

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

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Ivy Division celebrates 91 years as Army's 4th oldest division

By Sgt. Jason Thompson
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BAGHDAD – The 4th Infantry Division has a long and distinguished history that includes combat in four wars – which is proudly displayed by the 23 campaign streamers that adorn its organizational colors.

Nicknamed the Ivy Division, it is the fourth oldest division in the Army and was formed Dec. 10, 1917 at Camp Greene, N.C., under the command of Maj. Gen. George Cameron.

During its “Steadfast and Loyal” service to the United States of America and the U.S. Army, more than 550,000 Soldiers have proudly worn the distinctive Ivy patch on their left shoulder, creating a legacy of dedicated service to the nation that has spanned more than nine decades since its inception to fight in the “Great War” of World War I.

It is fitting that as an infantry division born of war, with a history forged by conflict, the 4th Inf. Div. celebrated its 91st birthday Dec. 10 while engaged in combat operations in Baghdad.

“I truly love this division,” said Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, a Hattiesburg, Miss., native, the commanding general of the 4th Inf. Div. and Multi-National Division – Baghdad. “This division is the only division in the Army which uses the word “Loyal” within its motto. The Soldiers are indeed loyal – they are Steadfast and Loyal.

“The Soldiers of the Ivy Division have done a magnificent job, both past and present,” he continued. “I am most honored to celebrate this division’s 91st birthday with each and every Soldier who shares the same patch on their left shoulder.”

The division first saw action during World War I, seeing combat in five major campaigns.

The 4th Inf. Div. again was called into action to serve during World War II, where it was most notably recognized as the first allied unit to assault the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Soldiers of the division proudly served throughout Europe, seeing combat in five major European campaigns.

Two decades would pass before the division would again be called upon during time of war, when the 4th Inf. Div. arrived in South Vietnam in Sept. 1966. Here, its Soldiers would see combat in 10 separate campaigns over the next six years.

In March 2003, the 4th Inf. Div. again deployed into harms way. This time, more than 17,000 Soldiers left their Families behind and deployed to Iraq into an area known as the Sunni Triangle, seeing combat in the Global War on Terrorism. The 4th Inf. Div. spearheaded numerous combat operations, ultimately leading to the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Following redeployment in March 2004, the 4th Inf. Div. was one of the divisions that led the charge in transforming from a division-based Army to a brigade-based Army. The new design implemented by the division was a significant change from how the division fought in the past, and it encompassed the most comprehensive restructuring in the Army since World War II. Of even greater significance is that this was accomplished while the Army was still engaged with the enemy and fighting a war.

The division was then called back into combat in 2005, and again in 2007, to spearhead combat operations in and around Baghdad as the driving force behind Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

In addition to the wartime and counter-insurgency missions during all three deployments to Iraq, the Division was instrumental in opening and supplying thousands of schools, hospitals and clinics within its area of operation. Division personnel also repaired bridges, roads, power plants, oil pipelines, water mains and many other essential parts of the Iraqi infrastructure.

“This division has had some tough fights, collectively, since its existence,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, senior enlisted leader, 4th Inf. Div. “We have suffered more than 50,000

casualties, and more than 10,000 Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice defending America's freedom.

“Here, today, it's very clear in everybody's mind what is at stake here as we finish this mission in Iraq.”

The 4th Inf. Div. staff celebrated 91 years of rich history within the division during a ceremony in front of the MND-B headquarters building in Camp Liberty. However, this was by no means the first time the division celebrated a birthday during combat operations. Through six tours of duty throughout the globe, the Ivy Division has been deployed during 10 of its birthdays.

“This is a historical event,” said Gioia. “The division was formed in 1917 for the sole purpose of going to war, where it fought the ‘Great War.’ Ironically enough, here we are again, 91 years later, in combat, in Baghdad, defending our freedom.

“I'm humbled to be in the formation with these great Soldiers and what they do every day, and the sacrifices and the hardships that they take, and the Families who are also making sacrifices back home. If you're going to celebrate a birthday, and you can't be with your immediate Family, then you celebrate with your extended Family. In this case, it is the great warriors of the 4th Inf. Div.”

The 4th Inf. Div. is organized with five brigade-sized elements – four maneuver brigades and a multifunctional aviation brigade. The division is split-based, with the division's headquarters, 1st Brigade Combat Team and Combat Aviation Brigade, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th BCTs, stationed in Fort Carson, Colo. Upon redeployment from Iraq, the division's headquarters and 1st BCT will relocate to Fort Carson and the CAB will be reassigned outside of the 4th Inf. Div.



Streamer.

BAGHDAD – Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond (right), commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, senior enlisted leader of 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B, add the Iraq campaign streamer to the division’s organizational colors during the 4th Inf. Div.’s 91st birthday ceremony Dec. 10. In recognition of service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the campaign streamer with the colors of the Iraq campaign medal and inscribed “Iraq” is authorized to be flown from the 4th Inf. Div.’s organizational colors.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Thompson, MND-B PAO)



Streamer 2.

BAGHDAD – Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond (right), commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, senior enlisted leader of 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B, add the Iraq campaign streamer to the division's organizational colors during the 4th Inf. Div.'s 91st birthday ceremony Dec. 10. In recognition of service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the campaign streamer with the colors of the Iraq campaign medal and inscribed "Iraq" is authorized to be flown from the 4th Inf. Div.'s organizational colors.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Thompson, MND-B PAO)



Honor Guard.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division Honor Guard stand tall during the division’s 91st birthday ceremony at Camp Liberty Dec. 10.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Thompson, MND-B PAO)



Band.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division’s Ironhorse Band perform the national anthem during the division’s 91st birthday ceremony at Camp Liberty Dec. 10.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Thompson, MND-B PAO)



Cake.

BAGHDAD – The 4th Infantry Division celebrated its 91st birthday at Camp Liberty Dec. 10 while deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Thompson, MND-B PAO)



Cut Cake.

BAGHDAD – Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, command team for 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division – Baghdad, cut a cake to celebrate the 91st birthday of the 4th Inf. Div. during a cake cutting ceremony in the division’s headquarters building Dec. 10.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Thompson, MND-B PAO)



Color Guard.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – 4th Infantry Divisions' color guard stands at attention as the morning sun breaks through the clouds Dec. 10 at Camp Liberty, Iraq for the commemoration of the division's 91st birthday.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Whitney Houston, MND-B PAO)



Ribbons.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, native of Hattiesburg, Miss., and Commanding General of the Multi-National Division – Baghdad and 4th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, a Buffalo, N.Y. native, and Command Sergeant Major of MND-B and 4th Inf. Div., tie an Iraq campaign streamer onto the Ironhorse Division's colors at Camp Liberty Dec. 10. The streamers commemorate the division's honorable history throughout the conflicts of the United States.

(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, MND-B PAO)



Experience.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The Army flag and the 4th infantry Division Colors proudly sway in the breeze on Camp Liberty during the commemoration ceremony of the 4th Inf.

Div.'s 91st birthday Dec. 10.

(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, MND-B PAO)



Hammond.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond, native of Hattiesburg, Miss., and Commanding General of the Multi-National Division – Baghdad and 4th Infantry Division, gives a speech commemorating 4th Infantry Division’s 91st birthday, its history, and those who had lost their lives in noble causes throughout the last century.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Benjamin Crane, MND-B PAO)