

# SCIMITAR

Printed in the interest of Multi-National Force - Iraq



Making ninja-trained docs, Page 4

Vol. 3, No. 35

Baghdad, Iraq

September 16, 2005



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Russell E. Cooley IV

U.S. Army Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, scan the landing zone for possible hostile forces. The Soldiers provided a security cordon so their unit could build a playset for a local school yard in northern Baghdad in a mission aptly named Operation Jungle Gym.

## Deployed service members, civilians remember 9/11 victims

By Spc. Matt Coffee

209th Broadcast Operations Detachment

**INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD** — Service members and civilians serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom gathered at the Embassy Community Chapel here Sunday to remember the victims of the most significant act of terrorism inflicted on American soil.

The Multi-National Force chaplain's office designed the cere-

mony to ensure service members were encouraged to speak openly about how Sept. 11 affected them and how it still impacts everyone today.

"I was stationed on the U.S.S. Wasp when the planes hit the twin towers," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Stephen Walz, a religious program specialist. "I called my wife afterward and told her I would be late coming home. She replied, 'I understand what you have to do.'"

Col. Thomas Stefanko, Baghdad's Joint Area Support Group commander, opened the ceremony and said America united after

the twin towers fell. Walz echoed that and recalled a shipmate he served with who died in the Pentagon attack. "When you know someone that close, it hits you hard," said Walz. "He was all for the Navy."

The ceremony closed with a moment of remembrance for everyone who lost their lives that day. A single bell was rung for all who died in the world trade center, another for all who died at the Pentagon, again for all who lost their lives on flight 93 in

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# FOB Hotel celebrates keystone anniversary, transfer of authority

By Maj. Erby Montgomery  
155th Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

## FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq

A ceremony celebrating the transfer of authority of Forward Operating Base Hotel and the anniversary of the end of hostile activities in Najaf was held at Forward Operating Base Hotel Sept. 6.

Members of 1st Battalion, 198th Armor, 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), transferred authority of FOB Hotel, Najaf, Iraq, to the 1st Brigade, 8th Division of the Iraqi Army. Coalition Force dignitaries, Iraqi Army commanders and Iraqi government officials were in attendance.

"It is a great day for the people of

Najaf and the nation of Iraq." said Col. Sa'adi, commander, 1st Brigade, 8th Division of the Iraqi Army. "We have trained and worked long hours to reach this moment."

The 1st Bn., 198th Armor has assisted the people of Najaf since mid-January. Thirty-one projects, costing approximately \$7.5 million, were funded to support the Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee. The projects included water and sanitation, education, transportation, humanitarian assistance, telecommunications, law and governance.

There are currently 75 projects emphasizing electricity, water, sanitation and healthcare in progress, totaling \$37.8 million.

The Commander's Emergency Response Program, which focuses on emergency repairs of critical facilities

and infrastructure shortfalls, funded 227 projects at a cost of \$6 million.

"Over the past several months, we have witnessed a new birth of freedom and prosperity in this great city and believe that Najaf will continue to grow and flourish under the protection of the Iraqi Security Forces represented here today," said Lt. Col. James E. Oliver, commander, 1st Bn., 198th Armor and Coalition Forces in Najaf.

"The Iraqi Security Forces of Najaf are well-trained, professional and dedicated to the protection and well being of the citizens of this city."

The 1st Bn., 198th Armor will relocate to bases throughout the 155th BCT area of operations. Sufficient forces will be available to offer any assistance requested by the Iraqi Security Forces in control of Najaf and the surrounding area.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Reeves

Col. Sa'adi, commander of the 1st Bde., 8th Div., Iraqi Army, accepts the "key" to FOB Hotel from Lt. Col. James E. Oliver, commander of 1st Bn., 198th Armor, signifying the transfer of authority from Coalition Forces to the Iraqi Security Forces of Najaf.

## Iraqi, Coalition yield high results against terror

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraqi and Coalition Forces have seized the initiative in a series of operations in and around Baghdad and north and west of the city, officials said Sunday.

Perhaps most significantly, Multi-National Forces reportedly raided a terrorist safe house in Zanazil, near Mosul, Saturday, detaining four terrorists and killing a key al-Qaeda leader, Abu Zayd.

Zayd was the al-Qaeda military emir of Mosul, officials said. He was reportedly responsible for coordinating all terrorist operations in the city, including kidnappings, extortion, murder, intimidation of Mosul citizens and attacks against Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces. Abu Zayd also directed the use of foreign fighters within his organization

Multi-National Forces reportedly used their own intelligence assets and information from concerned citizens to identify the terrorist safe house.

According to officials, when they arrived at the site, Multi-National Forces immediately detained the four terrorists found outside the house. They then shot and killed an unknown terrorist who was engaging them from a nearby field. The unknown terrorist later was positively identified as Abu Zayd.

Zayd's capture means that just two known terrorist leaders

remain in control of al-Qaeda's Mosul terrorist network, officials said. Another Mosul terrorist leader, Abu Talha was captured, recently, and another, Abu Zubayr, has been killed, they noted.

Multi-National Forces also said they captured Ammar 'Abd-Al-Hafiz' Abd Muhummad — aka Ammar Amam Wakhtif or Sheik Ammar — an admitted terrorist and leader of the Numan Brigade, in a raid earlier this month near Ramadi.

Sheik Ammar reportedly oversaw and directed Numan's day-to-day operations. He ordered numerous car bombings and other direct attacks against Iraqi and Coalition Forces, officials said. Sheik Ammar took control of the Numan terrorist Brigade when Muhammad Daham was captured in May, they noted.

Another Numan cell leader, Sayf-al-Din Yahya Anad — aka Sheik Sayf or Abu Hamza — also reportedly was captured during the raid. Hamza was responsible for organizing and directing attacks against Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

"The capture of these two terrorists, coupled with more than 200 other captured or killed terrorists throughout Iraq recently, demonstrates the Coalition's continued progress in removing these key terrorist leaders," said Multi-National Corps - Iraq spokesman Army Col. Billy J. Buckner. "We are degrading the overall effectiveness of the al-Qaeda terrorist network in Iraq and its ability to conduct operations in Iraq."

## Ceremony

from Page 1

Pennsylvania and finally, the last ring for the 1,894 service members who have lost their lives over the past four years in support of OIF. It was an emotional ceremony for everyone, but also served as an opportunity to reflect on their mission here and how important it is to the two nations. "I'm proud every day I am here." said Walz.

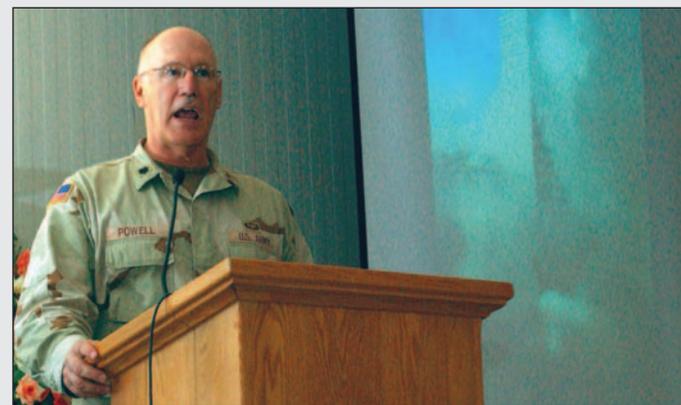


Photo by Spc. Ferdinand Thomas

Multi-National Force - Iraq Strategic Operations Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry D. Powell says a few words about the terror attacks four years ago at a remembrance ceremony.

**THIS WEEK IN IRAQ**

To learn more about Iraqi and Coalition successes, log on to: [www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com) and follow the link to download this week's issue.

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## PERSPECTIVES

# Football: more than just a game?

By Senior Chief Petty Officer Bill Houlihan  
Combined Press Information Center

What do you miss the most? Who hasn't been asked that question over and over? Oh, there's the obvious answer, but I'm betting there are spouses at home right now, wives and husbands who know us best, who could confirm that the obvious answer isn't the truthful one for many of us.

You miss football. You miss talking about it at work, filling out your fantasy football lineups, your weekly pools (not for cash, of course). You miss waking up Saturday mornings and knowing you have roughly 30 games to choose from on the college side of the ball. You subscribed to Direct TV for Autumn Sundays. You flip from game to game. You know you can see your Packers at 1 p.m. and the KC/San Diego game at 4 p.m.

It's not the games you miss specifically, it's the ritual — the barbecues and the coolers. You miss watching the late games on Sunday as the sun sets outside.

But football fans assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom have their own rituals, which some took shape last weekend. If you're a football fan, you know what I'm talking about. An eight-hour time difference can wreak havoc on the schedules of football fans, can't it?

To make matters even worse, Michigan was hosting Notre Dame Saturday with an 8 p.m. kickoff, Baghdad time. I'm a Michigan guy, so waiting was tough. At home, you wake up, eat and it's game time. Not here. It's a full day of waiting, stressing and worrying because you know Michigan football. For years I've seen my team lose early-season games to Notre Dame, effectively ruining the rest of the season because the NCAA — the most stubborn, archaic and miserably run organization — refuses to consider a playoff. And I suspected this year would be no different, and it wasn't. A classic Michigan choke job and

the next thing I know, it's midnight and time for bed.

But wait ... what Michigan fan would miss the opportunity to see Ohio State get trounced? They were playing second-ranked Texas ... a disaster indeed for the OSU faithful. An 8 p.m. start time in Columbus meant 4 a.m. here.

Decision time.

Go to bed and surely sleep through the game, or just wait it out? Easy. My roommate happens to be an Ohio State Kool-Aid drinker. No way he was sleeping through that game. Fortunately, minutes before kickoff, I was up and ready for more football.

And three minutes after, I was out. Waking up once in the first quarter, three times in the second. Naturally, I slept through halftime and was spared the sophomoric dotting of the Ohio "I." I woke up for the third quarter and was out again in six minutes. The beginning of the fourth quarter found me sound asleep, which is how I stayed until there were three minutes left. Apparently, Texas took their only lead very late in the quarter and capped off one of the better college games in decades, defeating Ohio State 25-22.

I wouldn't know. But, I do remember dreaming about a clown chasing me up and down the halls of my elementary school.

But hey, that's OK. The Lions were playing Green Bay Sunday and I've never missed one of those. A midnight kickoff would be easy, right? You bet. I caught the kickoff, fell asleep, woke up at 4 a.m., went to bed, got up two hours later for work and found out when I got to work that Detroit had actually won.

So you see? It's all about rituals. The games don't matter as much as the rituals. And my new one is doing everything possible to ensure I sleep through every game that means anything. Luckily I'll be out of here before hockey season starts. It would be tough explaining 82 times why I can't work that morning because the Wings are on.

## At ease, make way!



Photo by Army 2nd Lt. Michelle Lunato

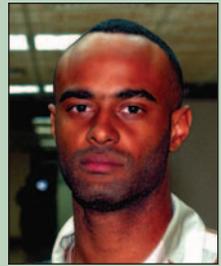
Senior Chief Petty Officer Bill Houlihan runs past Staff Sgt. Jeremy Glassford, left, toward Spc. Matt Coffee while advancing to the end zone despite being "sacked" in the Combined Press Information Center Bowl II flag football game at Black Hawk field in Baghdad's International Zone Sunday. The game featured the CPIC's under-30 service members against those over-30. The "Old Schoolers" gave the "Preschoolers" a game to remember, with a 19-13 win. The first game, more than five months ago, featured the 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and the 209th Broadcast Operations Detachment, with the 209th taking the victory.

## Scimitar Pulse

Which football team are you rooting for this season?

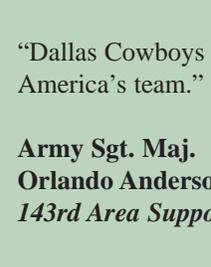
"Florida State University because it is my favorite team."

Army Staff Sgt. Jeff Thomas  
NATO



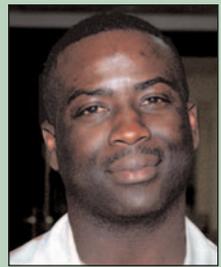
"Tennessee Volunteers because they are the underdogs right now."

Army Spc. Teia Stafford  
Headquarters and Headquarters  
Battery



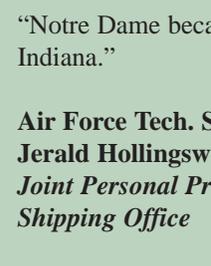
"Dallas Cowboys because they are America's team."

Army Sgt. Maj.  
Orlando Anderson  
143rd Area Support Group



"New England Patriots because I am from Massachusetts."

Kevin Murphy  
Department of State



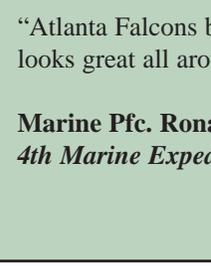
"Notre Dame because I grew up in Indiana."

Air Force Tech. Sgt.  
Jerald Hollingsworth  
Joint Personal Property  
Shipping Office



"Philadelphia Eagles because I am from Philadelphia."

Matt Burton  
Department of State



"Atlanta Falcons because the team looks great all around."

Marine Pfc. Ronald Banks  
4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade



# Ninjas at dawn, 'docs' by day

## Marine trains next generation of warrior-corpsmen

Story and photos by Cpl. Mike Escobar  
2nd Marine Division

**CAMP BAHARIA, FALLUJAH, Iraq** — The scuffling of booted feet on a rocky dirt field and the echoes of “move, block, strike, strike” broke the stillness of an otherwise silent morning in 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment’s camp as a group of figures practiced choking, punching and kicking one another down.

This was part of the training one Sterling, Mass., native believes will greatly benefit these Sailors. 1st Lt. Dana Sanford is responsible for instructing his battalion’s medical aid station personnel and chaplain in the form of hand-to-hand combat, known as the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

“I really enjoy teaching MCMAP, especially because a lot of these guys are into it and really want to learn,” explained the 24-year-old green belt instructor, who also serves as his battalion’s motor transport section assistant officer in charge. “I’m teaching these Navy personnel the tan belt portion of the program, which is an introduction to all of the basic moves.”

The Marine Corps began implementing the MCMAP training system, which draws from several established martial arts styles, in October 2000. There are five levels of ascending martial arts proficiency a practitioner can attain, which are signified by different belt colors: tan, gray, green, brown and



**1st Lt. Dana Sanford knocks down Petty Officer 3rd Class Iridious Ruise while demonstrating a technique.**

six degrees of black. At the green belt level, Marines like Sanford may train to earn a tan stripe on their belts, denoting them as an instructor.

“Since the wars broke out, [MCMAP training] has unfortunately taken a back seat to a lot of other training,” explained Sanford, who first learned about coaching while teaching at Jeff Clark’s Hockey Concepts, private hockey camp during his high school years at Wachusett Regional. “For the relatively few people like me, who are able to instruct, it’s good to keep the program active.”

While his unit conducts counter-insurgency operations in and around Fallujah, the 2003 University of Massachusetts-Amherst graduate keeps this Marine martial arts legacy alive.

“I’ve done tan and gray belt-level work with my guys at Motor ‘T,’” Sanford stated. “I also plan to do gray belt training with the [battalion aid station docs] later on.”

For now, Sanford focuses his efforts on teaching naval personnel self-defense basics. Their tan belt training covers maneuvers such as punching and kicking, proper fighting stances, basic knife fighting techniques and escape from choke holds.

“It’s an introduction to all of the categories you can learn later on at more advanced belt levels,” he added.

His unit’s corpsmen and chaplain trained for one hour every morning for two weeks to earn their tan belts.

“I set up this training for all the guys here,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Phillip Jean-Gilles, a BAS corpsman. “We have fun while we’re doing it. We even have our chief and lieutenants out there with us. It’s good to get all the enlisted men



**1st Lt. Dana Sanford demonstrates a proper choke hold technique during a martial arts training session.**

and officers together to participate in something like this.”

“It takes discipline and commitment to get up in the mornings for MCMAP, but it helps us break the monotony around here,” added Petty Officer 3rd Class Iridious Ruise, the battalion’s preventive medicine technician.

Once these Navy personnel earn their belts, Sanford said he plans to further train them and other Marines.

“There are lots of benefits to MCMAP,” he said. “It ties in physical disciplines, like learning these techniques, to other mental and character disciplines. You learn how to kill and seriously injure people, but also how to balance that knowledge with a professional warrior ethos. You learn how to be a warrior, not just a killer.”

## Double duty: husband, wife pilots serve together in Iraq

Story and photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop  
1st Corps Support Command  
Public Affairs

**LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq** — The separation during deployments can become a dangerous obstacle very quickly when it comes to marriage, but for two UH-60 Black Hawk pilots here, deployment to Iraq has kept them together.

“It feels completely wonderful to be deployed together,” said 1st Lt. Rebecca DeForest, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot from Company B, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, who deployed Jan. 9 with the South Carolina National Guard.

“We can share all of our experiences firsthand, and we can relate to our jobs, struggles and our accomplishments.”

However, the couple almost missed the opportunity to stay together overseas, but reacting quickly to their situation allowed the DeForests to deploy almost at the same time.

“Last year I was in the 82nd Aviation Brigade,” said 1st Lt. Patrick DeForest, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot from Company D, 1st Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, who deployed here Dec. 18, 2004. “Her unit got alerted for deployment in May 2004 and then

activated in September. In September, I asked my supervisor if there was a possibility that I could switch over to the 1/159th.

“First they said, ‘We’ll look into it,’” Patrick said. “Then there was a one-for-one switch, but the 82nd didn’t want to because the other Soldier didn’t have the experience they needed.”

“He swapped out with a female lieutenant in the 159th because her husband was in the 82nd,” Rebecca said.

“It ended up being that another married couple got assigned with the 82nd and that way, two married couples could be assigned in their spouse’s command.”

“So she went over to the 82nd and I went over to the 159th,” Patrick added.

Either way, Patrick would be spending time in the Middle East; the only difference between being deployed with the 82nd in Afghanistan or the 159th in Iraq would be the length of separation from his wife.

“The way it was scheduled was I was supposed to go [serve in support of] Operation

Enduring Freedom in May,” Patrick said. “Had I stayed at my previous assignment, we would be facing a 20-month separation.”

“It’d probably be better if we weren’t

deployed to two different areas because communication would become a lot more difficult,” Rebecca said. “I’m sure we will [be separated] at some point.”

Although the couple has been fortunate in the fact they can be with each other every day even while deployed, neither of them forgets that other Soldiers are not so lucky.

“It’s difficult to relate to their experience since

we haven’t been separated,” the husband said. “I always try to put myself in their shoes.”

“I communicate with both my Soldiers and their spouses to understand what they’re going through,” Rebecca said.

The DeForests are aware their situation could take a turn for the worse if it is not handled correctly. Being in separate units often helps in keeping their personal and professional lives separate.



**1st Lts. Patrick and Rebecca DeForest are both serving as UH-60 Black Hawk pilots.**

“Our jobs are pretty separate, which I think is a good thing,” Rebecca said. “I’d say my spare time is divided between Patrick and my Soldiers.”

“We spend enough time apart because we wouldn’t want to be put in an unprofessional position,” said Patrick.

Since the DeForests do not have children yet, they have one less worry than other dual-military families.

“We’re lucky we don’t have kids at this point in our marriage,” Rebecca said. “I know dual-military spouses who have had to leave their kids with other family members. We don’t have kids, but we have a dog that we left behind.”

The couple agrees their situation is more than good at the moment, but their plans differ for when their tours in Iraq come to an end.

“I’m looking to extend until May,” he said. “I want to enjoy the mission here, and I want to help the incoming unit with their mission here.”

“I want to go back to my civilian job,” she said. “I work in investments for a financial institution.”

Having the support of a spouse is a big help for married Soldiers serving in the Global War on Terror, and although the DeForests do not need a 1,000-minute phone card and an open seat at the calling center, they still have friends and families waiting at home for their safe and healthy return.

# Logistics Airmen supply customers with team effort

Story and photo by

Senior Airman Chawntain Sloan

Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** — From the outside, it looks like nothing more than a giant storage unit, but inside, it is a one-stop shop.

“If you don’t see what you’re looking for, you’ve come to the right place,” said Tech Sgt. Tonya Hamilton, material management flight, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, and noncommissioned officer in charge of the base service supply store. “I can get anything a customer needs that is legal.”

Whether it is a certain vehicle or aircraft part, a military-issued equipment item or something as simple as office supplies, Hamilton and the 21 Airmen assigned to the 447th ELRS work day and night to provide their customers with those most essential items with minimum delay.

“Our mission is to issue the customers whatever they need to do their job — from pens and pencils, to body armor to hats and gloves,” said Hamilton, who is deployed from the 56th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., but originally hails from Anchorage, Alaska.

Broken down into four different flights — material management, management and systems, armory and computer operations — the logistics Airmen have teamed up to support the men and women assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Wing.

While Hamilton and the material management flight ensure their customers are well-stocked with office supplies and uniform-related items, Master Sgt. Gene Sansford and the Management and Systems Flight make sure they have those mission-essential items, like protective equipment and aircraft or vehicle parts.

“This is a life or death situation out here, and people depend on us to have what they need,” said Sansford, management and systems flight superintendent.

Although the logistics Airmen may not have every conceivable item on hand, that does not stop them from fulfilling an order.

“If we don’t have something in stock that a customer needs right away — for instance, extra large [individual body armor] — then we will call around to other bases in the area of responsibility until we find it,” said Sansford, a native of Courtland, Miss., who is also deployed from the 56th LRS at Luke AFB. If it is something non-mission essential, then it is ordered from a partnering agency overseas or stateside, he said.

Once they are geared up, Airman 1st Class Paul Brotherton and his comrades at the armory flight take care to make certain customers are armed and ready to go.

“We make sure the weapons are clean and serviceable and the ammunition is not cracked or warped,” said Brotherton, an ammunitions and weapons supply troop. “That is the last thing [troops] should have to worry about if they ever find themselves in harm’s way.”

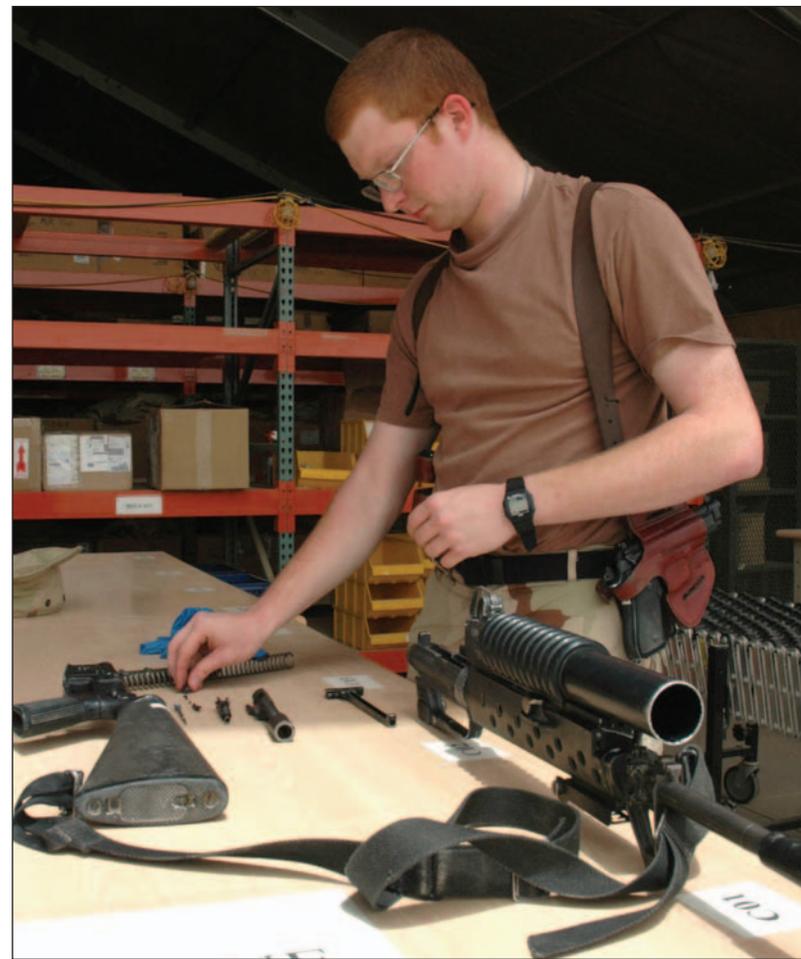
About every two weeks, all the weapons are cleaned and the ammunition is inspected. There are about 30 to 40 weapons in the armory at any given time, so it takes about two to three days, said Brotherton, a native of Oxford, Ala., who is deployed from the 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Processing orders and tracking inventory items is a full-time job in itself, which is where Master Sgt. Smith Salenas, NCOIC of the computer operations flight, and his crew comes in.

“Our job is to help [the other flights] do their jobs by making sure their computers are clean and those special programs are running at optimum performance,” said Salenas, a native of Nuevo Laredo, Texas, who is deployed from the 56th LRS at Luke AFB.

The squadron may be broken down into four different flights, but the Airmen know it takes the unit as a whole to achieve their goal of 100 percent customer satisfaction.

“We help each other out,” said Hamilton. “If I am in the warehouse getting someone a pair of boots and someone else



**Airman 1st Class Paul Brotherton, 447th ELRS, ensures customers are armed with serviceable weapons and ammunition.**

needs level-four body armor, I will also issue that person body armor. It may not be my section, but we all work together, and if I am already there, why get someone else to do what I can do?”

They are there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they have only one question.

“How can I help you?” said Hamilton to a customer who walked into the warehouse.

# World-traveled Marine volunteers for tough assignment

Story and photo by

Sgt. Stephen D’Alessio

2nd Marine Division Public Affairs

**CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, AR RAMADI, Iraq** — Lance Cpl. Daniel McCawley does not work for any ordinary unit, and some might say that he is no ordinary Marine. But one thing that is common about him is the tight-knit brotherhood he’s a part of in the 2nd Marine Division.

McCawley, a 21-year-old Light Armored Vehicle crewman and scout with the division’s Personal Security Detachment, is one of the few Marines who volunteered to become specially trained to protect the general and his staff on convoys in the Al Anbar Province.

The Austin, Texas, native’s interest in the Marine Corps began while he was in high school — not in Texas, though. One day, when McCawley was still young, his mother returned from a job fair with a list of possible international employment opportunities.

She recited a few off the list for him. “United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia.”

That is when he stopped her.

“Ethiopia. That’s where I want to live,” he said. “When the plane trip finally ended, I couldn’t believe how far away it was. But, we spent two years there.”

While McCawley’s mother taught, he spent



**Lance Cpl. Daniel McCawley, a scout with the division's Personal Security Detachment, is one of the few Marines who volunteered to become specially trained to protect the general and his staff on convoys in the Al Anbar Province area of operations.**

time with other children who resided at the U.S. consulate there. One night the Marine security guards surprised them, and ever since, McCawley was a fan of the Marines.

“The Marines invited Americans living out in town to the embassy to watch movies on certain nights during the week,” said McCawley. “One night, we were outside, and out of the bushes

came a Marine who shocked us while they were training. I was really impressed, and to tell you the truth, I just thought they were pretty cool.”

He returned to Texas and finished his last two years in San Antonio at the International School of the Americas, graduating in 2002. From there, McCawley admits his story is just the same as most guys he is come in contact with in the Marines.

“One day I just woke up and decided I didn’t want to be hanging out with the same old people who weren’t doing anything with their lives,” he said. “So I went to the recruiter’s station and signed up.”

Ever since, McCawley has worked with Light Armored Vehicles, which are eight-wheeled heavy vehicles mounted with 25 mm cannons. The rest of his Light Armored Reconnaissance battalion is in the western portion of the province guarding the border from insurgents and smugglers.

He volunteered to be a part of the PSD, a heavily-fortified convoy that protects the gener-

al and his staff officers. And now he is a scout team leader, in charge of several Marines who live, eat, sleep and train together. They have had their fair share of action, enduring firefights, evading enemy attacks and training in the intensely hot Iraqi desert. That is what he asked for, though.

“I joined to come out here, no matter what,” said McCawley. “I didn’t just want to be sitting in the rear somewhere doing nothing. This is what the Marine Corps is all about.”

“Being with this unit, I’ve learned things completely out of my normal training,” he added.

But he is looking for more.

Now, McCawley plans to take his career a step further and try out for the reconnaissance indoctrination — a test to be in one of the Marine Corps’ most elite units. His experience here will just add to his resume of interesting and tough assignments. And with just a few months left in Iraq, he said he is not letting up on his training.

“If you think about it, things aren’t that bad or that hard out here,” he said. “You just have to keep giving it 110 percent — give respect to yourself and your fellow Marines. If you keep that in mind and continue to learn, you’ll be fine, because you’re only as valuable as what you know.”

# Coalition Corner

... highlighting countries  
serving with MNF-Iraq



## Australia

local name: Australia

The Commonwealth of Australia is located in Oceania between the Indian and South Pacific Oceans. Size-wise, Australia, which consists of a large island and several smaller islands, is slightly smaller than the U.S. contiguous 48 states.

Australia is the world's smallest continent and geologically one of the oldest. Yet, it is the sixth largest country with only about 20 million people living on this continent. Known as the "outback," a vast central portion of the continent is desert, therefore the majority of the population lives along the eastern and southeastern coasts where the climate is either temperate or tropical. English is Australia's official language, but there are native languages spoken throughout the country. The country's currency is the Australian Dollar.

In its vastness, Australia features many beautiful beaches and majestic mountains encasing exotic wildlife in historic rainforests. Sidney, one of the country's many gorgeous cities, is home to Bondi Beach, one of Australia's best beaches, and Sydney Harbour, which is considered one of the world's most beautiful. This city is also home to its signature landmark, the Sydney Opera House, which opened in 1973. It has become the most frequented performing arts center in the world. Australia also has the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves, which include the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world that represent major stages of the earth's evolutionary history.

In addition to spectacular sites, Australia is home to several famous people. Mel Gibson, who wrote, produced and directed "The Passion of the Christ," was born to an Australian mother and spent most of his early life in Australia. Bombshell actress Nicole Kidman, who starred in "Moulin Rouge" and was once married to Tom Cruise, also grew up in Australia. Although not a person, the Tasmanian Devil, the marsupial made famous by Looney Tunes cartoons, is also an Australian and is found only on the island of Tasmania.



References: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov), [www.americanaustralian.org](http://www.americanaustralian.org), [www.mwr.navy.mil](http://www.mwr.navy.mil), [www.deh.gov.au](http://www.deh.gov.au), [www.blueplanetbiomes.org](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org), [channels.netscape.com](http://channels.netscape.com), [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com), [www.tased.edu.au](http://www.tased.edu.au).

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## CHAPLAIN'S TALK

# I shook hands with a Munchkin!

**Chaplain (Cmdr.)  
Mitchell Schranz**  
Deputy Multi-National Force -  
Iraq Command Chaplain

As unbelievable as this sounds, while on temporary duty in Atlanta in 1999, I had the privilege of meeting Mickey Carroll, 80 years young, and one of six living Munchkins from "The Wizard of Oz." He played three separate roles: lead Munchkin, voice of the coroner and dominant voice of the Lollipop Guild Singers.

Mr. Carroll starred in "Vaudeville" when he was nine and had achieved success by the time production on the Wizard began in 1938. He was recruited for the film by a personal friend: Judy Garland. Here are some interesting behind-the-scenes Wizard facts:

\* Margaret Hamilton (the Wicked Witch) was "a kind and nice lady" who volunteered to do Carroll's laundry. Carroll was a lifelong bachelor and she thought he needed help with his domestic chores. Hamilton kept the fact that she played the witch a secret from her five-year-old son until he was 10. She feared it would

upset him.

\* Judy Garland was an "angel" who genuinely cared for other people.

\* A Hollywood friend asked Carroll if he could make room in his small apartment for an actor who was "between jobs." Carroll agreed. His houseguest: former president Ronald Reagan.

\* Buddy Ebsen (later to be Jedd Clampett from the "Beverly Hillbillies") was the original Tin Man, but had to quit the film after a toxic reaction from the pigments in the silver paint used on his face. Jack Haley was the fill-in.

\* Margaret Hamilton was badly burned in the Munchkinland scene when she departed in a ball of fire. She was hospitalized but did not remember the incident.

Carroll said these words — they deserve to be remembered and held up as an example to us all.

"I love people, and I want them to know I care."

In reflecting on those words, I've come to realize that for many — perhaps most people — caring for others is not a natural thing to do. It is more natural

(and human) for us to attend our own interests first. Then if we have any energy or resources left over, look after others.

It takes a certain drive, a focus and a frame of mind to reach out to others with a caring heart and to place the interests of others ahead of our own. In one word, it takes COURAGE! Caring takes courage because it means at times we have to put our needs on the back burner while we tend to someone else's problem. It means we may have to sacrifice things we really want because someone else's needs are greater than our own. It takes courage because it may mean we need to ruffle some feathers to help a friend who is being treated unfairly. But this is what I think Mr. Carroll was trying to say, and what surely The Good Book means, when it bids us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

God bless and stay great!



**Chaplain  
Schranz**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Coalition Forces rescue hostages

**BAGHDAD** — On Sept. 7, Coalition Forces rescued American Roy Hallums and an Iraqi citizen from captivity in an isolated farm house located 15 miles south of Baghdad. The identity of the Iraqi man is being withheld pending notification of his family by the Iraqi government. Hallums is in good condition and is receiving medical care. Hallums had been held since being kidnapped at gunpoint from the offices of his employer in the Monsour district of Baghdad on Nov. 1, 2004.

Information provided by an Iraqi detainee in Coalition custody lead to the breakthrough. Coalition Forces immediately planned and executed a raid on the farm house to capitalize on the information before Hallums could be moved to another location.

Hallums provided this statement following his rescue: "I want to thank all of those who were involved in my rescue — to those who continuously tracked my captors and location, and to those who physically brought me freedom today. To all of you, I will be forever grateful. Both of us are in good health and look forward to returning to our respective families. Thank you to all who kept me and my family in their thoughts and prayers."

### Terror consultant's safe house destroyed

**BAGHDAD** — Coalition Air Forces destroyed an al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist safe house in Ubaydi in western Iraq Sept. 10. This attack disrupts al-Qaida in Iraq's ability to conduct operations against Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces.

A senior al-Qaida terror consultant and foreign fighter facilitator known as "Sheik" is believed to have been in the house at the time of the attack. Sheik has been linked to other

senior al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists and foreign fighter facilitators operating throughout the Euphrates Valley. Intelligence sources confirmed that Sheik was specifically brought in to the Husaybah area to consult with Abu Islam (the recently deceased Emir) and Abu Ibrahim (Islam's brother and successor) on managing terror operations in the area.

Sheik has been known to have extensive connections throughout the Middle East to include Yemen, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria. From those countries, his connections recruited and financed foreign fighters who were later smuggled into Iraq, usually through Syria, and subsequently delivered to various terrorist groups in western Iraq.

Coalition air assets delivered precision-guided munitions to destroy the house. The type of munitions used and the timing of the air strike lowered the risk to civilians in the local area.

### Foreign fighter safehouse destroyed

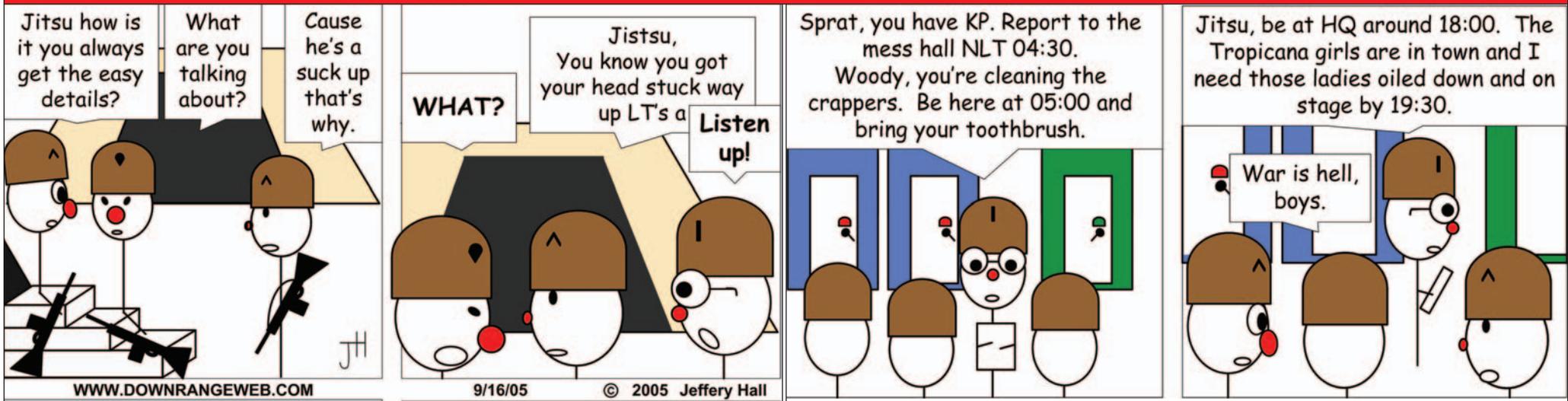
**BAGHDAD** — Elements from Multi-National Forces detained three foreign fighters and killed two others during a raid on a foreign fighter safehouse in the Karabilah area Sept. 6.

Upon arrival at the location, Multi-National Forces were engaged by the foreign fighters occupying the safe house. Multi-National Forces personnel returned fire and assaulted the building, suffering one friendly casualty when a Multi-National Force Soldier was wounded.

After evacuating the wounded personnel to a local field hospital, Multi-National Forces called in Coalition close air support and destroyed the foreign fighter safe house, which was being used as an operational headquarters.

# Scimitar Slapstick

## Downrange



Art by Jeffery Hall



Art by Staff Sgt. Timothy Lawn



Art by Maj. James D. Crabtree



# Three times high: Aviation Soldiers soar in triathlon

By Spc. Derek Del Rosario  
Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

**BALAD, Iraq** — They had been running for almost an hour, and with sweat running down their faces, the Soldiers continued to sprint through the streets of Balad with fierce determination to reach their goal.

While running around an urban area in Iraq during the



U.S. Army photo by Santiago Ortiz

**1st Sgt. Roger Nickel pedals past a runner during the 10-kilometer bike ride, the second event of the Balad Triathlon Aug. 26.**

summer might seem like a situation most Soldiers would want to avoid, three Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division's 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter), made the conscious choice to do it. These Soldiers, along with 40 other U.S. and Coalition Forces and civilian contractors, competed Aug. 26 in the Balad Triathlon, which consisted of an 800-meter swim, followed by a 10-kilometer bike ride and concluded with a five-kilometer run.

Maj. Kelly Donna, Chief Warrant Officer Jose Marquez and 1st Sgt. Roger Nickel represented 4/3 AHB, with all three finishing in the top 10.

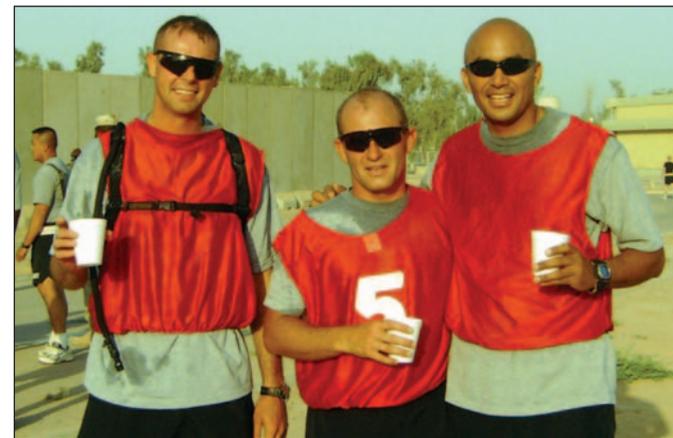
Donna, a Danville, Ill., native, finished third overall with a time of 53 minutes, 31 seconds; followed by Nickel from Saginaw, Mich., who placed fifth with a time of 55 minutes, 2 seconds; and Los Angeles native Marquez crossed the finish line shortly after in 56 minutes, earning him seventh place.

"We all have different jobs and various schedules, so work requirements prevented us from really training together," Marquez said. "We did meet on certain days, and I was able to get tips on things, such as how to prep my bike."

"We went together as a team," Donna said. "We helped each other and supported each other. I helped [Nickel] with the swim portion of the event — [his] technique, breathing and stroke."

For the future, Nickel is planning a triathlon at Camp Taji and wants to coordinate a simultaneous marathon run with a race in Chicago, a race in which his father and aunt will be running. Marquez would like to continue to participate in triathlons, and Donna would like to stay competitive and someday compete in the master's circuit.

While the triathlon truly pushes a person's physical ability to the limits, it was something the tri-athletes of 4/3 AHB enjoyed and cannot wait to do again.



U.S. Army photo by Santiago Ortiz

**Maj. Kelly Donna, 1st Sgt. Roger Nickel and Chief Warrant Officer Jose Marquez, all of 4th Bn., 3rd Aviation Regt. (Assault Helicopter), recorded top 10 finishes in the Balad Triathlon Aug. 26.**

"Physical training is the perfect outlet," Donna said. "I look for gaps in my schedule so I can work out. Being physically fit raises the team's spirit and gives them something to look forward to."

Nickel does physical training at 5 a.m. every day. "When others are sleeping, I'm working. I do my job and put in a full day's work and still make time for PT," he said.

For Marquez, participating in events like the Balad triathlon is a great way to keep his mind occupied, and the preparation and training leading up to such competitions is a great way to stay physically fit.

"Events like the triathlon are motivating, especially when you go as a team, because you don't want to let your teammates down," he said. "It also makes you feel better about yourself. When you finish an event like that, all you can think about is doing better at the next one."

## Three the hard way



Photo by Spc. Ferdinand Thomas

**Mike Evans, jumping higher than the competition, grabs a rebound and lays in the ball while being fouled, resulting in a three-point play during an open-run basketball game at the Presidential Palace gym in Baghdad's International Zone. The Kellogg Brown and Root employee is one of up to 30 other service members and civilians who participates in these fast-paced games every day. KBR's Morale Welfare and Recreation department also hosts a three-on-three and a five-on-five tournament monthly.**

## Troops get smoked at 'smoker'

**116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs**

**FOB WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq**

— Over 30 Soldiers and Airmen of the 116th Brigade Combat Team and the 506th Air Expeditionary Group participated in a boxing tournament Aug. 26 at the base's Warrior Gym facility. The tournament was the brainchild of Maj. John Toolson, a 116th BCT military police officer. Toolson

organized and promoted the event in cooperation with Steve Losefo of Kellogg, Brown and Root, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Bobbi Russell, the base events coordinator.

"We thought the event would be a great way to have some fun and spur on a little healthy competition," said Toolson. Besides the participants, the event drew a large crowd of spectators and fans cheering on their favorite competitors. Each match was judged by a panel of judges, including 116th BCT Command

Sgt. Maj. Leroy Lewis, 116th Engineer Command Sgt. Maj. Brent Kelsey and Command Chief Master Sgt. C.L. Glick of the 506th AEG.

"It was not an easy job judging the matches," said Lewis. "We had some really good fights."

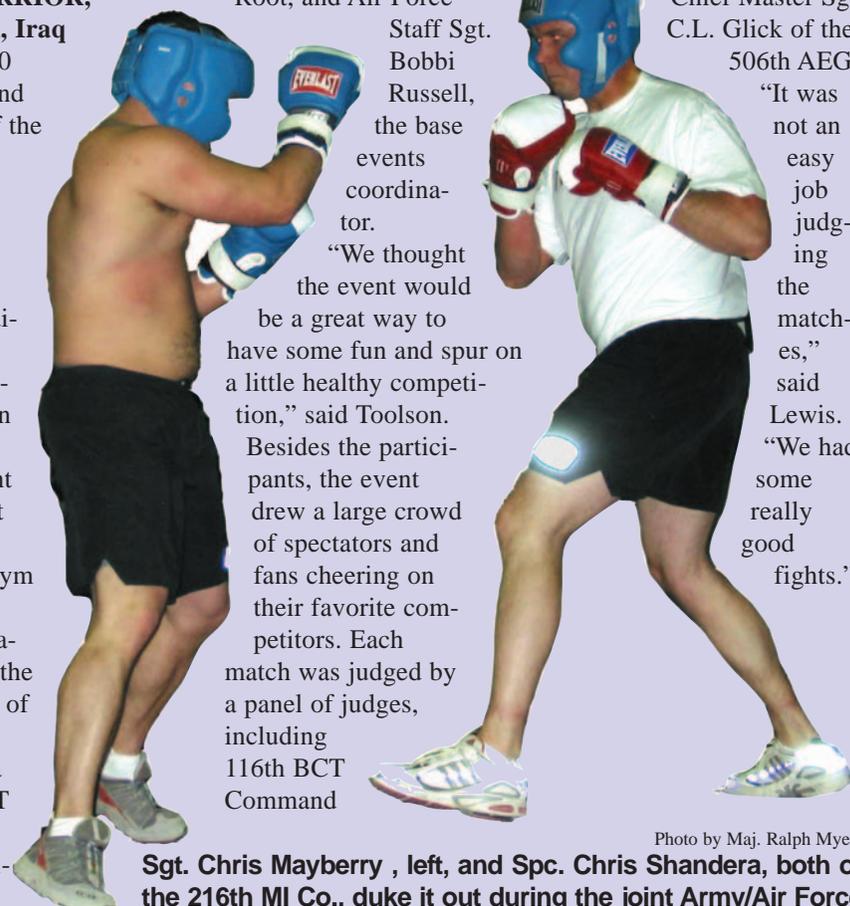


Photo by Maj. Ralph Myers

**Sgt. Chris Mayberry, left, and Spc. Chris Shandera, both of the 216th MI Co., duke it out during the joint Army/Air Force boxing "smoker" at FOB Warrior.**