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'DRAGOONS' OF 2ND STRYKER CAVALRY REGIMENT RAISE THEIR COLORS OVER BAGHDAD

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CAMP LIBERTY, BAGHDAD, Iraq -- V Corps' 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment officially accepted their mission here from the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, during a ceremony here Sept. 13.



SPC L.B. EDGAR

Soldiers of V Corps' 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment prepare to raise the regimental flag over the headquarters at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq, signifying that the Vilseck, Germany, accepted its quick reaction force mission from the 2nd Infantry Division's 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

With the ceremony the 2nd takes over the quick reaction force mission for the Iraqi capital.

"Our mission is going to be to bring the fight to the enemy all across Baghdad, wherever we're needed, at a moment's notice," said Col. John RisCassi, the 2nd SCR commander.

The casing of the 3rd's colors marked the completion of the transfer of authority, in an event that also including a reading of the histories of the 2nd "Dragoons" and 3rd "Arrowhead" and the raising of the 2nd's flag to the top of the camp's flagpole.

Under the "Dragoons" red and white banner, the departing commander, Col. Steve Townsend of the 3rd SCR, addressed those in attendance. Townsend described the event, which was not an official transition of authority.

"Thank you for coming to what I am told is not a TOA ceremony, but a simple casing of the colors ceremony," explained the "Arrowhead" commander. "Clearly, the war is not over. We're just doing a battle handover. We're

handing off a baton to our relief, the next relay in this race, this marathon."

Townsend said he is proud of the contributions, accomplishments and achievements of his own Soldiers during their "interesting and busy" 15 months here, but that it felt good to pass the mission to the 2nd. Handing the mission off to the Vilseck, Germany-based "Dragoons" is the best-case scenario, he said.

"(The Soldiers of the 2nd SCR will) advance this cause farther down the field -- hopefully to the finish line," the colonel said. "I couldn't think of a better organization to hand off to than our Stryker brothers. God bless you all. Good luck, God speed and good hunting in your mission here."

Now the "Dragoons" will take their turn contributing 15 months toward the global war on terrorism, said RisCassi.

"You've made your mark in history and damn well earned it," the colonel told the departing troops. "The 'Dragoons' are honored to be the Soldiers who allow you to return home to your families. It's time to go home."

"I have no doubt we've trained and prepared to assume authority and take over the tremendous responsibility from the 'Arrowhead' brigade and make our mark in the fight against terrorism."



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