



Victory Weekly



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telling the Camp Victory story

Sept. 6, 2005

Force using new 'This Week' pub to spread good news

By Gen. George W. Casey Jr.
MNF-I Commanding General

(Editor's note: This column originally ran in the Aug. 31 edition of This Week In Iraq.)

Welcome to *This Week in Iraq*. Multi-National Force - Iraq has created this Web-based newsletter in an effort to inform the greatest number of people possible about the phenomenal efforts that the men and women of the Coalition and the Iraqi Security Forces are making in Iraq.

Iraqi people make incredible strides daily, growing in capacity each day and, once again, taking their place in the world as a proud and sovereign nation. Each week key points about our effort in Iraq will be discussed to let you know where we are in the process and how we are doing.

As you know, the next step for the draft constitution will be for the Iraqi people to vote on it.

According to the International Election Committee for Iraq, 94 percent of eligible Iraqi voters are already registered. Many Iraqis were already registered due to last January's elections. For the remaining six percent of the eligible population not yet

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Buffalo roams military supply routes, protects from IEDs

Story, photo by
Pfc. Matthew Clifton
MNC-I PAO

Most combat units in Iraq know all too well the threat posed by improvised explosive devices and take direct measures to avoid contact with such deadly adversaries, but with the help of the Buffalo, one platoon is actively engaging the IED threat.

"The Buffalo is a South African armored personnel carrier designed with anti-land mine capabilities," said 2nd Lt. Brian James Duncan, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, Company C, 612th Engineer Battalion, Ohio Army National Guard. "In South Africa, they have huge problems with land mines on dirt roads."

The Buffalos are designed for navigation on rough or "difficult to negotiate" terrain and are very similar to Bradley Fighting Vehicles with the exception of a few components and abilities. Since the Buffalo is designed for land mines it is also useful for IEDs, Duncan said.

One of the most significant

features on the Buffalo is a retractable steel arm used for moving obstructions from roads.

"We put a large retractable arm on the Buffalo that is used to investigate and identify possible IEDs," Duncan said. "This is not a capability we have had before, so we use that piece of equipment to our full advantage."

The arm is similar to that of a bulldozer's; a little smaller, but just as durable. The end of the arm is double-sided. One side has a forked tool which is used to move objects from the road, and the other has a single spike used to poke and prod suspicious looking items, Duncan said.

IEDs can be disguised as normal looking garbage on the street or street side. A tire, cardboard box or burlap sack are all things that could be possible IEDs. After those items have been inspected by the Buffalo and presumed "clear," the Buffalo's arm will move them to the side of the road or position them in such a way that other patrols can see they pose no threat, Duncan said.

"If there is no threat, we

clear the object and drive on," said Duncan. "But if we can confirm the presence of an IED, we call explosive ordnance disposal. They come and eliminate the threat."

The Buffalo's arm is moved by a remote control located inside the body of the vehicle.

"The controls are designed to be easily operated," said Spc. Kenneth Edmonson, radio operator, 2nd Platoon. "After working with the controls for just a few minutes, I easily got the hang of it."

"The Buffalo's arm has a 16-foot reach, which contributes to a lowered risk of damage in the event of an IED detonating," Duncan said. "Everything about the Buffalo is designed to protect against explosions."

The body of the Buffalo has a distinct "V" shape, which allows for a minimal risk of damage if an IED should go off. The body sits high off of the ground, also providing significant protection.

"Thanks to the design of the hull along with the armored capabilities of the Buffalo, all insurgent attempts to damage this vehicle have been unsuccessful," Duncan continued.

"The Buffalo is a vital asset to our mission because of all the IEDs we have encountered," Duncan said. "Even though we have casualties that result from small arms fire, the majority of injuries and even deaths come from IEDs."

IEDs can be used against any unit in the field, even the ones that are equipped to search out and identify them, Duncan added.

"We have had about six IEDs go off on us, and two or three of them even were as



The Buffalo is an armored personnel carrier designed to detect and investigate possible improvised explosive devices while units are patrolling military supply routes.

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Around the Camp

News and Notes from
around Camp Victory

Air Force Birthday

Any and all interested service members and civilians are invited to attend a celebration honoring the 58th birthday of the U.S. Air Force Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. in the Al-Faw Palace Ballroom. Dress is uniform of the day.

New Online Training Portal

A new Multi-National Force - Iraq training portal is available online at training.iraq.cent-com.mil. More than 2,000 computer-based courses are available and are geared toward management and information technology certification.

Boxing Tournament

A Camp Victory boxing tournament will be held at the Sports Oasis Dining Facility stage from 7 to 11 p.m. Sept. 17.

Men and women from multiple weight classes will be participating. A weigh-in is scheduled for Sept. 16th from 6 to 8 a.m. at the Victory Gym. For more information, e-mail Capt. Christopher Vick at cvick2796@yahoo.com.

When on a
dismounted
patrol ...



stay off the road.



I Corps commander visits Victory

Story, photo by
Pfc. Laura M. Bigenho
42nd MP Brigade PAO

Fort Lewis, Wash., Soldiers serving in Iraq received a special visit on Aug. 25.

Lt. Gen. James Dubik, I Corps commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Williams, I Corps sergeant major, set aside time from their busy schedules to meet with Soldiers currently based in Baghdad and Mosul, to include Soldiers from 42nd Military Police Brigade. The main reasons for their visit were to thank Soldiers personally and to set the training conditions back home.

The pair began their day-long excursion with the MPs at the 42nd MP headquarters, located at Camp Victory. Rather than going on a walk-thru tour of the palace, where the 42nd operates, Dubik and Williams decided to meet personally with each and every Soldier. Pouring into the main foyer, Soldiers assembled closely together as Dubik made his way to the front of the gathering, where he introduced himself and voiced words of appreciation for the Soldiers' tireless efforts and dedication to fighting the war on terrorism.

"We probably have the best Army out of any other Army in the history of the United States. It shows in everything we do, and I just



Lt. Gen. James Dubik (right), I Corps commanding general, Fort Lewis, Wash., talks with Soldiers from 170th Military Police Company outside Hy Alamil patrol station in Baghdad Aug. 25.

want to do my part to support it," Dubik said.

"There are approximately 280 million Americans and only 1 million of them are serving in the U.S. Army. When you look at the 1 million, then consider a couple hundred thousand are here, that percentage is very small," Dubik said. "The weight of America is on you."

After addressing the group, Dubik and Williams greeted each Soldier with a handshake, encouraging words, and stayed around for individual and section photos with the Soldiers. The gentlemen were then taken on a tour of two Iraqi police stations in Baghdad, where Soldiers with the 170th MP Company train and work with Iraqi police. Dubik met and spoke with the Soldiers so he could bet-

ter set training conditions back at Fort Lewis.

"I want to make sure we get as much replicated as possible for what we have to do in Iraq. You can't have exact replication, but the better we can do, the better we'll be able to train," Dubik said.

In addition to touring the two police stations, Dubik and Williams spent time chatting with Soldiers and Iraqi police alike, asking them how they felt about the progress being made in Iraq, and the Iraqis expressed great appreciation for the gentlemen's visit and for the MPs' role in establishing a safer environment.

"I can't be more impressed by the quality of Soldiers out here," Dubik said.

"It is an honor and a privilege for me to be here with Soldiers who are fighting for our country in Iraq."

NEWSLETTER

registered, District Election Offices were open until Aug. 31 around the country to ensure everyone who wanted to participate in this historic process was granted the opportunity. Recent efforts to increase registration have netted an additional 160,000 voters ... 138,000 registered just last week! This is a clear indication that the Iraqi people are eager and ready to exercise their democratic right to vote. Obviously, the insurgents have not stopped political and economic development in Iraq.

The well-known Jan. 30 elections, where 8.5 million Iraqis defied intimidation and

terror to take a stake in their future; the formation of the first democratically-elected government in decades; and the development of an Iraqi constitution, all indicate that the momentum is in favor of democracy and not terror.

Remember our overall goal is for an Iraq at peace with its neighbors, with a representative government that respects human rights of all Iraqis, and with security forces sufficient to maintain domestic order and deny safe haven to terrorists. More next week, until then... "Iltizam Mushtarak"—United Commitment!

BUFFALO

close as three feet away from the Buffalo,” Duncan said. “Thanks to the design and abilities of the Buffalo’s armor, there were no casualties and the only damage done was a busted tire.”

If those Soldiers had been in any other vehicle they could have possibly been killed, Duncan continued.

“If we didn’t have the Buffalo or that type of armored equipment we wouldn’t find as many IEDs, and a lot of the stuff we move off of the road, in turn, is not mistaken by other units as IEDs,” Duncan explained.

It’s also important to minimize the amount of times EOD has to respond to false positives.

There are only so many EOD Soldiers available, and if they have to respond to 30 calls a day and

only six of them are actual IEDs, a lot of time is wasted, Duncan said.

“We have the ability to confirm what is and is not an IED,” Duncan continued. “Therefore we can make sure EOD is in the right place at the right time.”

There are quite a few “Iron Claw” units in Baghdad that search the major and secondary military supply routes with their own Buffalos.

“Could you still find the IEDs without the Buffalo? Yes,” Duncan said. “But these vehicles keep Soldiers out of harm’s way, and most importantly, the Buffalo keeps Soldiers from getting killed.”

“We have never had a Soldier killed or wounded inside a Buffalo,” Duncan continued. “The biggest problem we have ever had is replacing a tire, and that’s a lot easier than replacing a Soldier.”

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

“Remembering the Event, Reflecting on why we Fight, Praying for the Future”

Al-Faw Palace Ballroom, Sunday, Sept. 11, 4 p.m.



photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp/MNC-I PAO

Ring my bell

Sgt. Ian H. Denham (left), carpenter, and Sgt. Adam A. W. Cyrus, electrician, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., check a support brace with a level on a boxing ring they are building Sept. 5 at Camp Victory. The ring is being built to house a camp-wide boxing competition Sept. 17.



Schedule

- Raiders at Patriots
- Buccaneers at Vikings
- Broncos at Dolphins
- Titans at Steelers
- Bears at Redskins
- Saints at Panthers
- Seahawks at Jaguars
- Texans at Bills
- Bengals at Browns
- Jets at Chiefs
- Packers at Lions
- Cowboys at Chargers
- Rams at 49ers
- Cardinals at Giants
- Colts at Ravens
- Eagles at Falcons



SSG St.Clair



PFC Clifton



SPC Fontes

This Week's Picks

Patriots	Patriots	Patriots
Vikings	Vikings	Buccaneers
Broncos	Broncos	Dolphins
Steelers	Steelers	Steelers
Redskins	Redskins	Redskins
Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks
Bills	Texans	Bills
Bengals	Bengals	Bengals
Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs
Packers	Packers	Packers
Chargers	Cowboys	Cowboys
Rams	Rams	Rams
Giants	Cardinals	Giants
Colts	Colts	Colts
Eagles	Eagles	Falcons

Last Week's Results:	0 - 0	0 - 0	0 - 0
Overall:	0 - 0	0 - 0	0 - 0

Notes

Service members from Fort Bragg, N.C., may recognize the Pigskin Pick'em from the sports pages of the *Paraglide* newspaper. It's now in its fourth year there and first in Iraq! Every week, Staff Sgt. Mark St.Clair and Pfc. Matthew Clifton from the MNC-I Public Affairs Office and a guest picker will decide the next week's winners. We'll keep a running tally to see who really knows football (St.Clair, since he picks the Seahawks every time), and who's picking based on uniform colors (Clifton, since he thinks Carson Palmer will help his hapless Bengals).

This week's guest picker is Spc. Ben Fontes from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard.

If you would like to be a guest picker, call 822-1414 or e-mail mark.st.clair@iraq.centcom.mil. Here's to a great season!

Donate your used bikes

Second Battalion, 299th Infantry Regiment would like to gather your used bicycles and give them to Iraqi children near Camp Victory. Donating a bike can assist in improving the community's opinion of the Coalition forces. If you would like to donate a bicycle, contact Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Odoardi at thomas.odoardi@iraq.centcom.mil or call 822-3790.



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.

Army Reserve Affairs
Bldg, M15 A&B, Victory Blvd.
Camp Victory, Iraq APO AE 09342
DSN# 318-822-1657/1661

Army Reserve Affairs (FWD)
Warrior Support Center
LSA Anaconda, Iraq APO AE 09391
DSN# 829/1053

Voices of Victory: Which football team's going to win it all this year?



"I'll say my team, the Dolphins, but there is a really slim chance of seeing that happen."

Pfc. Aurelio Tovar,
cook,
HHC, 319th Military
Intelligence Battalion



"I don't know anything about football, but I'll say the Cowboys just because I'm from Texas."

Cpl. Michelle E. Martinez,
human resources NCO,
108th Air Defense Artillery
Brigade



"The Texans are my team, so I'm going to say that they are going to win it."

Larry T. Whitaker,
force provider section,
Kellogg, Brown and Root

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



photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp/MNC-I PAO

Gone but not forgotten

From left to right: Sgt. 1st Class W. Bryan Costello, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., Col. Bryan Ellis, commander, 35th Signal Bde., and Bernard Creque, sports coordinator for Camp Victory Morale, Welfare and Recreation, dedicate the field formerly known as "The Beach" as Staff Sgt. Samuel T. Castle Memorial Field in August at Camp Victory. Castle was an avid multi-sport athlete with the 35th. "He's looking at the games from the best seat in the house," Creque said.

Victory MWR Events September 6 - 12

Today: Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Football Coaches Meeting at Bldg. 51 at 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics 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; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.

Friday: *American Pie* Movie Marathon at 3 p.m. at Bldg. 124;

Pictionary at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Flag Football Tournament

Saturday: DJ Young at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Checkers 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.; Flag Football Tournament

Sunday: Slow R&B and Jazz at 6 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; 9-11 Remembrance 5k Run at 7 a.m.

Monday: Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics 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:** Staff Sgt. Mark St.Clair
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Col. Billy J. Buckner **Victory Weekly Editor:** Sgt. David Foley
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. John E. Brenci

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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

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