



'5-25' campaign increases IED awareness

MNC-I PAO

Improvised explosive devices are the number-one killers of Coalition members serving in Iraq, and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory is kicking off an information campaign May 25 in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The "5-and-25" campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents. Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than half of the coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April

2004 through February -- but that is not seen as enough.

"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric Eglund, who works at the Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people because they can quickly be set up anywhere and blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women.

Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair, IED Working Group, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

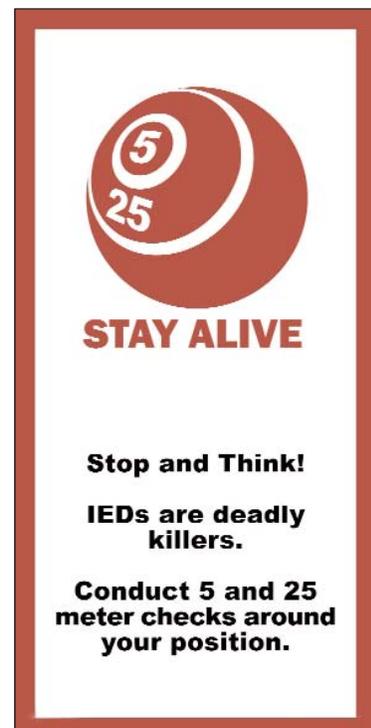
Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and their effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

"The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to Coalition forces," Stockdale said. "To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the Coalition forces."

Eglund said several different counter-IED organizations were already delivering messages and possible solutions but with no real emphasis or impact to the troops who needed it the most.

"It wasn't as good as it could be.

See **CAMPAIGN**, Page 3



Iraqi army opens ground forces command headquarters



Photo by Sgt. David Foley/MNC-I PAO

Iraqi and Coalition dignitaries gather outside of the new Iraqi ground forces headquarters during a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 15 in Baghdad.

Sgt. David Foley
MNC-I PAO

A group of Iraqi and Coalition dignitaries gathered in Baghdad May 15 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the opening of the Iraqi ground forces headquarters.

This ceremony marks another step forward in the Coalition's goal of returning power to the Iraqi people.

During the Multi-National Corps - Iraq transition of authority ceremony less than a month after the Jan. 30 Iraqi elections, Gen. George Casey, Multi-National Force - Iraq commander, said 2005 would be a year of critical transitions that will inevitably prepare the Iraqi people to create a secure and democratic society within their own country.

"Today we are celebrating a historical event and the rebuilding of the Iraqi army," said Iraqi Gen. Abdul Qadir Jassim, Iraqi Ground Forces commander. "Having the headquarters of our ground forces here is an indication of the Iraqi army controlling its own destiny."

The new Iraqi army is comprised mostly of soldiers who served under Saddam's regime but have gone through a stringent

screening process by Jassim and Iraq's Minister of Defense. Many of them have taken pay cuts under the new administration.

Despite a reduction in wages and the constant threat of insurgent attacks against him and his family, one Iraqi general said he is honored to serve his country. He also said that the opening of the headquarters signifies a great transition for the Iraqi army.

"I want to thank (the Coalition) for giving us this chance for a better future and for helping us to open a new page that will lead us to freedom and a democratic society," the general said.

The general said the location of the new headquarters building is a starting place to grow the new Iraqi army. With help from the Coalition, they will be able to advance as a military and as a country to destroy the insurgency.

"Our streets have been covered in blood by (the insurgents), and we want to clean this place with the help of our friends, the Americans," he said.

The Iraqi soldiers will continue to work together to strengthen the Iraqi army. During a

See **IRAQI**, Page 2

Preventive Points:

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

Protection from skin cancer

- The sun can damage your skin, possibly leading to skin cancer. The hot, sunny environment in Iraq ensures that we are exposed to a great deal of sunlight. We need to realize that the risk of sunburn and skin cancer is greater here than in many other parts of the world.
- Heredity and environment are two very important factors to consider when assessing the risk of developing skin cancer. Behavior is also a factor. Allowing yourself to be overexposed to the sun, especially over many years, may increase your risk of getting skin cancer.
- There are three types of skin cancer cells: Basal, Squamous and Melanoma. Basal and Squamous make up about 85 percent of all skin cancers. They have a 95-percent cure rate if they are detected early and properly treated. Melanoma is the most serious type. It accounts for 77 percent of all skin cancer deaths. Statistics show that one person dies every hour from Melanoma.
- Early indicators of skin cancer are sores that do not heal, new skin lesions that rapidly grow and changes in any current skin lesions. If you experience any of these symptoms see your health care provider.
- To reduce the risk of developing skin cancer, take the following precautions: minimize your exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., apply sunscreen with at least SPF-15 or higher, re-apply sunscreen after perspiring and apply sunscreen every two hours, even on cloudy days. Wearing clothing that covers your body and shades your face will also minimize the risk. Hats should provide shade for both the face and the back of the neck (wear your boonie cap). If you notice abnormal changes in your skin, immediately see a medical physician.
- Remember, most types of skin cancer are treatable. Early detection and taking precautions are the key to treating and beating skin cancer.

IRAQI

conversation between Jassim and Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, MNC - I commander, both agreed they had a lot of work ahead of them.

"I will assure you that we will be good students and learn from you," Jassim said. "We appreciate your help."

Vines replied by saying both armies will learn from each other and will continue to move forward in their mutual goals.

"You are writing history as you form and lead your military," Vines said. "It is my honor to serve with you in this endeavor."

"Our goal is a free Iraq," he said. "As soon as you feel you are ready, we will hand over operations, and the Coalition will return to their own countries."

Closing out Sunday's ceremony, Broska Noori Shawees, secretary general of the Iraqi ministry of defense, said it is important for the Iraqi army to continue to improve and prepare for the future of their nation.

"The Minister of Defense has a lot of responsibility on his shoulders," Shawees said. "This is the first time that we are taking command of our armed forces, and in the days ahead we will gain control of our army."

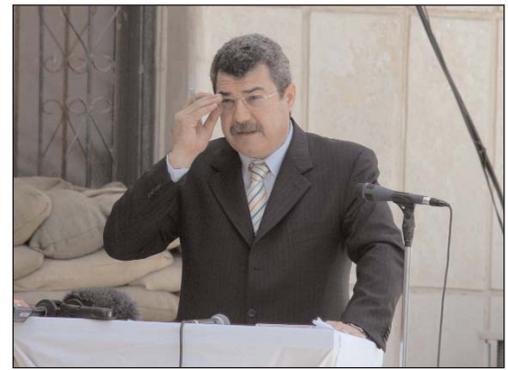


Photo by Sgt. David Foley/MNC-I PAO

Broska Noori Shawees, the secretary general of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, speaks to a crowd of Iraqi and Coalition dignitaries during the ribbon-cutting ceremony May 15 for the new Iraqi ground forces headquarters building.

"Every step we make from this day forth is being watched by friends and helped by them," Shawees said during the ceremony. "You will be the baseline in our country and in the constitution for Iraq. We are all here and will help you, and if not for the help of the Coalition forces, we would not be here today."

"Long live the Iraqi army."



photo by Sgt. Michael J. Carden/MNC-I PAO

Cover me

Seen from behind the iron sights of a .50-caliber machine gun mounted in the crew window of a UH60 Black Hawk, another Black Hawk flies low on the horizon during a recent mission over the Dhi Qar Province of Southern Iraq. Both Black Hawks are assigned to 18th Aviation Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.

CAMPAIGN

Some channels just naturally don't flow as well as others," he said.

The working group represents a cross-section of Coalition forces formed as a result of this issue.

The group's solution for getting vital information to the forces required three objectives: first, ensure information gets to those troops who need it most; second, develop an effective counter-IED organization that can take the fight to the enemy; and third, produce pinpointed products from one organization that can be approved and delivered in a timely fashion.

"IEDs can be anytime, anywhere, any shape; the trends change," Stockdale said. "The aim is to get the message to the field. It's dangerous out there."

To push information to the troops anywhere and anytime trends change, the working group assem-

bled a small team of designers to brainstorm effective ways to get the word out. The first idea also seemed the most obvious one to start the campaign -- military publications.

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together -- like a logo.

"The (designers) suggested we needed to have (a logo) that everybody recognizes," said Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force - Iraq. "5-and-25" became that logo. "The most important thing coalition forces can accomplish is situational awareness when they're outside the wire; it is the most basic (tactic) that you have to master."

"This seemed appropriate because '5-and-25' means awareness," said Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "'5-

and-25' means checking the area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you should always check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, "5-and-25" requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If halted long enough, forces should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep around their position. Halting for as little as four minutes can prove costly.

"Evidence shows that (many) Soldiers who are at a short halt (for as little as) four to five minutes are getting hit by IEDs near their vehicles," Martin said.

Besides the recognizable "5-and-25" logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will produce messages to other media

outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

"This time, it's (newspaper ads); next time, it will be commercials on TV and radio," Martin said. "After that, we're looking at expanding it. The sky is the limit."

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose -- to save lives.

"There's no predicting exactly where, when or how you're going to meet an IED when you're driving around," Stockdale said. "Practicing those basic methods and regularly using them significantly enhances your chances of survival."

New access badges for theater-wide safety

Spc. Mary Rose

MNC-I PAO

Multi-National Force - Iraq is implementing a new access control badge system in the Operation Iraqi Freedom Theater to enhance security.

Everyone who needs a badge is now required to complete application forms, give their fingerprints and have a picture taken.

The new badge is scheduled to make its circulation starting with Camp Victory.

Camp Victory has been prioritized because of the size and location of the camp, said Col. Matthew Moten, deputy commander, Task Force Dragon, Camp Victory.

"We are a good test facility," Moten said. "If (Camp Victory) can get this done, then the outlying bases can do it easily."

The new system is being implemented to simplify the current badge procedures. The system MNF-I currently has in place is complex because of the multitude of different badges troops on guard duty have to learn and identify, Moten said.

In secured areas, personnel are required to have a certain level of clearance, which is identified by their badge. The new system will be less complicated for guards because

there will only be one type of badge throughout the theater.

The badge will be coded with letters representing in-theater facilities and color-coded to show position or category. Guards at Coalition entry control points, dining facilities, gyms and Morale, Welfare and Recreation centers will be able to clearly recognize the person on each badge, quickly identifying whether or not they are eligible to enter a specific facility.

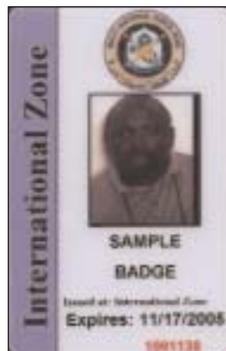
MNF-I is prioritizing who will receive the new badges first.

Third-country nationals have already begun enrolling for the new access control badges. Third-country and local nationals are first in line for the badge because of the possible security threat of non-Coalition personnel on Coalition installations.

Contractors will receive the badges second, followed by Department of Defense civilians. DoD civilians and military personnel who already hold Common Access Cards will receive the new badges last.

"Guards have to carry around a book that tells them what they are looking for. We are going to reduce that significantly over the next few months," Moten said.

Existing badges will remain in effect until the new access control badge system is fully in place and operational.





**CAMP VICTORY
TAE KWON DO
CLUB**



Building relationships through tradition

The Camp Victory Tae Kwon Do club is holding a Tae Kwon Do class featuring the Iraqi National Junior Olympic Tae Kwon Do team Saturday at 3 p.m. at Baghdad International Airport. Anyone interested in participating can contact Capt. Richard Coble at 318-822-2177 or e-mail him at richard.coble@iraq.centcom.mil. People can also contact Capt. Karla Porch at (318) 822-2943 or e-mail her at karla.porch@iraq.centcom.mil.

***Multi-National Corps - Iraq
and 525th Military
Intelligence Brigade
are hosting an Asian Pacific
American Observance
Friday at the Al-Faw Palace
Ballroom from 6 to 8 p.m.
All are invited to attend
and share in the ethnic
foods, cultural dances
and displays.***

Voices of Victory:

What do you miss the most about home?



"An ice-cold, frosty beverage."

Lance Cpl. Jacob Reinert, assistant, Joint Operation Center, Multi-National Corps - Iraq



"Conservative news sources, such as FOX News."

John Brayley, civilian contractor, Multi-National Corps - Iraq



"Most of all, I miss having the weekends off."

Staff Sgt. Natalee Simms, logistics NCO, Task Force Dragon

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

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

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

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 a.m. and 8:45 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.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sickcall:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Over the counter prescription refills

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon



Photo by Sgt. Julie Nicolov/MNC-I PAO

Gone country

Country music star Toby Keith performs for a crowd of cheering Coalition troops and civilian contractors May 17 at the Sports Oasis dining facility stage on Camp Victory.

Victory MWR Events May 24 - May 30

Today: Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball 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.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 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.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.; Volleyball coaches meeting at the Gym at 12:30 p.m.

Friday: Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Latin Night 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: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.; Memorial Day 5-Kilometer run; Volleyball tournament at Bldg. 124.

Sunday: Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Eight-Ball Tournament at 3 p.m. and Chess 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.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.; Volleyball tournament at Bldg. 124.

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

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. John R. Vines **MNC-I Production Chief:** Sgt. Mark St. Clair
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Col. Billy J. Buckner **Victory Weekly Editor:** Sgt. Michael J. Carden
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. John E. Brenci **Victory Weekly Staff:** Spc. Mary Rose

Victory Weekly is an authorized electronic publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this electronic publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of Multi-National Corps - Iraq.

Victory Weekly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to michael.carden@iraq.centcom.mil, or drop by Trailer 40 behind Building 0.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.