



## Coalition celebrates 85 years of voting rights

By Senior Airman Chawntain Sloan

MNC-I PAO

About 75 Soldiers got a history lesson they could take to the polls from the Women's Equality Day Observance Luncheon Aug. 26 in the Al Faw Palace ballroom, Camp Victory, Iraq.

While the theme of the luncheon was "Celebrating Women's Right to Vote," keynote speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey, Multi-National Corps - Iraq sergeant major, was intent on getting Soldiers to do much more.

"I walked around the (headquarters building) the last couple weeks asking people, 'Do you know what the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment is?' Some were close. Some had no clue. Then I started asking, 'Hey, let me ask you a personal question. Do you vote?'" A lot of people said yes. Some people said no. (There was one) 28-year-old female Soldier who has been eligible to vote for 10 years, and she's never passed a ballot," said Carey.

Carey recounted the hard work and perseverance of American pioneers like Elizabeth C. Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, who helped secure women's suffrage in the United States.

"When most people think of Susan B. Anthony, they think of a coin that nobody uses, but there is a lot more to this woman than a coin," he said. "They called her the Napoleon of the women's rights movement. ... From 1869 until shortly before her death in 1906, she addressed every session of Congress to talk about women's rights."

The sergeant major discussed the unstoppable team Stanton formed, determined to convince lawmakers that women should be recognized as equals.



Photo by Sr. Airman Chawntain Sloan

**Staff Sgt. Theresa Snow, food service NCO, Multi-National Corps Iraq Dining Facility, lent a hand during the Women's Equality Day Observance Luncheon Aug. 26 in the Al Faw Palace ballroom at Camp Victory.**

"Those two were the dynamic duo. You couldn't beat those two when they were together," said Carey.

Stanton was the "brains behind the organization," while Anthony was "the squad leader" who rallied everyone together and made sure everything got done, he said.

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## Victory South Firehouse increases awareness

Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

MNC-I PAO

Have you ever seen an M1A2 Abrams tank catch on fire? It has been known to happen here, and it takes more than a bucket of water to put that fire out. That's where the South Victory Fire Department comes in.

Working out of a brand new, 3,600 square-foot fire station, this crew of 15 experienced firefighters are on call around the clock to respond to everything from dumpster fires, incoming rounds to medical emergencies.

"We will and have responded to pretty much everything," said Lt. Matthew E. Klaus, a fire service veteran from Long Island, N.Y. "Tanks on fire, dumpster fires, and even though our main mission isn't medical assistance, we have paramedics and (emergency medical technicians) who respond to various situations on camp."

The firefighters here are a mix of veterans

like Klaus, who has more than 20 years of firefighting experience, and those with just a few years in the service. They come from all over the United States to help serve, Klaus said.

"We've got firemen here from Michigan, South Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, etc ...," Klaus said. "We're all here because we want to support the military and do our part to help with the war on terror."

One item that is helping the firemen in their duties is the new fire station. The four-bay, air-conditioned, hard-stand building is a step up from what the men were working in before, Klaus said.

"There's no comparison," Klaus said. "From a carport to this. The trucks are protected, the equipment is all together, and we are able to conduct training here. You can't beat it."

Not only does the new station provide all the firemen with individual sleeping quar-

ters, offices, showers and training rooms all under one roof, but it acts as a focal point for the residents of Victory, Klaus said.

"It brings a lot of recognition and provides a positive presence for everybody," he said. "People know it's here and they know they can come to us in an emergency situation."

"Plus, the firehouse is historically the focal point in a community," said Klaus, who is on the fourth month of a year-long tour here. "Whenever people needed directions, they would go to the firehouse, and now that is happening here too."

"It makes us all feel like we're back home," said Ray M. Mayley, a firefighter from Dallas. "We're now all under one roof, together as a team, and it has made us feel more like firemen."

The firehouse -- which was completed in July -- allows easy accessibility to the

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## Preventive Points

*Tips from Multi-National Corps -  
Iraq Chaplains Office*

### What A Returning Spouse Should Remember

- Don't disturb the family set-up that has been working well without you. Ease back into the system gradually. Try to enjoy being an honored guest for a while. Enjoy it!
- Take it easy on the kids, especially where discipline is concerned. It's best for kids to have constant routines; let the current rules stand.
- Don't try to alter the financial affairs. Chances are, your spouse has been handling them just fine. Remember that prices have probably soared while you were gone!
- Expect your spouse to be a little envious of your travels. Go easy on the descriptions of seven-course meals or visited landmarks. Bring your spouse a gift!
- Don't ask your spouse to pack the kids off to Grandma's so the two of you can have an intimate reunion. It's vital to reaffirm your bond with your children and for them to understand that you're back together as a family again. Later, the two of you can slip away for a "second honeymoon."
- Expect that sex may be awkward between the two of you at first. Talk it over; whatever you've imagined while you were gone, it serves no purpose to bring it up now. Respond to the present!
- Expect your spouse to be different. Your spouse has become a more confident, independent person. The fact that a spouse can cope without you doesn't mean that he or she wants to continue to do so.

### What A Stay-At-Home Spouse Should Remember

- Expect your spouse to be different. Think how much you changed. So has he or she.
- Remember that your spouse has been subject to daily regimentation and routine. He or she may rebel against schedules and preplanned events. Leave some room for spontaneity!
- Expect your spouse to have trouble sleeping for a while. Adjustment to one's bed takes time.
- Don't be defensive about the way you've handled the children. Discuss any of your spouse's criticisms calmly.
- Expect that it will take time to re-establish sexual intimacy. The goal is an intimate relationship and not simply the act!
- Your spouse may want to celebrate the return with a spending spree. If you can't afford it, hold tightly to your budget.
- Expect your spouse to be surprised or hurt that you've coped so well alone. Reassure him or her that he or she is needed, without giving up your independence.

## FIREHOUSE

public, and anyone can just stop by at any time, Klaus said.

"We welcome anyone to come by, even if someone just wants to introduce themselves and say, 'Hi,'" Klaus said with a smile.

"If there is a fire though, people need to let us know," he said.



photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

**The South Victory Fire Department's new fire house was completed in July and puts all the firemen under one roof.**

"Even if it is a small fire, or someone has taken it upon themselves to put it out, people still need to call us, because around here with the heat, things can rekindle easily." Klaus said.

Responding to about 10 calls a month before the fire station was completed, that number has recently grown due to the notoriety of the new building, Klaus said.

"Part of the problem was people didn't know how to get to us," he said. "But things are starting to pick up as people know we're here and see the building."

Whether it's putting out fires, training Soldiers and civilians on fire extinguishing techniques, or issuing burn permits, the South Victory firefighters are available day and night and are happy to help, Klaus said. "It's all about service."

For more information or assistance, stop by the fire station or call 318-822-4899.

## LUNCHEON

Despite their unwavering drive, Carey explained how the two women encountered many setbacks.

Many influential people swayed the public into thinking that women shouldn't be allowed to vote because women were too frail and emotional. They claimed that women would be physically exhausted by the time they reached the polls or could get hurt if a fight broke out, but one of the more convincing arguments concluded that allowing women to vote would lead to war because U.S. allies would feel threatened, Carey said.

"... This wasn't just men denying women the right to vote, this was other women who decided that women shouldn't vote. It was a very controversial subject, and it stayed that way for a long time," Carey said.

Stanton and Anthony relentlessly pitched their cause to elected officials, including the President, looking persecution and ridicule in the face, Carey said. Their persistence finally paid off soon after Anthony's death.

"Low and behold, 10 states had given women the right to vote," Carey said.

Ten years later, Jeannette Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress in 1916. Rankin latched on to the women's rights movement Stanton and Anthony had started, and she pushed other states to allow women the right to vote, he said.

"It was called the 'War of the Roses.' If you favored suffrage, you wore one colored rose, if you were against it, you wore a red rose," said Carey.

Rankin finally brought the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution before Congressional officials Aug. 18, 1920. When they gathered to vote for or against the ratification, 49 representatives were wearing red roses, and 47 were wearing yellow or pink roses, he said.

The elected officials voted twice, and it was tied 48-48 both times. The third time, a member of the legislature from Tennessee removed his red rose, and women were granted the right to legally vote in 36 states, Carey said.

The last state to approve the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was Mississippi in 1984, which made it legal for women to vote in every state, but Carey said he was amazed to find out that some are not taking advantage of this precious right.

Members of the audience were also taken aback to learn that their very own comrades in arms are not letting their voices be heard.

"It was a shock to learn that so many people do not vote," said Staff Sgt. Theresa Snow, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. "To those who are not voting, I will say what I heard a great lady say before: 'If not I, then who? If not now, then when? If a change is going to be made, then it starts with me.'"

Carey received a statue of a World War II paratrooper at the end of his speech as a token of appreciation, but he asked the Soldiers in the audience for one more gift.

"I want one woman to vote who hasn't voted," he said.

# Alaskan Soldiers provide security, assistance

**Spc. Mary Rose**  
MNC-I PAO

Infantry Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard have a defined mission, which is providing force protection in the Baghdad area, but their mission involves much more than patrols and Baghdad community oversight.

During their days patrolling the streets or waiting to be called for emergency action, they interact with local families, handing out stuffed animals and candy to the hordes of children who chase after their vehicles and to patients at a local hospital.

"Our main mission is force protection ... but our guys like working with the local people too," said Capt. Wayne Mitchell, executive officer, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment.

The Alaskan Soldiers work 12-hour days.

Sometimes the mission turns into even longer days for them, depending on what their mission is, Mitchell said.

Outer-perimeter patrols take up much of the Soldiers' time.

They drive around the outer boundaries of the Baghdad Coalition compounds and through towns, such as Al Furat and Iraqi Family Village. While patrolling, they stop suspicious vehicles and search them for any illegal or out-of-the-ordinary items.

They learn the areas while scanning the road edges for probable improvised explosive devices.

"We detect and deter possible enemies," said Mitchell, a native of Juneau, Alaska.

The Alaskan Soldiers also support a quick reaction force on Camp Victory, a team of troops who are always geared up and ready to respond to an emergency outside of the compound.

The unit also observes the progress of the water systems, sewer systems, school projects, electrical projects and community trash clean-up projects.

The troops aren't there to do the work, only supervise the progress and make sure the contracts are being fulfilled by the Iraqi people, Mitchell said.

"Since we got here, there are areas that have had great improvement," said Sgt. 1st Class William Schwenke, Co. A, 3rd Bn., 297th Inf. Regt., a native of Nikiski, Alaska.

Schwenke pointed at an area outside of Camp Victory as his team was on a patrol where the local people were dumping their household trash.

The field he pointed to is now a clean area with vegetation growing in it.



photo by Spc. Mary Rose/MNC-I PAO

**Cpl. Matthew W. Duddles, infantryman, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, talks with Iraqi children while pulling security on the streets of a small town on the outskirts of Baghdad Aug. 3.**

Both of these missions have great importance, but the troops enjoy interacting with the people in the local communities too, Mitchell said.

"The guys love to help out," said 1st Sgt. Dan Randall, first sergeant, Co. A, 3rd Bn., 297th Inf. Regt.

The unit gets donations from families, friends and churches in Alaska that they give to the towns they patrol, Randall said.

The Alaskan troops support a hospital and a home where many impoverished children reside, which they call the orphanage even though it isn't state subsidized.

"They feel good when they get to help out," Randall added.

While providing humanitarian assistance to the locals isn't part of their defined mission, it's a mission the 129 Alaskan troops are happy to take on as infantry Soldiers.

However, the job isn't all fun in the sun.

The Alaskan troops work long, hot days fulfilling their duties, and the weather can take its toll.

"The heat is a big obstacle for the troops, as it is for all the troops in Iraq," Mitchell said. "They are doing well though; we've had no heat casualties."

The unit had some time to acclimate themselves during their three months of training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

They arrived in Iraq in January, which helped them get used to the heat slowly, he added.

"It wasn't like we were just thrown into the heat," Mitchell said. "But with the long, hot days, they can get burned out."

Although the heat has been an obstacle for the Soldiers who rarely see temperatures more than 90 degrees at their home station, they will go home with an understanding of the desert heat.

High temperatures are not the only thing Alaska's Army National Guard Soldiers rarely encounter.

According to Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Alaska Army National Guard has not been mobilized since World War II.

After 60 years guarding "The Last Frontier," the regiment is providing an important service in Iraq.

The Soldiers are getting a hands-on, front-line view of military combat operations.

"One of the advantages for the (Army National Guard) guys is that they have learned what the Army is about," Mitchell said. "If they decide to stay in the Army they will have a good amount of experience to take with them."

Many of the Alaskan Soldiers are already dreaming about cooler weather.

They are already more than half way through their deployment in the sands of Iraq and will be heading back to "The Last Frontier" in the coming months to stand guard for their state once again.

**Voices of Victory:** *What is the strangest thing you have received in the mail while deployed?*



**“I’ve gotten some really stupid movies and other stuff (the sender) just didn’t want.”**

Arbor Dinkwine,  
program manager,  
USACE Water and  
Environment, Germany



**“I was sent a stuffed squirrel Beanie Baby.”**

Spc. Bradley Swope,  
gunner,  
Personal Security Detail  
Manheim, Germany



**“I got some cigars and lighters from Medical Company Chewing Tobacco.”**

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Chandler,  
paralegal,  
Detainee Operations,  
Task Force 134

**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 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 (Bldg. 31)**

**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.

**Post Office**

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

**Golby Troop Medical Clinic**

**Sick Call Hours:**

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

**Dental Sick call:**

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday 9 - 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

**ARMY RESERVE**  
It's not your everyday job.

**The Mission of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Army Reserve Affairs.**

This office provides Army Reserve Soldiers and their chain of command guidance and service support in addressing issues unique to Army Reserve units in theater. The actions include:

- Reception, Redeployment, Demobilization, and Stabilization
- AIP (Additional Incentive Pay) Advisement
- Reserve Promotions
- Military Benefits and Entitlements
- Advising Reserve Commanders and Individual Reserve Soldiers
- Providing Forward Support through Main and Reach Back capabilities

<p><b>Army Reserve Affairs</b> Bldg, M15 A&amp;B, Victory Blvd. Camp Victory, Iraq APO AE 09342 DSN# 318-822-1657/1661</p>	<p><b>Army Reserve Affairs (FWD)</b> Warrior Support Center LSA Anaconda, Iraq APO AE 09391 DSN# 829/1053</p>
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**Donate your used bikes**

2-229 Infantry would like to gather your used bicycles and give them to Iraqi children near Camp Victory.

Donating your bike can assist in improving the community's opinion of the Coalition Forces and provide happiness to children in need.

If you have a bicycle that is in working condition and would like to donate it, contact Sgt. First Class Thomas Odoardi at [thomas.odardi@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:thomas.odardi@iraq.centcom.mil) or call 822-3790.

**Find the potential Improvised Explosive Device.**

**Answer: E**  
**All of the above.**

**STAY ALIVE**

0006 IEDs KILL

**Victory MWR Events August 30 - September 6**

**Today:** Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball at 8 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:** Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Spades 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.; Boxing from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

**Thursday:** Country night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes Tournament at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Ping Pong at 7:30 p.m..

**Friday:** Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Latin night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday:** DJ Young at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** Jazz at 6 p.m. and Chicago step at 6:30 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Monday:** Chicago step at 6:30 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Boxing from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

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Victory Weekly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to [david.foley@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:david.foley@iraq.centcom.mil)

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