

# LIGHTNING STRIKES

Operation New Dawn



## 25th Infantry Division

December 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011

# Honoring Our Fallen



SPC Jose A.  
Torre Jr.  
STB, 2/1 AAB  
15 January 2011



SFC Clifford E.  
Beattie  
1-63 AR, 2/1 AAB  
22 May 2011



PFC Ramon  
Mora Jr.  
1-63 AR, 2/1 AAB  
22 May 2011



SPC Christopher  
B. Fishbeck  
1-7 FA, 2/1 AAB  
6 June 2011



SPC Robert  
P. Hartwick  
1-7 FA, 2/1 AAB  
6 June 2011



PFC Michael C.  
Olivieri  
1-7 FA, 2/1 AAB  
6 June 2011



SPC Emilo J.  
Campo Jr.  
1-7 FA, 2/1 AAB  
6 June 2011



SPC Michael B.  
Cook  
1-7 FA, 2/1 AAB  
6 June 2011



SPC Marcos  
Cintron  
1-7 FA, 2/1 AAB  
16 June 2011



SGT Nathan R.  
Beyers  
145 BSB, 116 CBCT  
7 July 2011



SPC Nicholas W.  
Newby  
145 BSB, 116 CBCT  
7 July 2011



SPC David  
Hickman  
2-325 INF,  
2/82 AAB  
14 November 2011

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." ~John 15:13

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**WWW.25IDL.ARMY.MIL**



**U.S. ARMY**

*Commanding General*  
**MG Bernard S. Champoux**

*Command Sergeant Major*  
**CSM Ray A. Devens Jr.**

*Deputy Commanding General -  
Operations*  
**BG Paul J. LaCamera**

*Deputy Commanding General -  
Support*  
**BG Bradley A. Becker**

*Chief of Staff*  
**COL Bjarne M. Iverson**

*Managing Editors*  
**LTC Alan G. Kellogg**  
**LTC Sean E. Wilson**

*Layout and Design*  
**SGT Jesus J. Aranda**

## See a photo you like?

All of the photos in this book, and many more, are available on Flickr!

**OND Archive:** <http://tinyurl.com/6gr53cz>  
**OPS:** <http://tinyurl.com/67uj212>    **HSC:** <http://tinyurl.com/68uvpsn>  
**I&S:** <http://tinyurl.com/697mlg6>    **SIG:** <http://tinyurl.com/6jhr495>  
**Band:** <http://tinyurl.com/6zkhplc>



# Lightning

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You are incredible and what you have accomplished in a dynamic, complicated, and challenging environment is remarkable! I hope you are as proud of your contributions as I am of your efforts.

It took your dedicated and selfless hard work for the United States Division-Center to succeed. I don't say that lightly, and mean it sincerely. We were only as good as what you willingly put into every task, from the mundane to the profound.

Iraq is measurably better for your efforts. When we are at our best, our actions reflect who we are as Americans. You were determined, resolute and committed. You reflected the enduring American spirit of hope and promise. Iraq now has the promise of a better future.

You honored the legacy of service and sacrifice of those who served before us by how you quietly and professionally executed your duties and you did it all in selfless obedience to duty.

Throughout the deployment I asked you to reflect on What Makes You Strong. Well, you made me strong!

Tropic Lightning!

Bernard S. Champoux  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

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**25th Infantry Division**



# Lightning 7



My Combat Warrior Family ... or as they say in Hawaii; my “Kaua Ne Koa O’hana”

As the United States Division Center (USD-C) Command Sergeant Major, I have had the privilege to watch history unfold. This history would not have been possible without two key values: courage and discipline. USD-C Soldiers had plenty of both. Over the course of the last year, USD-C Soldiers advised and assisted ISF units to provide sustainable security, defeated violent extremists networks and supported the advancement of civil capacity. I feel fortunate to have been a part of this incredible formation of extraordinary men and women who demonstrated daily why we are the strength of America and why the people of the world see us as the “Nation’s Warrior Class.”

We all had the opportunity to witness so many magnificent Warriors and leaders, from the deserts of Anbar and to the ports of Basra, committed to setting the example for the Iraqi Security Forces we partnered and operated with. It was truly refreshing how our Warriors demonstrated what it means to be members of the “Profession of Arms”. I can assure each of you that our Nation is proud of your efforts, and humbled by your commitment to excellence in all that you do. It is our responsibility to honor the legacy of those who came before us, and never forget the immeasurable sacrifices of our Soldiers and their families.

I am very proud to have shared this last year with each of you and just as honored as you are to selflessly serve my Nation. May your future journeys in life and military service continue to progress with strength in mind, body, and spirit. I wish you all well and as the Warriors of King Kamehameha would say in departing, “Ne Koa, Ke Akua Pu”, . . . God bless you Warriors.

Tropic Lightning!

Ray A. Devens Jr.  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
Division Command Sergeant Major

**WELCOME HOME!**

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# The 25th Infantry Division in Iraq

Operation Iraqi Freedom



## 2004 - 2005

1st Brigade deploys to Ninewa, Iraq

SEP 2004

1st Brigade redeploys

SEP 2005

2nd Brigade deploys to Kirkuk, Iraq

JAN 2004

1st and 2nd Brigades helped support Iraq's first free elections in recent memory



Fought in Battle of Huwajah

APR 2004

2nd Brigade redeploys

MAR 2005

Fought to keep Mosul under control when IPs fled posts

OCT 2004

## 2006 - 2007

4th Brigade deploys to central Iraq

OCT 2006

2nd Brigade deploys to central Iraq

4th Brigade redeploys

25 ID units help take offensive on heavy insurgency

DEC 2007



25 ID HQ, STB, 3 BCT and 25 CAB deploy to northern Iraq

AUG 2006

25ID HQ, STB, 3 BCT and 25 ID CAB redeploy

OCT 08 2007

25ID units in Iraq extended: beginning of "Surge"

JAN 10 2007



# What You Need to Know...

## Free Elections

The 1st BCT "Arctic Wolves," (then known as the "Lancer Brigade") in Ninewa Province and the 2nd BCT "Warriors" in Kirkuk Province supported the first free elections in recent memory in January 2005. Prior to the elections, both BCTs conducted operations against insurgents and, on the day of the election, provided security of polling stations along with members of the ISF. Despite threats of violence by the enemy, thousands of Iraqis flocked to the polls and defied the threats through the ballot box.



## Tropic Lightning Deploys to northern Iraq

The Headquarters, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT and 25th CAB deploy to northern Iraq in August 2006 to assume control of Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah Ad Din and Diyala Provinces. In September, the Division assumes control of Multi-National Division - North, becoming Task Force Lightning. Joined by Brigades from three other U.S. Army Divisions, they went on the attack against insurgent groups while training and developing local institutions and security forces.

Division Commanding General:  
MG Benjamin R. Mixon

## The Surge

By late 2006, violence had increased to levels where the survival of Iraq was at stake. Sectarian violence between Sunni and Shia Arabs was stoked by insurgent groups such as Al Qaeda and the Jaysh Al Mahdi in a bid to incite a full-scale civil war. To fight the insurgents and preserve the Iraqi Government, a "surge" of troops was sent into Iraq in early 2007. Task Force Lightning was among the units whose deployment time was extended to 15 months. By May, American forces were ready to go on the offensive throughout Iraq. During a "Summer of Decision," Task Force Lightning struck at the insurgent havens throughout northern Iraq.



## The Genesis of the Sons of Iraq

In early 2007, Sunni tribesmen in MND-N began asking Task Force Lightning for help against Al Qaeda insurgents forcing them to abide by their rules and interpretation of Islam. By summer 2007, the first groups of Sahwa, also known as the Sons of Iraq, began working with Task Force Lightning in Diyala Province, eventually catching on throughout the region. They assisted in local security of their neighborhoods, while providing valuable intelligence to American forces.

**WELCOME HOME!**

# The 25th Infantry Division in Iraq

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Operation New Dawn



## 2008 - 2009

U.S. / Iraqi Security Agreement adopted

JAN 2009

Task Force Lightning redeploys

25 CAB deploys to MND-N

DEC 2009

Task Force Lightning acts as broker to ease Arab/Kurd tensions

2nd Brigade deploys to Baghdad

JAN 2008



25 ID HQ, STB, 1BCT and 3BCT (Task Force Lightning) return to MND-N

NOV 2008

Task Force Lightning supports Operation New Hope

FEB 2009

2BCT redeploys

MAR 2009

## 2010 - 2011

25 CAB redeploys

OCT 2010

Operation New Dawn officially ends

TBD

25 ID HQ and HHBN deploy to Iraq

DEC 2010



2BCT deploys to Diyala

Operation New Dawn Begins

JUL 2010

2BCT redeploys

JUL 2010

25 ID HQ serves as last U.S. Combat Division in Iraq under OND

25 ID begins closing down remaining U.S. bases



# What You Need to Know...

## The Security Agreement

In November 2008, a security agreement was reached between the U.S. and Iraq. This agreement called for security in cities to be entrusted to Iraqi Security Forces by June 30, 2009 and the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces by December 31, 2011. With the agreement, all U.S. forces needed to partner with Iraqi forces in all security operations. During this time, 25th Infantry Division Headquarters and 3rd Brigade return to northern Iraq and Multi-National Division - North.



Commanding General:  
MG Robert L. Caslen Jr.

## Operation New Hope

In 2008, violence rocked the city of Mosul. While Baghdad calmed due to the "Surge," Mosul flared. To capitalize on gains made against insurgents in 2008, Task Force Lightning launched Operation Amel Jadied (New Hope) in February 2009. To make sure the insurgents' grip on Mosul was broken, U.S. and Iraqi security forces cleared neighborhoods jointly and then remained to oversee the return of government services and reconstruction efforts.



## Fair and Honest Broker

When rivalries between groups threatened to escalate into violence, Task Force Lightning leaders intervened to act as a mediator between sides in the dispute. One example was tensions between the central government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government. Over the course of the deployment, Task Force Lightning leaders worked with both sides to help lay the groundwork for the combined security mechanism. Instead, their border areas being potential flashpoints for war, Task Force Lightning helped Iraqi and Kurdish forces unite to patrol these areas and deny insurgents the opportunity to travel through them.



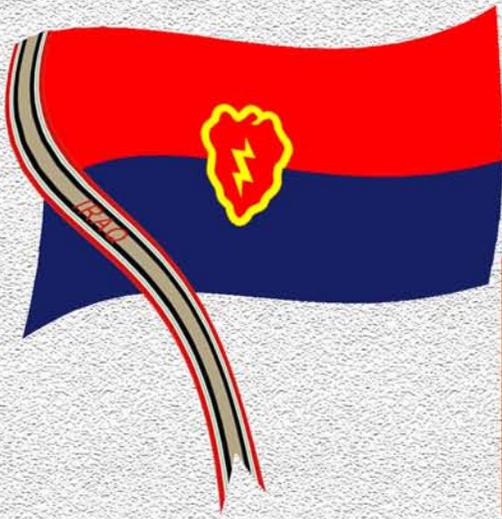
## Operation New Dawn

U.S. Forces were now in an advisory role: strengthening the Iraqi Security Forces partners, transitioning remaining bases to Iraqi control and withdrawing U.S. Forces from the country, while protecting U.S. Forces by going after threat networks by, with and through Iraqi Security Forces. The 25th Infantry Division returned to Iraq to take command of Baghdad and Anbar Provinces and U.S. Division - Center as the last U.S. Combat Division to support Operation New Dawn.

Commanding General:  
MG Bernard S. Champoux



# WELCOME HOME!



# Our Partnership: At a Glance

The 25th Infantry Division has been a reliable partner to Iraq's security, stability and development since 2004. The units and brigades supporting the mission fought a counterinsurgency and built, advised, and trained Iraqi Security Forces capable of protecting the Iraqi people.





AT A GLANCE: **WELCOME HOME!**



# 25th Infantry Division Deploys

The 25th Infantry Division answered the Nation's call to serve and oversee the changing role of U.S. involvement in Iraq's future.





# USD-C Transfer of Authority



MG Bernard S. Champoux, with CSM Frank M. Leota, officially assume command of Baghdad and Anbar Provinces and USD-C from the 1st Armored Division.



LTC Paul D. Romagnoli, with CSM Valerie F. Greene, officially assume responsibility of operations supporting the Division Headquarters.



## Did You Know?

Since 2003, with the assistance of U.S. forces, Iraq has completed 2,920 health care projects, immunized 98% of children ages 1-3 from a variety of ailments, established 5 mobile medical units serving 25,000 people and decreased infant mortality by 68%.



# USD-C STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERS

U.S. Division - Center's Advise and Assist Brigades began the year training Iraq's security forces in a variety of tactical and technical skills.





With the Iraqi Security Forces now firmly in the lead, U.S. Advise and Assist Brigades enjoyed a stronger partnership with their ISF counterparts in the region.



### Did You Know?

Since 2003, the U.S. has helped Iraq increase primary school enrollment by 27%, trained more than 33,000 teachers, supplied 8.6 million text books and school supplies for 2.3 million students and 82,000 teachers while modernizing school curriculum.





# What Makes Me Strong

Strength comes in many forms and from many sources. We draw strength internally and rely daily on the strength of others. Every morning during the deployment, a member of U.S Division - Center would share his or her personal account of where they draw their strength from. The sources of strength have been as unique as the Soldiers who shared them. We'd like to share just a few of the many accounts of what make our Tropic Lightning Soldiers the best in the world and what makes them strong.



**“My family provides me the unconditional love and support I need to make it through any challenge, succeed at any goal I set for myself and live my dreams - - no matter how crazy.”**

CPT Victoria Starks  
25ID SJA

**“It is a blessing to serve honorably next to the great Soldiers of this Division in the strongest and most respected Army in the world.”**

SGT Rosteeve Bellier  
S4, HHBN



**“What makes me strong is my faith in America and my willingness to fight for its values and my own. I am strong.”**

SSG Jeremy J. Johnson  
G6, 25ID



**25th Infantry Division**

# What Makes Me Strong



**Above all, God makes me strong. Giving praise to my heavenly Father, my Savior, and the Lord for blessing me in abundance. He has blessed me with my greatest treasure: my family. He protects and guides us in all of our endeavors and will never forsake us. He is my rock and Salvation. His mercy endure forever. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me - Philippians 4:13.**

SGT Robin Mailo  
S6, 25ID

**Knowing that someone somewhere in the world depends on what I do every day makes me strong. Whether it's my peers, subordinates, family, or friends, I look at each day as if I am a goalie in the World Cup soccer game and I must defend everything to the rear of me. Sure, there are times when a ball may breach my line of defense, but that's just a part of the game. My composure, confidence and discipline allow me to give 110 percent and bring the cup home. Trials and tribulations from prior learning experiences make me resilient. With my resiliency comes strength. The strength gained from my trials and tribulations allow me to positively channel my work ethic as a Soldier.**



SSG Charles Griffin  
G3, 25 ID

**WELCOME HOME!**

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# USD-C SPECIAL EVENTS



First-time deployed Tropic Lightning Soldiers are given their first combat patches by Division leaders.

JANUARY



The Division bids farewell to CSM Frank M. Leota as he moves on to become the USARPAC CSM.

FEBRUARY



CSM Ray A. Dev... the new Division... assumes respon... enlisted person...



Division leader... memory of Weyand w... a conferen...



DCG-S Bradley A. Becker is promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

JANUARY



Tropic Lightning Soldiers bring the Great Aloha Run to Iraq for the third time.

FEBRUARY



...vens becomes  
...n CSM and  
...nsibility of  
...nel.

MARCH



ISF leaders meet to discuss methods of crime solving during a series of Rule of Law conferences in the USD-C area of operations.

JULY



25 ID assumes control of southern Iraq from USD-S, more than doubling the size of USD-C

SEPTEMBER



...nders honor the  
... GEN Frederick C.  
...ith the dedication of  
...ce room.

MARCH



Tropic Lightning Soldiers celebrate Pacific Island heritage during an Independence Day performance.

JULY



USD-C hosts a Partnership Dinner to honor the deep friendship between Iraq's tribal sheiks, the ISF, GOI leaders, U.S. Embassy and U.S. Forces.

31 OCTOBER

## Did You Know?

At the height of the Surge, the U.S. military operated from 505 bases across the country.



SPECIAL EVENTS: **WELCOME HOME!**

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# USD-C SPECIAL GUESTS



**CSA George W. Casey**



**ADM Mike Mullen**



**SEC DEF Robert M. Gates**



**SEC Army John McHugh**



**LTG Frank G. Helmick & CSM Earl L. Rice**



**Smash Mouth**



**Oscar De LaHoya**

Operation Proper Exit offered combat-wounded service members the unique opportunity to return to the places of their life-altering injuries to gain closure, witness the progress made in Iraq, and leave on their own terms.



Tropic Lightning Soldiers welcomed these combat veterans to USD-C and listened to their personal stories of heroism, resiliency and their personal sacrifices.



SEC DEF Leon E. Panetta



LTG Michael Ferriter



LTG Robert L. Caslen Jr.



GEN Lloyd J. Austin III

## Did You Know?

Since 2003, the U.S. has helped Iraq in the construction of nearly 1,200 bridges, upgraded and repaired projects which support more than 15 million vehicles daily on Iraq's roads, and helped with approx. 250 projects employing more than 20,000 Iraqis.



SPECIAL GUESTS: **WELCOME HOME!**



# HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMPANY



Command



BAS



Guard



Motorpool



Chaplain



IG



S1



S6



DFAC

## Headquarters Support Company

Led by Commander CPT Christopher Townsend and 1SG Oscar Woodard, HSC has nearly 300 Soldiers working in a wide variety of support roles to the Division's mission. HSC Soldiers were directly responsible for company-level administrative and logistics support and identification, collection and turn-in of excess equipment.





PSD



SJA



S3



S2



EO



Retention





# OPERATIONS COMPANY



COMMAND



G7



PMO



G9



DIVENG



PROTECTION



G5



ID THREAT



SAFETY



SISF



MWD

## Operations Company

Led by Commander CPT Steven Schnurr and 1SG Rodney Morant, OPS Company is a unit with more than 200 Soldiers supporting the USD-C mission. OPS Company provided the personnel and equipment to plan, coordinate, integrate, synchronize and analyze maneuver, fires, and protection operations for the Division.





DOC OPS



G3 FUOPS



G3 AVN



G3 AMD



TARGETING



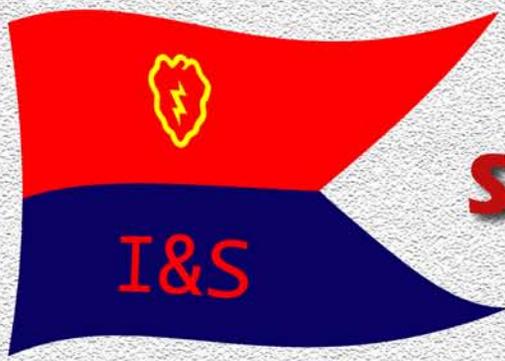
G3



### Did You Know?

**In 2010, the overall level of violence in Iraq was about about 90% lower than the peak seen in 2007. As of June 21, 2011, more than 767,900 personnel have been trained through Ministry of the Interior centers.**





# Intelligence & Sustainment Company



## I & S Company

Led by Commander MAJ Tarica Gordon-Zachary and 1SG Twonda Benjamin, I & S Company is a unit of more than 170 Soldiers. The Company supports the Division mission by providing personnel operations, logistical, medical and financial accountability and processing.





G2



G4



I & S Company: **WELCOME HOME!**



# Signal Company



COMMAND TEAM

## Signal Company

Led by Commander CPT Jerrold Dwayne Castro and 1SG Catalina Lacuesta, Signal Company is a unit of more than 133 personnel, including Soldiers, NCOs, officers and civilians. The Company supports the Division mission by providing secure, reliable, redundant and timely communication systems.



G6



MCP



TAC



NET OPS



INFO MNGT/NET ENG



RADIO ROOM



HUB



25



BAND

# Tropic Lightning Band



## Tropic Lightning Band

Led by Commander CW3 Lisa Guynn and 1SG Steven Sonnen, the Tropic Lightning Band is among the most decorated bands in the U.S. Army. The band provided musical support to both U.S. military at outlying bases and U.S. and Iraqi military during official functions and gatherings.

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25th Infantry Division



## Did You Know?

As of August 2011, the U.S. military has transferred 3.47 million pieces of equipment with a fair market value of \$313 million and saved U.S. taxpayers more than \$600 million in transportation costs.



Tropic Lightning Band: **WELCOME HOME!**



# Command Group



## Division Command Group

The Division Command Group supports the Division's commanding general, senior leaders and flag officers with their many functions and responsibilities. These include personal security, coordinating staff efforts, hosting distinguished visitors, and providing administrative support and planning.



# Command Group



USD-C COMMAND TEAM



LVB

# Division Staff



## Division Staff

The Division Staff, led by COL Bjarne M. Iverson, was comprised of a truly dedicated group of quiet professionals collectively known as the "Team of Teams." The section primaries led their respective sections to assist the Division Commander and subordinate units in the historic mission of strengthening the ISF and responsibly drawing down U.S. Forces in Iraq.



# WHO WE ARE

Lightning Strength defines who we are and what we do every day. It is a warrior mindset and physical state which encourages units, Soldiers and families to embrace the challenges and rewards of military life. You represent the strength of our Nation through your service, sacrifice, perseverance and character. Tropic Lightning!





## Did You Know?

Since 2003, the U.S. has invested in almost 7,000 Iraqi-led education-related projects, including the repair and construction of more than 4,000 schools throughout Iraq.



# WHO WE ARE





## Did You Know?

Since 2003, Iraq completed projects with the assistance of U.S. forces, contributing to 25% of the nation's potable water and providing 2.45 million cubic meters of safe, clean water daily to the average Iraqi family.



# Friends & Family

To our families, friends and support groups all around the world, we say 'Mahalo' for all that you have done to support our Tropic Lightning Soldiers who bravely answer our Nation's call.



Tropic Lightning veterans were welcomed to Schofield Barracks as special guests during the 62nd Annual 25th Infantry Division Association Reunion and the dedication of General Frederick Carlton Weyand Memorial Field, Sept. 30.

The U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point honored the Division by wearing the iconic taro leaf on their uniforms during their 2011 season game against Ball State.



HHBN Spouses and the Division Rear Detachment provided immeasurable morale and emotional support to their Tropic Lightning Soldiers serving in Iraq. Without our families and friends, the mission would not have been nearly as successful.



# Now You Write The Final Chapter



**You have played an important role in the 25th Infantry Division's storied history and we hope you will use this page to capture your memories. We appreciate your immeasurable sacrifices and accomplishments which paved the way for this historic partnership.  
Tropic Lightning!**



**Your photo  
here**

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**WELCOME HOME!**



