



Masters of 'hooah'

35th Signal Soldiers provide force security at Sports Oasis dining facility

Spc. Seth Laughter
35th Sig. Bde. PAO

With his fingers and thumb extended and joined and a boisterous "hooah-hooah," Spc. Marc W. Moxley II, and Pfc. Shane D. Willis, both mechanics with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., check the identification and weapons of more than

4,000 diners a night at the Sports Oasis Dining Facility located on Camp Victory.

Though they are not quite sure why they're saying "hooah-hooah" while on duty, it has caught on around Camp Victory. "I started it," said Moxley, "and Willis picked up on it. People eat it up. Some people take us seriously and look for us to say 'hooah-hooah,' others get angry and tell us not to 'hooah' them."

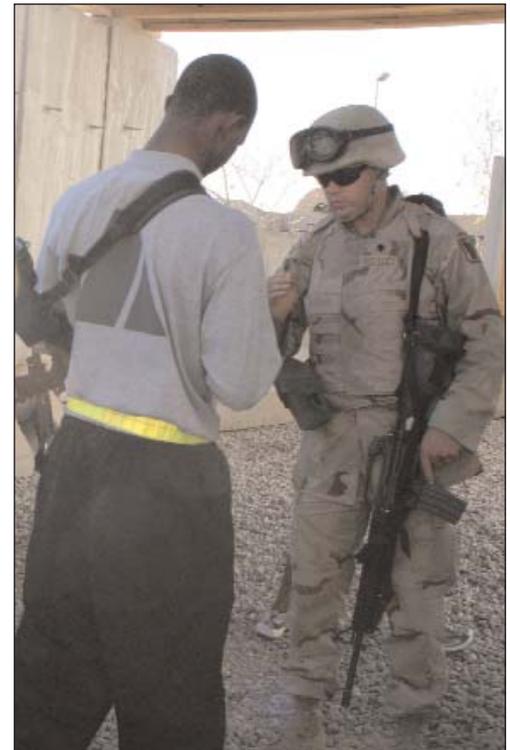
At times you can hear someone mimicking Moxley and Willis and their one-of-a-kind greeting, but their duties in front of the Sports Oasis are

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photos by Spc. Seth Laughter/ 35th Sig. Bde. PAO

Service members and civilians from the Multi-National Force in Iraq make their way through a maze of concrete barricades outside the entrance to the Sports Oasis dining facility on Camp Victory, Iraq.



Preparing to give the "hooah-hooah" reply, Spc. Marc W. Moxley II, mechanic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., checks the weapon of a soldier entering a dining facility on Camp Victory, Iraq.

Army's first female rabbi celebrates Passover with Victory troops

Spc. Mary Rose
MNC-I PAO

Troops and civilians stationed at Camp Victory joined together Saturday for a Passover Seder in observance of the Jewish holiday.

Passover is the most celebrated Jewish holiday and is filled with traditional food, prayers, storytelling and rituals.

With only nine rabbis in

the active duty U.S. Army, Chap. (Col.) Bonnie Koppell, a rabbi with the Army Reserve, volunteered to travel from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Iraq to share the Passover holiday with other Jewish service members.

"It isn't every day that I get to be a rabbi in the Army," Koppell said.

She explained why the holiday is so important to those with Jewish beliefs and how the

story of Passover is similar to the situation in Iraq.

"Passover is a celebration of the exodus of the Jews from (ancient Egypt)," she said. Koppell then explained the similarities by quoting a Jewish book called the Haggadah, which is read at Seder.

"We have dedicated this festival tonight to the dream and the hope of freedom. Though the sacrifice be great and the hard-

ships many, we shall not rest until the chains that enslave all men and women be broken."

"Liberation is costly," she said. "We need to acknowledge our enemy." She explained that it is very easy to objectify our enemies and to see them as less than human.

During the Seder, they use traditional Jewish foods to

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Preventive Points:

Tips from Multi-National Corps - Iraq's Force Health Protection

Heat Cramps

- Heat cramps are painful and severe. They are cramps or spasms of the voluntary muscles, primarily in the extremities and abdominal wall.
- Normally, heat cramps result from excessive loss of salt through sweating. Your body temperature remains normal unless accompanied by heat exhaustion.
- Treatments include moving to a cool shaded area or improvising shade, loosening clothing, drinking water or sports drinks and massaging the affected muscles. If cramps persist, seek medical attention.
- Prevention is the best principle for avoiding heat cramps. It's important to ensure adequate acclimatization, proper meal intake and proper water consumption.

REWARD

STOLEN 2004 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER

0094-05-CID259-36251

Criminal Investigative Detectives are seeking information concerning the whereabouts of a stolen 2004 Toyota Land Cruiser, grey in color, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): JTEEHJ09J845089414. The Land Cruiser is a four-door sport utility vehicle possibly missing a window. The stolen Land Cruiser was last seen parked in the VIP parking lot on the south side of the Al-Faw Palace between 5:30 p.m. April 16 and 6:00 a.m. April 17.

Anyone with information should contact Senior Agent Tieaskie in the U.S. Army CID office located in Bldg. 84, Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, APO AE 09342, or call at 318-822-2816/2835. A reward of \$1,000 is offered for information leading to the recovery of the vehicle and the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the theft.

Hard Corps Choral

Meets every Monday and Friday from 9 - 10 p.m. at the Al-Faw Palace ballroom.

Men and women who love to sing patriotic, spiritual and contemporary choral music are invited to join any time.

For more information contact Lt. Col. Niel Johnson at niel.johnson@iraq.centcom.mil

HOOAH

not just to provide enjoyment or provoke the troops and civilians stationed at Camp Victory. The "Masters of the 'hooah'," as Moxley and Willis like to call themselves, are enforcing an intricate part of the safety of all those on Camp Victory -- force protection.

After a suicide bombing at a dining facility in Northern Iraq left 22 dead and more than 70 wounded, guards and security forces were placed around the dining facilities throughout Iraq to protect against another such attack. The 35th Sig. Bde., which has command and control of the Sports Oasis DFAC, is tasked with providing security as well. "In this theatre, a dining facility is one of the most high-risk targets. There are always soldiers and civilians unprepared and vulnerable," said Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Jordan, sergeant major, 35th Sig. Bde.

Not only does the 35th have the daunting task of providing security for thousands of soldiers and civilians, but there are also more than 177 thirdcountry nationals working as contractors inside the dining facility. "We provide outside and inside security," said Sgt. 1st Class Grisel Maldonado, force protection noncommissioned officer-in-charge, HHC, 35th Sig. Bde. "The cooks inside ... watch the TCNs. They have to monitor what goes in the food. Other than a suicide bombing, the next largest threat is food poisoning."

"It's not about structure or command and control," said Jordan. "It's a mental thing -- a thing of fear. (Terrorists) want to make Soldiers feel that they are vulnerable."

Soldiers providing security for the Sports Oasis must check an assortment of items during the course of their duties, Maldonado said. "Our mission is to check for proper identification and

check for explosives. That's why we don't allow any kind of bag in the dining facility." Additional safety measures are taken by the guards, who ensure that all weapons are cleared and on safe before diners enter the facility.

Standing on their feet for hours on end in various weather conditions and in full battle gear would seem to be the most difficult part of the force protection Soldiers' duty, but it's not. "The major headache we have is with people who question the standards or don't want to follow them. We have problems with attitudes and people disrespecting the guards," Maldonado said. "People don't take time to read the huge sign posted with rules and regulations outside the facility."

What people tend to forget, said Willis, is that the guards don't make the policies or standards. Multi-National Corps and Force - Iraq make the standards, and the guards have to enforce them. The standards are ever-changing. One day people with certain IDs will be let in the DFAC, other days they won't. Some days guards have to search civilians, some days you won't.

Despite the hardships, Moxley and Willis, the "Masters of the 'hooah'," will still be relentlessly checking identification and weapons safety. "We try to get a triple (an individual carrying two weapons and ID) hooah," said Willis. "We haven't gotten a 'hooah-tacular' (referencing the popular Xbox game Halo 2, where four kills in rapid succession constitutes a 'killtacular') yet."

Security forces in and around the dining facilities on Camp Victory will continue their mission for months to come. As attacks by insurgents and terrorists become more precise and well-planned, the duty of the Soldiers guarding the Sports Oasis will become even more important.



photo by Spc. Seth Laughter/ 35th Sig. Bde. PAO

Spc. Marc W. Moxley II (left), and Pfc. Shane D. Willis (second from right), mechanics with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., check identification and weapons safety with their one of a kind "hooah-hooah" outside the Sport Oasis Dining Facility.

Voices of Victory: *What souvenir would you most like to take home from Iraq?*



"A piece of marble from the Al-Faw Palace."

Sgt. Jennifer Todd,
cable installer,
385th Signal Company,
54th Sig. Battalion,
Camp Doha, Kuwait



"All I really wanted was an Iraqi sword with Arabic writing on it. I've already mailed one home."

Allan Adkins,
communications technician,
International Telephone
Telegraph Industries



"I'd like to have an Iraqi bayonet."

Cpl. David Segrest,
radio operator,
200th Engineer
Battalion, Alabama
Army National Guard

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shopette

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Camp Liberty

Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel

Sunday:

Protestant Worship 7 a.m.
Protestant Worship 9 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

PASSOVER

represent their traditions and beliefs, like unleavened bread called matzah, wine, a roasted egg, a bitter herb called maror and roasted lamb shank bone.

"I think the importance of the tradition of Passover and Seder is that you have to have compassion for the humanity of others and the suffering they endure for the gaining of their freedom," Koppell said.

Being saved and fighting and struggling for freedom seem so relevant and contemporary right now in this environment, she said.

"Passover is a major Jewish holiday," said 1st Lt. Erin Sadownik, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C. "You know your family is doing the same thing, so you can have that connection."

It is important to keep part of yourself that isn't military-related in a combat zone, and that includes religion and beliefs, Sadownik said.

Koppell, who has been in the service for 26 years and was the first female rabbi commissioned in the Army, said the U.S. government is taking care of its Soldiers when it comes to their religious traditions and beliefs.

"The Army is now producing kosher and unleavened-for-Passover MREs," Koppell said.

Even though Koppell will only be on Camp Victory

for about a week, she said she wants to come back to Iraq to worship again with the service members during the Jewish holidays later this year.

"It touched my heart to be able to do this," Koppell said. She plans to continue traveling in Iraq, worshiping and celebrating Passover with Jewish troops, until her scheduled return to the U.S. May 6.



Photo by Spc. Mary Rose/MNC-I PAO

Chap. (Col.) Bonnie Koppell, a rabbi with the Army Reserves, volunteered to travel from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Iraq to share the Passover holiday with other Jewish service members Saturday at Camp Victory.

Victory MWR Events April 26 - May 02

Today: Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Crimson Sky at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Basketball coaches meeting at 12:30 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Island Night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Thursday: Country Night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Ping Pong at 8 p.m.

Friday: Latin night at 7 p.m. and Salsa lessons at 8 p.m.

at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Saturday: Hip-hop night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominos at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 6 - 7 a.m.; Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Sunday: Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Eight-Ball at 3 p.m. and Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Fencing practice from 9 - 11 a.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Monday: Dominos at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Aerobics 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Hometown Greetings

If you have a soon-to-be high school graduate from the Fayetteville, N.C., area, this is your opportunity to congratulate your child. MNC-I PAO will be taping video messages at 6 p.m. Saturday at the South end of the Joint Visitor's Bureau (Bldg. 56). For more information, contact 1st Lt. Kevin Schultz at 318-822-2325, or at kevin.schultz@iraq.centcom.mil.

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