



The Freedom Post

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LFOR Comedy Team Entertains Troops

Story and Photos by Sgt. John Franzen



Jim McCue entertains the troops at LSA Diamondback during a performance of LFOR

MOSUL, Iraq - The laughter could be heard from Living Support Area Diamondback to Forward Operating Base Endurance to Forward Operating Base Courage. The stand up comic team of Jim McCue and Joey Carroll, known as Laugh Factory or LFOR, came to entertain the troops of Task Force Freedom during their visit to northern Iraq Mar. 8-9.

McCue and Carroll, both comics from the east coast, made a swing through Mosul as a part of their tour entertaining the troops in Kuwait and Iraq. The performance of the two comedians received rave reviews from the Soldiers.

"I like the fact that they came in here and cut up with us a little bit and had different personalities. It was a good show," commented Spc. Justin Babb, a Blackhawk crew chief.

"I had to wipe my eyes a couple of times, I was laughing so hard," added Capt. Douglas Davidson, Deputy Mayor at FOB Endurance.

Each of the comedians have their own unique style of comedy. McCue's act consists of written and improvised material, using individuals within the

crowd as part of his act by making light of their jobs.

"So you're a radar operator?" he asked one Soldier. "Shouldn't you have bigger ears for that?"

"Every night my act changes, because every night the people change. I'm as surprised as anyone else of the things I come up with," said McCue.

Carroll, a Boston area native, has a recognizable New England accent and wears a velvet jogging suit that somewhat contradicts his blue-collar act. He enjoys performing in front of the military because as he states in his act "you're my kind of people".

"I feel at home over here. I have more in common with the men and women in the military than with people at a country club back home," said Carroll.

The comics also expressed appreciation for the work the troops are doing and what a thrill it was for them to perform in Iraq.

"This is the Super Bowl of what we do," said Carroll. "Some people would take the Tonight Show I would rather come over here."

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The History of the Blackhorse

Third of a three part series on the history of the blackhorse.

Story by Sgt. Dan Lucas

Last week, The History of the Blackhorse covered the 11th Cavalry Regiment from the summer of 1942, through World War II, up to the activation of the aviation company in 1960.

At Vung Tau, South Vietnam, the Regiment made an amphibious landing under the command of William W. Cobb, 34th colonel of the regiment, along with 3,762 troopers. Base camp was established in November 1966 and the Regiment began reconnaissance in force operations directed at suspected Viet Cong concentrations in the provinces around Saigon.

When the Tet Offensive of January 1968 began, the Regiment was ordered to Long Khanh Province, moving south towards Bien Hoa and Long Binh to restore security. The Regiment moved 80 miles at night through a contested area, arriving 14 hours after its initial alert notice. The summer of 1968 brought George S. Patton Jr., (39th Colonel of the Regiment) and the 11th ACR back towards Saigon. The Regiment drove the enemy away from Saigon, causing heavy enemy casualties and crushing their ability to muster a large-scale attack in the area.

By April 28, 1970 the Regiment was alerted to a major offensive that would finally “take-out” the North Vietnamese sanctuaries in Cambodia. The 11th ACR received just 72 hours to refit, re-supply, and move into a staging area south of the Cambodian Fishhook.

On May 1, 1970 the Blackhorse stood ready to spearhead the Allied incursion into Cambodia. Second Squadron led the attack, followed by Third Squadron while First Squadron provided rear guard security.

On May 5th, the Regiment was ordered to force-march 40 kilometers further north to capture the City of Snoul. Within 48 hours, they reached the city and attacked with incredible ferocity.

On March 7, 1972 Second Squadron was the last of the Regiment to be deactivated, bringing to a close the Regiment’s 5 ½ years in Vietnam. As the Blackhorse troopers left Vietnam Wallace H. Nutting, 43rd colonel of the regiment, told them “We have all been privileged to ride together with the Blackhorse in the cause of freedom. There is much on which we can look with pride. Stand tall in the saddle. Allons!”

On May 17, 1972 the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment furled its colors and was reflagged as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Regiment once again unfurled its colors in Germany. This time it was at the Fulda Gap.

The Regiment assumed a new, two-fold mission; defending the Fulda Gap against a possible Warsaw Pact attack while also conducting day-to-day surveillance of 385 kilometers of the Iron Curtain dividing East and West Germany. Part of the mission was to demonstrate to potential adversaries that the Blackhorse, representing all NATO forces, was well-disciplined

and ready to fight.

On November 9, 1989, the historic day the wall came down, the mission of the Regiment in Fulda changed irrevocably. On March 1, 1990 the Regiment ceased border operations altogether and closed its OP’s. Less than eleven months after the border opened for the two Germanys to re-unite, the Blackhorse lost its claim of being a “Border Regiment.”

As part of the Operation POSITIVE FORCE, the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the 11th ACR to deploy immediately to Kuwait in order to sustain a presence there. On June 13, 1991, only two weeks after the first Blackhorse soldier had arrived in theatre, the Regiment assumed the responsibility for defending Kuwait. They returned home from the Gulf in September 1991.

The regiment was inactivated from October 1993 to March 1994. But their fate was not to remain inactive long. The Regiment was reactivated October 16, 1994 at Ft Irwin, California.

Before deploying, the Regiment served as the opposing force (OPFOR) in exercises designed to train Army battalion and brigade task forces in tactical and operational level skills under near-combat conditions.

Now, Blackhorse has found their way to Mosul, Iraq, ready to write their own heroic stories down in the annals of their ancestors.

CMOC Gives Aid to Those in Need

Story by Spc. Ashly Mitchell

MOSUL, Iraq - Making a difference in a child's life is just one of the rewards that Staff Sgt. Andrew Cole, a combat medic serving on a two-man Public Health Team with the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, experiences working in the Civilian Military Operations Center (CMOC) in Iraq.

The Public Health Team on Forward Operating Base Courage consists of two members, Cole and his partner Sgt. Melissa Ramirez, Civil Affairs Specialist and Combat Medic.

"Right now, we have two people on the team, hopefully soon, we'll have more," said Cole. "This is my first deployment to Iraq. I have been to several other places for joint exercise missions including; Japan, Australia, Thailand and Guam."

The Public Health Team previously worked directly with the Iraqi Ministry of Health on different projects throughout the northern provinces of Irbil, Ninawah, and Dohuk which included obtaining supplies for local health care facilities, assisting with renovations to hospitals, and funding humanitarian aid missions.

"We get to help a lot of children whose families can't get them medical care," said Cole. "Some cases are simple and some cases are major and require more time and work. Because the cases are so different and we work with so many different conditions, we haven't really kept track of the number of children we've helped. The quality of the work we do isn't measured by the number of individuals we help, but we help as many as we can."

Most of the individuals that are seen by the Civil Affairs Public Health Team come into the CMOC and ask for help, according to Cole. Some cases can take months to help because they require unique care.

"We work with a lot of medical problems that can't be taken care of in Iraq," said Cole. "Some of the medical problems we run into include; diabetes, leukemia, eye injuries, mitrial valve replacement, ventricular septal defect (hole in the heart) and pulmonary ducts arteriousis," said Cole.

Through email and internet searches, Cole and Ramirez contact non-government agencies around the world to find sponsors to cover medical expenses that the families can't afford. They also find ways to send children to the United States or Europe so they can

get more advanced medical treatments that are not available to them in Iraq. For some patients, Cole and Ramirez also look for host families while they are in the U.S. or Europe.

"One of the kids we are in the process of helping is a 12-year-old girl who has diabetes and is insulin intolerant. Through email contacts we've found a doctor who is willing to cover all of her outpatient care at no cost to the family," said Cole. "That same doctor talked to the hospital he worked for and the hospital is willing to cover her in-patient care. The doctor and his wife also want to be a host family for the girl and her mother. We are just working on getting Visas for both."

According to Cole, one of the most rewarding parts of his career in the military has been working with children around the world to help find them medical care.

The current Public Health Team is not the original team. The team started with three people. The original team leader Maj. Robert Soltes was killed in action, and 1st Lt. Sung Hong and 1st Lt. Martin Hernandez were injured and unable to return to duty. "Everything that was started here was because of them," said Ramirez."

Photo of the Week



A smoke cloud from an IED blocks out the sun.
Photo by Spc. David Nunn

Train Hard, Play Harder; 82nd Airborne, 23-6 IIF Duel in a Soccer Match

Story and Photos by Sgt. Dan Lucas

In a rare break from their training, members of the 2-325 Airborne Infantry Regiment, White Falcons, along with members of the 23-6 Iraqi Intervention Force got together on the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Patriot for a game of soccer.

During the first half of the game, the IIF trailed the White Falcons 3-2. However, during the second half, scores were lost in the spirit of the game as both teams pushed each other to the edge of their physical fitness.

The Final score was tied according to the IIF. The Falcons argued that it was an overwhelming victory, smashing the IIF, 7-4.



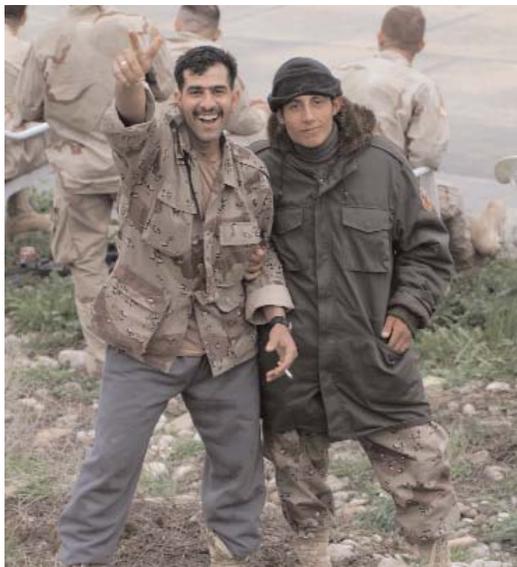
Capt. Burgess prepares to defend against the IIF onslaught during the soccer game held at the helipad at FOB Patriot.



The IIF offense foiled by a lucky kick from the White Falcons



For the White Falcons its all about keeping your eye on the ball at the soccer game at FOB Patriot.



Two IIF soldiers cheer on their team at Patriot.



IIF uses quick feet to blow by a White Falcon defender to score a goal during the soccer game at FOB Patriot.



The IIF offense prepares to challenge the White Falcon offense at the start of the soccer game.



Top Left: You could say the White Falcon offense is "ahead" of the game, stopping the IIF offense dead in its tracks.

Above: Soldiers from the 2-325 AIR stand to cheer after every goal the White Falcons make to aid their fellow soldiers playing against the IIF.

Bottom Left: A game well played, the IIF and the White Falcons line up to shake hands to show respect congratulations for a game well played.



IIF soldiers stand to cheer their team when they scored a goal at the soccer game at FOB Patriot.

Chaplain's Six Points toward Better Long Distance Relationships

1) "Make a monthly plan, and also a three month plan. Remind yourself that the separation is temporary, and simply focus on the next shorter period of time. Decide which strategies have been working for your relationship. Decide what you will continue and what you will not."

2) "Remember that the miles between you and your significant other are not the most important thing. There are other issues, over which you have control, which play a larger role in whether or not your relationship will survive. There is hope, and you can make your relationship better if you are willing to work at it."

3) "Make every effort to share your daily events with your spouse or partner. You don't need to wait for a special occasion to call, it is very important that you remain 'plugged' in to each other's lives."

4) "Don't listen to people who tell you that your relationship can't possibly succeed. It is not that important of a factor what other people think. The most important factors are your personality, your (and your partners) commitment to the relationship, and the quality of your relationship."

5) "Use a digital camera to get close to your partner. If you don't have one, borrow a friend's camera. Try to send a different picture each week. When you get home look at all the pictures together."

6) "Realize that feelings of anger, guilt, depression, and anxiety, are to be expected in any deployment. Deployments are not easy, you know this. But, you are not the first person to have to deal with these issues. Lots of folks have gone ahead of you and are in a position to help. You are not alone!"

-Chaplain Harris

continued from front page

"We appreciate what you are doing," said McCue. "We come over here and give them a few laughs. That's what we do, that's what we can do."

Although it was their first visit to Iraq, it was not their first time entertaining the U.S. military. The two had traveled to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Japan, South Korea, and Iceland in previous tours to military bases as part of their current 30 day tour of military bases overseas.

McCue and Carroll performed three shows in two days during their stop in northern Iraq. An event like this requires a lot of advanced coordination by many parties. One of the main players in coordinating the event is the Programs Office at Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) in Baghdad. Their regional representative was Capt. Reginald

Armstrong, programs coordinator for Task Force Freedom. Capt. Armstrong helped coordinate flight arrangements and bring in media for the event. He also worked with MWR representatives and the Mayors Cells at LSA Diamondback and FOB Endurance to coordinate meals, billeting, and transportation for the comedians.

Air Force Lt. Col. Eddy Saunders, works on the joint acquisitions review board at MNC-I. He is escorting the two comedians during their tour of Kuwait and Iraq, and says that because he sees the comedians' routines day in and day out he can tell when they are having a good show.

"Tonight is what these guys would call a homerun," he commented on the final show in northern Iraq at FOB Courage. "Tonight they were on."



Rocking you from the Tigris to the Euphrates.

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7 Day Weather Forecast for

	Forecast Conditions	High/Low °F	Precip. Chance
Today Mar 12	 Showers	63.0°/40.0°	70%
Sun Mar 13	 Sunny	67.0°/48.0°	10%
Mon Mar 14	 Sunny	64.0°/42.0°	0%
Tue Mar 15	 Partly Cloudy	67.0°/42.0°	0%
Wed Mar 16	 Mostly Sunny	70.0°/45.0°	10%
Thu Mar 17	 Partly Cloudy	72.0°/43.0°	20%
Fri Mar 18	 Partly Cloudy	70.0°/43.0°	20%
Sat Mar 19	 Mostly Sunny	76.0°/48.0°	0%
Sun Mar 20	 Mostly Sunny	77.0°/50.0°	0%
Mon Mar 21	 Partly Cloudy	80.0°/45.0°	0%

Chaplain's Corner

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to Him that He may make it a blessing to others.

Oswald Chambers

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CHAPEL FOR FOB FREEDOM RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

Catholic Mass 1100 Saturday
Latter-Day Saint 0830 Sunday
Protestant 1100 Sunday
2000 Sunday
1930 Wednesday
Gospel 1300 Sunday

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Headlines From the Other Side of the World

Man Hit Twice By Vehicles, Dives Through Plate Glass Before Arrest

SAN DIEGO, Calif. -- A man led San Diego police on a bizarre foot pursuit Thursday morning in a scene police say was "right out of the Twilight Zone." Police said the unidentified man was hit twice by cars and crashed through glass windows and doors before he was taken into custody. The incident began at about 7 a.m. when he dove through a plate glass window at a home in San Diego's Ocean Beach neighborhood. Despite numerous cuts, he left the home by crashing through a wood-and-glass front door, ran into the street and was hit by a car driven by an off-duty police officer. The suspect wasn't done. He ran into a back yard where he grabbed an ax, which he used to hack through a wooden gate. The man continued running from police and was hit by a vehicle going between 40 and 50 mph. Police took him to Sharp Hospital. There has been no word yet on his condition.

Dealership Offers Unusual Vehicle For Sale -- Vintage War Machine Can Be Had For \$25,000

HAMPTON, N.H. -- A car dealer in New Hampshire recently got an unusual trade-in from a collector in Florida, and now customers have the opportunity to purchase some serious hardware. On the lot of the Hampton Motor Company is a 1969 Ferret Scout tank looming over the other automobiles. "[The collector]

got it directly from England," lot owner Henry Marsh said. "It's English. And it was just something to play with around his estate." The tank is no toy, but it can be bought for \$25,000. "I want it," customer Robert Bencivenga said. "I'll pay the 25 grand for it. It would get rid of a lot of enemies."

There are smoke bombs on both sides, and it's equipped with a .30-caliber machine gun. The weapons no longer work, but it has a lot of other features, such as a periscope and a revolving turret. Hampton Motor Company doesn't allow test drives, but the dealer said he doesn't expect the tank to be a hard sell.

New 'Star Wars' is 'too strong' for kids Lucas says upcoming film even darker

NEW YORK, N.Y. - George Lucas says the newest - and final installment - of his "Star Wars" films may get a PG-13 rating. "I don't think I would take a 5- or a 6-year-old to this. It's way too strong," Lucas says of "Star Wars Episode III - Revenge of the Sith" on CBS' "60 Minutes", to air Sunday (7 p.m. EST). "My feeling is that it will probably be a PG-13, so it will be the first 'Star Wars' that's a PG-13."

"Revenge of the Sith," the third prequel to the "Star Wars" trilogy, will open May 19. The movie features Anakin Skywalker's transformation to Darth Vader, a descent based on Lucas' vision of hell, a mythical planet composed entirely of erupting volcanos.

SPORTS SHORTS

FINAL	FINAL (OT)	FINAL
 RHODE ISLAND 60	 MARQUETTE 57	 BETH.-COOKMAN 43
 RICHMOND 68	 TCU 60	 DELAWARE ST. 66
FINAL	FINAL (OT)	FINAL
 PROVIDENCE 59	 LA SALLE 70	 WAGNER 52
 WEST VIRGINIA 82	 UMASS 64	 FDU 58