on the plane Day 5 begins and we find out the route we take.

When we land at a refueling point we sometimes have the opportunity to get off the plane, stretch our legs, or just sit there until refueling is complete. Upon landing in the United States, we do a bit of paper work then it's a mad dash to get the next thing flying to our final destination. While we run through the airport we are greeted with cheers and applause by the USO and people just wishing us well. It's a wonderful feeling to know that no matter what happens, the average American still supports the Army Soldiers. Finally, we relax and enjoy everything possible for the next 2 weeks.



**Civilians in Dallas cheer after SFC Macias promises to buy the first round.**



**CPT Johannes on leave in Vegas. Note: he is wearing CPT Padlo's shirt and posing with CPT Padlo's girlfriend.**

On the final leave day we are to return to the airport. Sometimes we fly back that day and sometimes we are required to spend the night. The USO is located at the airport to help make our wait more pleasurable, with a nice lounge and programs for Soldiers with children. Then it's back to the sands of Kuwait. There is really no delay in Kuwait.

It would not be fair to acknowledge the troubles families go through to meet us or join us at the airports. Family members need to arrive at least 2 to 3 hours prior to the flight arrival or departure, complete paperwork themselves, then also go through the rigorous security screening. So with this we end our R & R drama and thank all of those who make it possible.

# INTERPRETED MADNESS

*"Fearing what the spirit of man could accomplish, the Lord said let us go down and confuse their language so that they may not understand one another's speech." - Babel*

The MiTT interpreters are an integral part of our mission with the Iraqis. We literally would accomplish nothing without their hard work. They sacrifice their lives and the well being of their families every day to support democracy and the building of a new Army in Iraq. Here is a brief look at who they are and what they're all about.



**SAMAD**



Samad, the Professor, has the pleasure of interpreting for the MiTT Chief. When asked what he thought of his new boss, MAJ Schourek, he said, "Well at least he doesn't make me run the perimeter at 0500 every day like MAJ Albert." Samad is a proud husband and father. He also teaches English once a week at a local university.



**MASOOD**

Masood works with the MiTT NCOIC. Now that 1SG Armendariz is gone, he grew out his hair and hasn't shaved in two months. He is still required to send pictures of the Iraqi Soldiers down to 1SG A at his new job to ensure standards are being upheld. Masood was just married last month.



**HOGER**



Hoger has worked with the same Iraqi Brigade for 3 years. He says he admires the IA officers, but we think he sticks around for the great food at the Iraqi dining facility. Hoger works for CPT G and SSG Palin. Since our team arrived at K1, he has lost all his hair and developed a nervous twitch. Upon retiring as an interpreter, his dream is to go into the recycled oil business and sell hot pretzels in Philly.



**HAMID**

Hamid works for CPT Nix in the Brigade operations section. His trademarks include a frightening glare and very warm personality. He is married and has 3 kids. In his free time, he takes his family on picnics near a local lake to relieve the stress of working with CPT Nix and his Iraqi counterpart, COL Ayad.



**KASM**

Kasm, better known as JT, is the local pretty boy. His suave personality and knowledge of the English language drive the local Iraqi girls crazy. His current projects include alternating hair colors and saying, "What's up," in English. He works with SGT Bentley in the communications section and has perfected the audible "mwwee," greeting.



**MIKE**



Mike, or Mrad, works with CPT Johannes advising the brigade XO and the brigade engineer. He has a passion for European designer clothes and is an avid martial artist. He currently holds the rank of white belt with 6 white stripes. Recently engaged, he now spends just as much time with his favorite nurse at the health clinic as he does at the brigade headquarters.



**MOHAMMED**



Mohammed works for CPT Astwood and SFC Macias. His activities include translating in the supply office and making CPT Astwood's protein shakes every morning. He is very quiet and humble. He chooses to express himself through his work in GQ - Iraq. Always fashionable, he is ready to take advantage of the camera at any moment. Mohammed is married with one daughter.



**NADIAR**

Nadiar, the Brooklyn Kurd, worked for CPT Padlo and SFC Gallardo in the intelligence section. Nadiar is a U.S. citizen raised in Binghamton, NY. His NY attitude mixed with his Kurdish accent make for an exciting conversation. Nadiar just finished his final deployment and has returned home to his wife in Tennessee. He will be greatly missed, although his frisbee ranking will continue to fall.

# SPORTS



## MONOPOLY SCORES:

Armstrong	30 pts
Bentley	25 pts
Gallardo	21 pts
Ellis	20 pts
Williams	13 pts
Duquette	11 pts
Stingo	7 pts



MiTT whiteboard pre-game “trash talk”

Illustrating the new lows to which we have stooped at K1, a small group has started a strange craze of near-nightly Monopoly games. Because of the sheer peculiarity of this event, it rated a spot in the monthly newsletter.



Pre-game confidence by the US soccer team. CPT Astwood is also featured as Mr April in the “Men of Kirkuk” Calendar

## MARCH MADNESS

Congratulations to CPT Gorkowski and CPT Padlo for completing a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> place sweep for room 13. Finishing in the last two places were MAJ Albert and CPT Johannes. Sorry CPT J, OSU didn’t win the tourney.

The highlight of this month’s sporting events was the first monthly “Clash of the Cultures” sporting event, where the MiTT took on the Iraqi Officers in a “friendly” game of non-American football. Our speed and youth was pitted against the superior skill of the Iraqi team, and eventually resulted in a final score of 2-2. We got on a roll late in the game after SGT Bentley learned we could not use our hands, and CPT Gorkowski stopped letting the ball into our goal. To give you an idea of the competitive spirit arising on the Iraqi side, rumor has it that the BDE CDR, MG Anwar, promised the first Iraqi to score a goal a 50,000 Dinar (about \$35) reward.

## NIGHTLY TRIVIA QUESTION:

Gallardo	MASTER
Fuel	MASTER
Johannes	20*
Palin	19
Taveras	17
Padlo	15
Hodrick	12
Gorkowski	11
Macias	9
Astwood	8
Hunter	6
Ellis	4
Nix	4
Bentley	1.5
Hampton	1
Armstrong	1
Fatusin	0

\*To our great disappointment, CPT Johannes has been declared the “Pete Rose” of nightly trivia. He has been revoked of his MASTER status after illegally providing another player answers during nightly trivia.

Ultimate Frisbee Rankings				
Taveras	8.5	8	8	20.42
Gorkowski	7.5	8	8.5	20
Padlo	8	7.5	8.5	20
Palin	6.5	9	8	19.68
Schourek	7.5	7.5	8	19.17
Fuel	7	8	7.5	18.75
Koch	7	7.5	8	18.75
Bentley	6.5	7.5	8	18.33
Ellis	7	7	8	18.33
Andy	7	7	7.5	17.92
Macias	6.5	7.5	7.5	17.92
Gallardo	7	7	7	17.5
Duke	6	8	6	16.67
Fatusin	5.5	6	7.5	15.83
Hunter	6	6	6	15
Astwood	6	6	6	15
Stingo	5	5	5	12.5
Ketchum	4	4	4	10
Williams	3	3	3	7.5
Nix	3	3	3	7.5
Luckritz	2	2	2	5
Hampton	1	1	1	2.5
Saffold	1	1	1	2.5
High Score = 25 (Tropic Lightning!)				

The Team welcomed two new baby Shadows this month, with the arrival of Elijah Mark Koch on MAR 16<sup>th</sup> and Ella Rose Mary Ellis on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the Koch and Ellis families! CPT Nix wishes a happy birthday to his girlfriend Christie on the 26<sup>th</sup> and his Grampa Wells on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Actual Quotes Heard During the Month of April

- “I want four kids, one of each.” PFC Ellis (reference to how many boys and girls he wants)
- “There’s a guy...with a rifle...he’s behind you!!! He’s not a threat...” CPT Padlo (speaking to SGT Fuel while SGT Fuel, MSG Hunter and CPT Nix were working on a vehicle during a mission)
- “I’m SPC Taveras...um...I’m almost American...almost.” SPC Taveras’s introduction to Major Schourek
- “I know the NCO creed.” SPC Taveras “In English?” CPT Gorkowski
- “You run good, but no skill. We skill, but no run.” -Iraqi description of the soccer match

