

# SCIMITAR

Printed in the interest of Multi-National Force - Iraq



TQ gets anthrax vaccine, Page 2

Vol. 3, No. 38

Baghdad, Iraq

October 7, 2005



U. S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Bobby J. Segovia

Marines with Military Policy Company, Combat Logistics Regiment-25, 2nd Force Service Support Group, provide security in a scout vehicle as their counterparts mark the improvised explosive devices found near the Long Island bridge in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, Sept. 30. MPs perform mounted and dismounted patrols around Camp Taqaddum's area of operation to stop insurgents from placing down IEDs.

## CENTCOM commander details al Qaeda's long-term goals

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Al Qaeda terrorists hope to drive American influence from the Middle East and install a global Muslim leader in Saudi Arabia, Army Gen. John Abizaid said Sept. 29.

Speaking during Senate testimony, Abizaid, chief of U.S. Central Command, said al Qaeda's objectives are clear. "They believe in a jihad, a jihad to overthrow the legitimate regimes in the region," he said. "In order to do that, they first must drive America from the region."

Al Qaeda believes the most important prize is Saudi Arabia, which is home to the holy shrines in Mecca and Medina. If al Qaeda terrorists manage to take control of Saudi Arabia, they will try to create and expand their influence in the region and establish a caliphate, Abizaid said.

The term harkens back to the immediate successors of Muhammed and means a land led by a supreme secular and religious ruler. Al Qaeda insists that re-establishing a caliphate would mean that one man, as the successor to Muhammad, would possess clear political, military and legal standing as the global Muslim leader.

Abizaid said al Qaeda would then apply a very narrow, strict interpretation of Sharia, Islamic law, not believed in or

practiced anywhere else in the world today. Such conquest in the Middle East "would certainly allow al Qaeda and their proxies to control a vast oil wealth that exists in the region," he said. "They intend to destroy Israel in the process, as well."

The next goal would be to expand into non-Arab Islamic countries. This would include the middle of Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia, the general said. The organization would operate from these areas and also from cyberspace. He said al Qaeda uses the Internet to transmit their hatred. "They aim to take advantage of open societies and will strike at those societies when they are ready at their time

See *GOALS*, Page 2

### Inside

**Keeping contraband off the streets of Kirkuk** Page 4

**Mentorship and the Bible: Chaplain explains** Page 6

**Service members show support in Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour** Page 8

# Anthrax vaccine now available

By Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier  
2nd Force Service Support Group

**CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq** — Starting this month, Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen here will have the option of beginning the anthrax vaccination program.

Anthrax, an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming, rod-shaped bacterium called bacillus anthracis, is becoming a threat that may be used as a potential weapon against service members while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Petty Officer 1st Class Kathryn P. Coleman, an independent duty corpsman at the Battalion Aid Station with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward).

The BAS will hold instructional briefs about the disease itself and the vaccine during weeks to come.

“We are trying to help [service members],” the Marysville, Calif., native said. “You never know when anthrax could be used against us.”

Anthrax cases can occur in three forms, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The forms are cutaneous infection, which is contact to bare skin; ingestion of undercooked or raw, infected meat; and breathing in airborne spores.

“Anthrax is some real bad stuff,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class David L. Brown, a corpsman at BAS with Headquarters and Service Bn., 2nd FSSG (Fwd). “If you get infected, there is little that can help you.”

Some symptoms of anthrax include but are not limited to severe breathing problems, shock, swollen lymph nodes, painless ulcers appearing on the skin with a black center, nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, fever

followed by abdominal pain, severe diarrhea and vomiting blood, according to the FDA.

Everyone has the option of refusing the shots; however, without the vaccination there is a heightened chance that the individual will be more vulnerable to lethal anthrax infection, Brown explained.

“We want everyone to weigh their choices on whether they want to receive the vaccine or not,” the Washington, D.C. native said. “It is serious business, so reading up on [anthrax] will help you decide if you want to get the shot or not.”

Individuals should not receive the shots if they have a moderate or severe illness, women who are pregnant, people with a possible history of latex sensitivity, people infected with HIV, if the individual has or previously had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) or people who have recovered from an anthrax infection, according to the FDA.

Members of the Armed Forces are vaccinated for a variety of potential threats, and the anthrax vaccination is another tool to assist the military with its mission, noted Petty Officer 2nd Class John M. Curry, a corpsman at BAS with Headquarters and Service Bn., 2nd FSSG (Fwd).

“We’re in a business where you never know what your enemies are going to expose you to,” the Havre de Grace, Md., native said. “As medical professionals, we encourage service members to receive the vaccination due to its proven effectiveness.”

The FDA-licensed schedule for anthrax vaccine is six doses given over an 18-month period, according to the anthrax Emergency Use Authorization pamphlet, which is available at the BAS. Six doses are needed for full protection.

For more information concerning the anthrax vaccine, visit <http://www.anthrax.mil>.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Josh H. Hauser

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Sadekie K. Carby prepares a vaccination at the battalion aid station at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq.**

## Goals

from Page 1

and place of choosing,” he said.

In an allusion that is probably distasteful to American companies, Abizaid said al Qaeda is not a monolith like IBM. Rather, it is a franchise operation like McDonald’s. This makes it very difficult to cut off the head of the organization. The group uses any and all means to further its goals: drugs, smuggling, so-called charitable organizations and others.

To beat al Qaeda and affiliate organizations requires military action but also “all elements of international and national power to put pressure throughout the network over time in order to squeeze the ideology, defeat its sources of strength and ultimately allow the good people of the region to have

the courage and the ability to stand against this type of organization,” Abizaid said.

The United States and its Coalition allies are doing this, he said. The key to success is helping the people of the region develop the will and capabilities to challenge al Qaeda. The “long war against terror” will be won by “self-reliant partners in the region who are willing to face the enemy within their own countries,” he said.

U.S. and Coalition Forces must remain in the region long enough to “stabilize Afghanistan, stabilize Iraq, continue to deter Syria and Iran, and protect the flow of oil vital to all the peoples of the world and the economies of the region,” he said.

The United States must make it clear that America has no territorial designs. “We must make clear that we fight with them out of mutual respect and mutual benefit,” Abizaid said.

## Information for shipment of personal property for redeploying Soldiers

By Capt. John V. Rodriguez  
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Client Services

Getting ready to go home and wondering how you are going to take all of the personal property that you have collected over your year in the desert? Has your command offered you space in its military van or container express for this purpose? Here is something you should know before you decide to ship your personal property in this manner.

• **Soldiers are NOT authorized to ship personal property at Government expense when redeploying from Iraq.**

What does this mean? You can ship your personal gear in the CONEX or MILVAN if your commander says it is OK, but you will NOT be able to file a claim against the government if your goods are lost, stolen or damaged during shipment. You will assume any and all risk associated with moving your personal property in this manner. The government will not assume liability for any loss that you may incur.

• **How do I protect my personal goods from loss, damage or theft if I cannot carry them all back with me?**

The best way for you to get your personal property home is to pack it and carry it with you on the plane. If you have too many items, you should mail them. The United States Postal Service will ship your goods back home. Also, you can purchase insurance for a small fee. The USPS will pay actual value minus depreciation for insured items that are lost, damaged or tampered. It will also allow you to insure up to \$5,000 worth of goods per package.



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.



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

**MNF-I PAO**  
Col. Dewey G. Ford

**Combined Press Information Center Director**  
Lt. Col. Steven A. Boylan  
[steven.boyland@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:steven.boyland@iraq.centcom.mil)

**Command Information Chief**  
Maj. Patricia C. Anderson  
[patricia.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:patricia.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil)

**Command Information NCOIC**  
Master Sgt. Michele R. Hammonds  
[michele.hammonds@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:michele.hammonds@iraq.centcom.mil)



**Editor**.....Sgt. Misha King  
[misha.king@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:misha.king@iraq.centcom.mil)

**Assistant Editor**.....SpC. Ferdinand Thomas  
[ferdinand.thomas@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:ferdinand.thomas@iraq.centcom.mil)

**Staff**.....Staff Sgt. Timothy B. Lawn  
[timothy.lawn@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:timothy.lawn@iraq.centcom.mil)

The *Scimitar* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the Multi-National Force - Iraq. *Stars and Stripes* newspaper is not affiliated with MNF-I and acts only as a distributing source for the *Scimitar*. Questions and comments should be directed to the editor at [scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil).

*Scimitar* welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from readers. Send submissions to [scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil)

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

The *Scimitar* can also be viewed on the Web at [http://www.mnf-iraq.com/publications\\_theater.htm](http://www.mnf-iraq.com/publications_theater.htm)

PERSPECTIVES

# Turning a 'hootch' into a home

By Capt. Patricia Brewer  
Combined Press Information Center

As I was waking up, I heard the birds singing outside and a slight breeze fluttering the leaves. My boyfriend was in the kitchen trying unsuccessfully to quietly make breakfast. My cat jumped on the bed to let me know that my 40-winks was unacceptable according to her plan for the day. I gently drifted back to sleep only to be startled by my noisy alarm and the knowledge that the pleasant sounds and sights I was previously enjoying were a dream. I woke to start the day in Baghdad, donned my uniform, weapon, protective gear and identification. It's a bit lonely without my friends and family, but as I look around my hootch, their smiling faces and warm wishes surround me. Pictures of my mom and brother waving from the Alamo's gates; my cousin, the newest dentist in Kansas City, happily announcing the grand opening of her new office; co-workers in their offices; friends gazing out during the Christmas snowfall in Times Square and babies with goofy hats and adorable smiles reflect the happy life to which I look forward to returning. Pictures of home and the wonderful people who let me share my whines and complaints helped turn

my manufactured temporary housing into a home. Typically, in my civilian life I spend a great deal of time planning and perfecting home improvements, such as bathroom tile, paint colors and window seats with matching curtains. I lament over furniture choices — should I go modern via IKEA or hunt for classic and uncommon antiques? The first day I walked into my trailer, I was just glad to have a place to store my gear and lay my tired head. Since then, I see the space and wonder — what could I do with a little paint, a loft bed and a chainsaw? Instead of grand plans, I placed a star-filled garland on my window and attached a precocious 5-year-old's artwork to my wall next to a sign that says "home sweet home." Care package contents — including a stitched-by-hand pillow, some cotton sheets, cushioned slippers labeled 'White House Guest,' a couple of plush bears and some great page-turning books placed

**"It's a bit lonely without my friends and family, but as I look around my hootch, their smiling faces and warm wishes surround me."**

Capt. Patricia Brewer  
Combined Press Information Center

artfully on a cardboard bed stand — now I have myself a home. In those quiet moments when I reflect on events of the day, I gaze at the pictures and smile at the memories. In a few months I can share my experiences here face-to-face with my friends and family. I wonder if I will also be able to tell them how much they helped me go from day to day — how they helped create a home for me in Iraq.

## Scimitar Pulse

*What have you done to make your living quarters more like home?*

"I live out of a C-bag still."

**Marine Lance Cpl. John Ballard**  
*Anti-Terrorism Battalion*



"We live in beat-up tents, and there ain't no way to make it more like home."

**Army Staff Sgt. Willie Smith**  
*155th Infantry*

"Put pictures of my family on my wall."

**Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Ross**  
*Multi-National Force - Iraq*



"I have added a bookshelf and a foot spa to my room."

**Air Force Tech Sgt. Corey Carter**  
*Headquarters Air University*

"I added a U.S. Army flag with an eagle on it."

**Army 1st Lt. Amy Torguson**  
*519th Military Intelligence Battalion*



"Keep it clean and put a few rugs down."

**Army Sgt. Jay Wilkerson**  
*80th Division*

"I put up pictures of my family and set up my stuffed animals."

**Army Capt. Derik Miller**  
*6th Brigade Air Defense*



# Color of passion



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Patrick J. Dixon

**U.S. Army Spc. Erin Miller, 528th Medical Detachment, Combat Stress Control, observes a local Iraqi child coloring Sept. 27 at Camp Echo, Diwaniyah, Iraq. The child was diagnosed with encephalitis, which is a rare viral infection that causes brain inflammation, according to <http://kidshealth.org>. Members from Combat Stress Control perform occupational therapy on local kids with neurological injuries as a community service in addition to their main mission.**



Senior Airman Jeff George looks in a third-country national's lunchbox to ensure it does not contain contraband. Search area Airmen search all people and vehicles entering the base.

# Forcing security

## Airmen keep contraband off Kirkuk streets

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. J. LaVoie  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

**KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq** — During the lunch-hour rush at a dining facility in Mosul, Iraq, a suicide bomber managed to penetrate base security and kill 22 Americans Dec. 21, 2004. Since then, American bases in Iraq have successfully increased security measures.

Every day, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Airmen diligently work the search area at base entry gates to ensure the same type of attack does not take place here.

“Our mission is to effectively search and deter persons from entering with, or bringing on, unauthorized contraband and [improvised explosive devices],” said Staff Sgt. Marcos Garcia of the 506th ESFS.

All people, vehicles and equipment that enter the base from the local area must pass through the search area. Everyone and everything goes through a complete search, from X-raying vehicles to ensure they do not have hidden compartments to frisking each individual. After being searched, civilians are escorted for the duration of their time on base.

“If we didn’t conduct searches, anyone could bring anything on,” said Senior Airman Jeff George of the 506th ESFS. “It allows us to bring local

workers on safely so [they can] complete projects on base.”

The 506th ESFS Airmen find a variety of contraband on a daily basis, ranging from knives and weapons to pornography and alcohol.

“We are the first to encounter the vehicles and personnel on a daily basis,” Garcia said. “It’s important we conduct thorough searches to protect the personnel and resources we have on this base.”

The language barrier and complacency are the two main obstacles security forces combat daily.

Many of the third-country nationals and local nationals entering the base do not speak English, and most 506th ESFS Airmen are not fluent in Arabic or Kurdish, resulting in difficulty communicating.

“You have to be able to give instructions, be able to tell [Iraqis] to open doors and panels,” George said. “We become pretty fluent in hand signals.”

Complacency is something they fight all the time.

“You see the same people come in every day,” George said. “Just because you see someone every day doesn’t mean he’s a good guy. He could be waiting for us to get complacent, learning our search techniques.

“Even if he is a good guy, someone could have planted something on his vehicle while he’s parked off base,” he said.

Because of the potential threat, 506th ESFS Airmen remain vigilant to help ensure weapons and explosives do not make their way onto the base.

# New American proud to serve in great Army

Story and photo by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.  
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq** — The United States is a country of immigrants. People of all races and all nations have come to America to find a better life. Some of those people wanted more than just better opportunities; they wanted a chance to give something back to a country that has given them a better life by serving in its military.

One such person is 25 year-old Pfc. Svetlana Nikolaeva, supply specialist for 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion. Nikolaeva was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and immigrated to Alaska in December 2002.

“I wanted a better life,” Nikolaeva said. “There weren’t as many opportunities in Russia as there are in America. It was hard to get a job.”

Nikolaeva had minimal proficiency in English before leaving Uzbekistan. She continued learning English upon her arrival to the states.

“I started taking all the classes I could and got a job at the University of Alaska in the Russian-English Center,” she said.

Nikolaeva met a man named Alexander from near Moscow while at church in Alaska, and the two later got married. After being in Alaska for a little over a year and a half, Nikolaeva decided to join the Army in May 2004. She said she had been thinking about it for a while.

“I wanted to join the Army; I dreamed of it for a long time,” Nikolaeva said. “I wanted to experience how to be a Soldier, how to use weapons. I told my recruiter if he let me join, I would buy him lunch.”

When Nikolaeva moved to Alaska, she had a couple of



Uzbekistani immigrant Pfc. Svetlana Nikolaeva, a supply specialist with 1/3 BTB, prepares for a convoy at FOB Dagger.

friends, but she wanted to be a part of something bigger.

“It is part of the reason I joined the Army — to be part of a community,” she said. “If I was going to stay here, I wanted to give something.”

While she wanted to be a part of something, Nikolaeva had many reasons for joining. Part of that was a feeling of pride for her new home.

“I joined the Army because I wanted to give something to the country — I wanted to be a part of it,” Nikolaeva

said. “It will benefit me in many ways; the Army takes care of you.”

Nikolaeva went through many changes in a short time since leaving Uzbekistan. The Army was a big step, but she knew she was up to the challenge. But she still reserved a few small fears.

“I knew I was strong; I knew I could handle the training because I was morally strong,” she said. “My biggest fear was understanding English. I didn’t even know what ‘at ease’ meant. I kind of had to start over.”

Nikolaeva said she knew she was coming to Iraq; she had been informed repeatedly to be ready since joining the Army.

“I was already prepared for the deployment,” Nikolaeva said. “In basic training, they told us every day ‘you’re going to Iraq.’”

Since coming to Iraq and actually getting to experience a Soldier’s life, Nikolaeva said it will all be worth it in the end.

“I enjoy the Army; it opened me up and introduced me to so many new people,” Nikolaeva said. “I got new friends. I am

honored to serve in the strongest Army of all. I will always have stories to tell my children, and they will be proud of my service. I am just proud to serve my country, and it is my country.”

Nikolaeva’s parents still live in Uzbekistan, and she has two brothers who live in Russia.

After her enlistment in the Army, she plans to go back to school, majoring in international relations at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

# Smuggling mail not worth jail time

Story and photo by Pfc. Matthew Clifton  
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

**CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD** — For service members deployed to Iraq, sending and receiving mail can be a morale booster as well as a way to stay connected to friends and family in the United States, but the luxury of having mail service comes with the responsibility of not abusing its policies.

Post offices in Iraq follow numerous policies dictating what Soldiers can and cannot ship home, said Sgt. 1st Class John Milliner Williams, postal first sergeant, 129th Postal Company, 18th Personnel Service Battalion, 18th Service Support Group, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I remember a case a couple weeks ago where a Soldier took apart a television and concealed two pistols inside," Williams continued. "The scanners we use for the mail are similar to the scanners used when you go through the airport; they can clearly differentiate between the working parts of a television and a handgun."

When the inspectors find a prohibited item inside another Soldier's package, it is immediately confiscated, said Williams.

"The first thing done when a Soldier comes to our inspectors is hand over their identification card, and during the inspection process if a prohibited item is found, the inspector makes a log of the Soldier and the item confiscated," Williams said. "We then send a letter to the Soldier's command noting what the item was."

Punishments are left entirely up to the particular Soldier's chain of command, Williams said.

To avoid having Camp Victory Soldiers look through lengthy policy books, they are referred to a poster on the wall of the local mail room. These policies have also been distributed to all first sergeants and sergeants major in the Victory area of operation, Williams said.

One policy contains a long list of items that can and cannot be sent through the mail.

"The list of prohibited items comes from the carriers who



**Sgt. Shawn Smith attached to the 129th Postal Company, 18th Personnel Service Battalion, 18th Service Support Group, Fort Bragg, N.C., seals and labels a fellow Soldier's package.**

ship our mail from here to the U.S.," Williams added. "These are civilian carriers, and they are prohibited by law to carry certain items."

The most commonly found prohibited items Soldiers are trying to ship home include pornography and weapons, Williams said.

"Over here, Soldiers obtain a lot of different weapons and weapon parts, and they order a lot of fancy accessories to put on their weapons, but all of that stuff is prohibited," Williams said. "Combustible products like lighters are also prohibited."

There are many types of lighters Soldiers buy in Iraq as memorabilia, but they cannot send them home through the mail, Williams added.

Other items postal troops often see are aerosol products, like hair spray and shaving cream. Soldiers may not think of

these as being prohibited items, but because they are compressed and combustible, they cannot be shipped home, Williams said.

When he first arrived in Iraq, Williams was shown a picture of a plane that had its backside blown out thanks to items like these that had exploded when the plane was ascending.

When Soldiers bring mail to the post office, the 129th Soldiers must inspect all packages except for free mail, which are letters in envelopes. Free mail is only inspected when the envelope contains a disk or tape, Williams said.

"Our Soldiers will look through the entire package, through every inch of it," Williams said. "Mainly they are checking for prohibited items that might cause problems down the line."

"I don't often find prohibited items in Soldiers' mail," said Sgt. Shawn Smith, a reserve Soldier from San Diego and a postal sergeant with the 129th Postal Company.

"[Things] I do see a lot of are ponchos, poncho liners and other things that Soldiers don't really use but are still considered

issued equipment, and therefore cannot be sent through the mail."

Once a package has been inspected, the postal Soldiers seal the package while the customer waits, the customer pays for the delivery, the mail is put on a truck and sent to the Joint Military Mail Terminal where it is shipped out of the country.

"Before any mail reaches the United States, it is scanned to detect any prohibited items that may have fallen through the cracks," Williams said. "The scanners used are so complex, they can detect a single 9 mm round out of an entire footlocker of equipment."

Williams receives a monthly report on prohibited items found by the scanner and said not a single month goes by without something being found.

## Marine lawyers keep fellow Marines minds in the fight

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Wayne Edmiston  
2nd Force Service Support Group

**CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq** — When some people think of lawyers, they often think about professionals working in their penthouse offices on the top floor of a high-rise office building in a big city.

For the Marine attorneys of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), their penthouse office is the inside of a tattered, Iraqi structure lined with sandbags and surrounded by barbed wire.

These attorneys are officers and Marines serving forward deployed right alongside the Marines and Sailors here.

The Camp Taqaddum Marine attorneys are here to provide legal assistance to the command as well as to individual Marines and Sailors.

"We are here to provide assistance to Marines so they can stay in the fight," said Capt. Julio W. Valdivieso, a judge advocate with the OSJA, 2nd FSSG (Fwd.).

Other services the OSJA provides are landlord-tenant assistance, immigration, domestic law, powers of attorney, consumer issues and wills, said Capt. Brendan M. Wolf, the deputy staff judge advocate of 2nd FSSG (Fwd) and an Erie, Pa., native.

"We work to help Marines with their [legal] affairs in the [United States]," Wolf said.

Even though they serve the FSSG as attorneys, their primary concern is being a basic Marine first. The lawyers are basic platoon commanders before they even pick up their case files and are ready to tackle that mission at a moment's notice as well, said Capt. Ethan J. Steward, trial counsel for 2nd FSSG (Fwd).

"We are Marines first and attorneys second," Steward, the Portland, Ore. native said. "It's all about the Marine with a rifle and providing for the completion of the mission."

"Before handling law, we are trained to lead any Marine into battle as officers," Wolf said.

The patriotic roots of the OSJA Marines overrun the thought of making the large amounts of money in

the private sector.

"Serving our nation and my fellow Marines is more important than making money," Valdivieso said.

"The Marine Corps was a great way to serve my country," Steward said. "The Marine Corps holds the same values of honor, courage and commitment I wanted to have as an attorney."

Even though the Marine attorneys are proud, they overcome many challenges that are placed before them in a deployed environment.

The time change is something that is hard getting used to, commented Steward.

"If I need to call a creditor in the United States for a Marine in Iraq, I need to stay up all night to be able to reach that creditor during the business day," Valdivieso, a Somerset, N.J. native explained, referring to the eight-hour time difference between Iraq and the eastern United States. "We pretty much are lawyers working 24 hours a day."

"It's all about the opportunity of being a part of something bigger than yourself," Wolf said. "The Marine Corps optimizes that."



**Cpts. Julio W. Valdivieso, Ethan J. Steward and Brendan M. Wolf pose in front of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq.**

# Coalition Corner

... highlighting countries  
serving with MNF-Iraq



## Estonia

local name: *Eesti*

The Republic of Estonia is located in Eastern Europe and borders the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Finland, Latvia and Russia. With 633 kilometers, or 393 miles, of land, size-wise it is slightly smaller than New Hampshire and Vermont combined. About 1.3 million people live here, and Estonian is their official language. However, a significant portion of the population also speaks Russian. This country has a parliamentary republic government and is a member of NATO. Although Estonia is a member of the European Union, it still uses the Estonian kroon as its currency.

Although small in size, Estonia is full of beautiful historic and natural attractions. Saaremaa, the largest of 1,520 Estonian islands in the Baltic Sea, is full of adventure for any type of interest. This scarcely-populated area is home to a botanical reserve and is bursting with unspoiled rural landscapes and forests that cover at least half the island. Furthermore, the island's capital boasts a 13th-century castle founded as the Bishop of Osel-Wiek's island base. The capital of Estonia, Tallinn, is one of the few places in Europe where the atmosphere of Old Town's 14th and 15th centuries remains undiminished, with attractions such as medieval walls and turrets and endless cobbled streets. Yet Tallinn itself is very modern and is referred to as a "suburb of Helsinki," although it has historic sites, such as the 19th-century Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and Toomkirik, the Lutheran cathedral founded in 1233. Other attractions across the country include the Lahemaa National Park, the Kiek-in-de-Kok museum and the Hiiumaa Islets Landscape Reserve.

Estonian food is just as interesting as the country's geographical aspects. The Estonian diet consists largely of pork, potatoes and garden vegetables, with potatoes being a staple in most Estonian meals. The closest thing to a national food is verivorst, which is blood sausage usually served with mulgikap-sad, a sauerkraut stew. Leib, or black bread, is a staple food and is often treated as the main meal; the meat and vegetables go with the bread instead of the opposite.

Several world-famous people hail from Estonia, including Carmen Kass, an international super-model frequently featured in *Vogue* and *GQ*. Mena Suvari, who starred in many movies, to include "American Beauty," "American Pie," "American Pie 2" and "Beauty Shop," claims her Estonian heritage through her father, Estonian-born psychiatrist Ando Suvari.

Estonia — yet another piece of the Multi-National Force - Iraq puzzle, dedicated to rebuilding Iraq.

References: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov), [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com), <http://europa.eu.int>, [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int), [www.balticsww.com](http://www.balticsww.com), [www.balticadventures.co.uk](http://www.balticadventures.co.uk), [www.menasuvarifan.com](http://www.menasuvarifan.com) and <http://wikitravel.org>.

Coalition Corner is compiled by Sgt. Misha King, editor, [scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil).



## CHAPLAIN'S TALK

# Mentorship and the Bible

By Chaplain (Col.)  
**Lilton J. Marks**  
Multi-National Force - Iraq  
Command Chaplain

For years the military has struggled with developing a mentorship program. Recently the United States Army presented its mentorship program to its Soldiers. In this article I wish to present a biblical perspective on mentorship.

Mentoring involves a voluntary investment in others for their growth, development and success. It is rooted in faith in the value of the other person. The goal is the gain of the one being mentored, whether or not the mentor benefits. Thus, true mentoring requires loving sacrifice.

The Bible is filled with mentoring relationships:

- Jethro, a wealthy livestock owner, helped his overworked son-in-law (Moses) learn to delegate authority.
- Deborah, judge over Israel, encouraged Barak to lead the people in war to end Jabin's, the Canaanite King, oppressive rule and bring forty years of peace to the land of Israel.
- Eli, the priest who could not control his own sons, raised Samuel to succeed him and to become God's anointer of kings.
- Elijah, the great prophet who oversaw the evil end of Ahab and Jezebel, passed on his gifts and office to young Elisha, who performed twice the miracles and work of his mentor, Elijah.
- Jesus chose common men and nurtured them into apostles so that they became carriers of His love and salvation for the World.
- Barnabas, a wealthy land owner, advocated and guided Saul so God could change him to Paul to be the central figure in spreading the gospel to the world.

These are but a few. If you read

your Bible you are sure to find many more. There are four key functions of a true mentor. They are caregiver, conveyor, corrector and connector.

- Mentors must CARE about and CARE for those who

follow them. Their primary purpose is not what they will gain from the relationship, but it is what they can give to the relationship to uplift those they are mentoring.

- Mentors must CONVEY wisdom and skills by the way they live. Their goal must be to eventually turn over responsibility to those they are mentoring, seeking to make those they mentor more capable than themselves.

- Mentors must CORRECT those they mentor when they are wrong. True mentors do not avoid confrontation. To be loving and honest helps those being mentored to grow in humbleness and insightfulness.

- Mentors must CONNECT their followers to significant others. Saul enters the early church through Barnabas. Barnabas connected him with other followers and leaders in the church. True mentors introduce their protégés to relationships and resources that will further their development and increase their opportunities.

We as senior leaders must live the values of our Services and give to the younger members. The only effective way to do that is to seek out our junior members and nurture them into leadership.

We must be true to open and honest mentoring in the military. That is to say we must not become defensive, paranoid, self-serving, suspicious and blocking of those different than ourselves. We must intentionally cross gender, religious, racial and cultural traditions



Chaplain Marks

to mentor those who are not of our gender, religious, racial and cultural tradition. And we must not be stumbling blocks to internal gender, religious, racial and cultural mentoring; instead we must embrace internal mentoring.

In other words, we must accept and respect our differences, hence, acknowledging that God made us ALL for God's purpose and not for our purpose. We must acknowledge that we live in a diverse society and a diverse military.

It is this diversity that makes us one of the strongest, the richest, the most democratic, the most powerful and the most freedom-loving nations in the world. We are not all black, we are not all brown, we are not all yellow, we are not all white, and we are not all red. Nor are we all Christians or Jewish or Atheist or Islamic or Protestant or Catholic — but we are all from free and democratic nations.

So our vision, goal and objective should be mentoring. In mentoring, we as senior leaders must get junior members to emulate us as good and effective leaders. Not for our individual selves, but for God, our militaries and our nations' future.

At stake is how each generation finds its role models and avoids being orphaned from beauty and truth. Just remember, everyone is looked up to by someone. So if you and I aren't worthy of emulation, then what are we good for? Anyone can teach the lesson, but some people are the lesson.

Is there someone you can serve, especially someone junior, by giving them friendship, experience and knowledge?

As you reflect on your own development, can you identify those who have given themselves to you?

In what ways have you thanked them?

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Article 32 hearing set for Liberty Soldier

**BAGHDAD** — The Article 32 Investigation for Staff Sgt. Alberto B. Martinez, formerly of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized), has been rescheduled for Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 in Kuwait.

Martinez is charged with two specifications of premeditated murder, violations of Article 118 (Murder), of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

An Article 32 hearing is a pre-trial investigation and is mandated by the UCMJ before court-martial proceedings take place.

Martinez is currently in pretrial confinement at a military confinement facility in Kuwait.

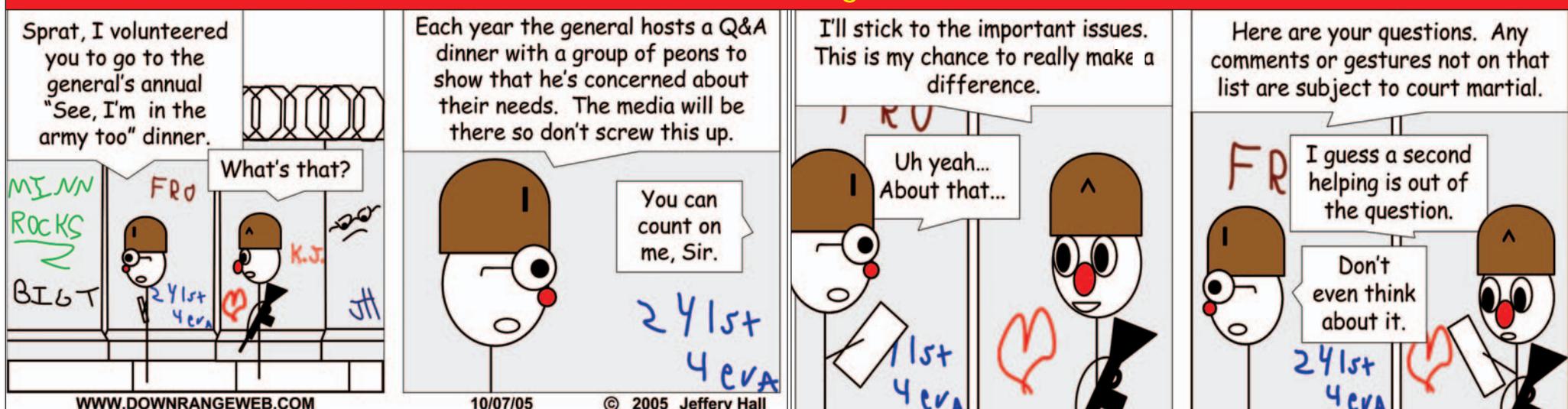
### Ansar Al-Sunnah cell captured in Kirkuk FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq

— Iraqi police and Coalition Forces detained 14 individuals suspected to be linked to Islamic terrorist group Ansar Al-Sunnah in Kirkuk Sept. 23.

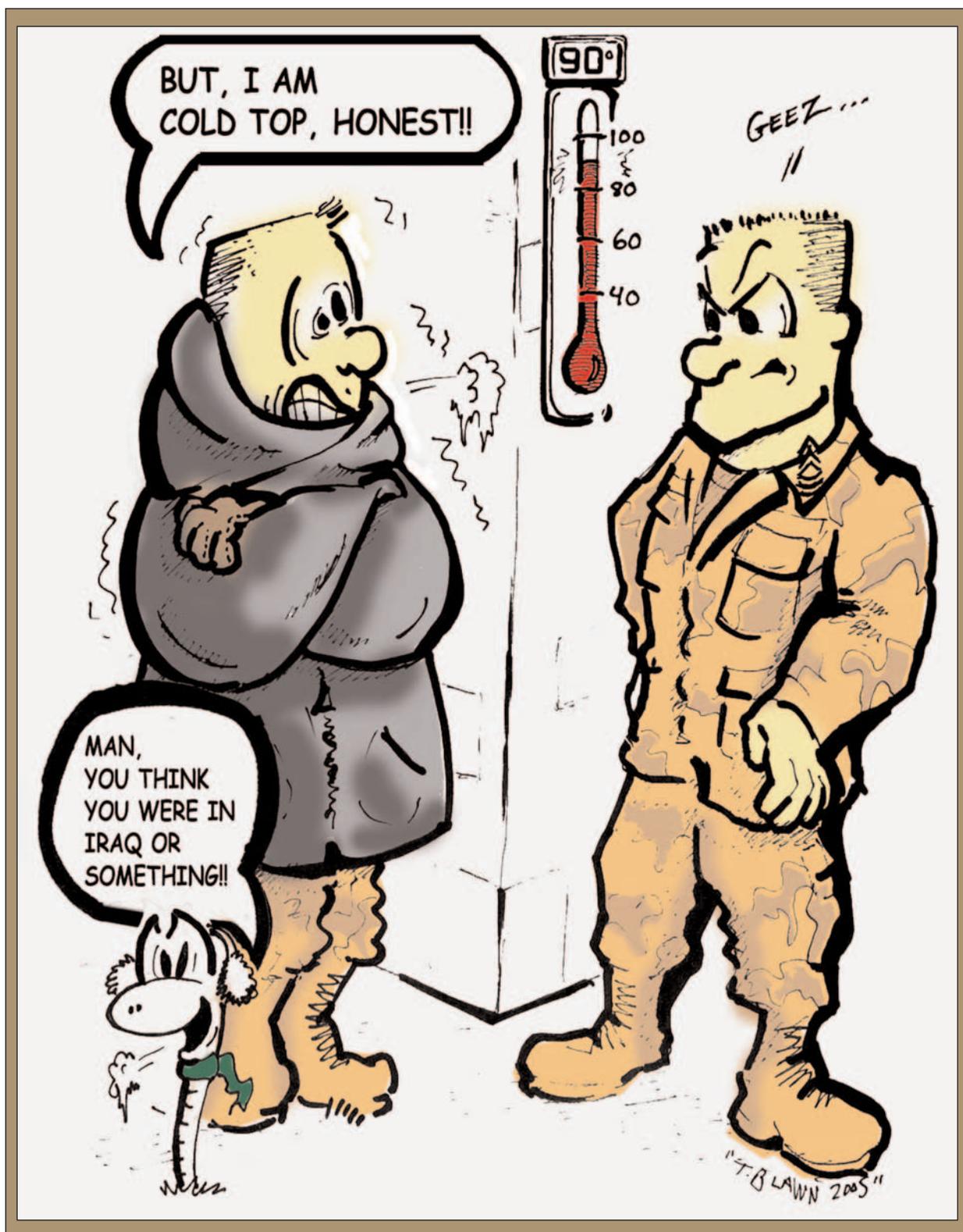
The Ansar Al-Sunnah organization has claimed responsibility for many of the area's terrorist acts against Iraqi civilians and Iraqi and Coalition security forces, including suicide bomb and improvised explosive device attacks.

# Scimitar Slapstick

## Downrange



Art by Jeffery Hall



Art by Staff Sgt. Timothy Lawn



Art by Maj. James D. Crabtree

Story, photo, art and comic submissions are welcome! Please send to the *Scimitar* for consideration at: [scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:scimitar@iraq.centcom.mil)

# TOUR OF DUTY *Liberty personnel show support in Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour*



Maj. Fred Evans, left, 42nd Aviation Brigade Liaison Officer, and Soldiers, Airmen and civilian contractors push themselves in the Multiple Sclerosis 100-mile marathon at Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq.

U.S. Army photos by Spc. Adam Phelps

By Task Force Liberty Public Affairs

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — Fifteen Task Force Liberty Soldiers, Airmen and civilian contractors participated in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Bike Tour Sept. 24-25 on Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit. The riders rode 50 miles each day around the winding, hilly roads of this former presidential compound.

The event coincides with the national MS Bike Tour that occurs throughout the United States from March to November. The bike tours are the major fundraiser for the MS Society, a disease that afflicts 400,000 Americans.

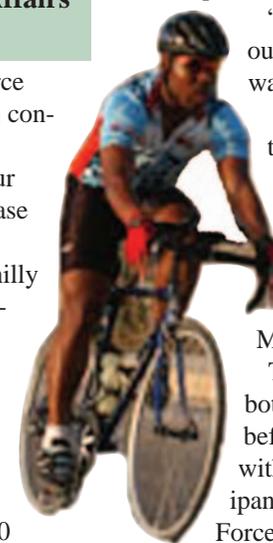
Maj. Fred Evans, 42nd Aviation Brigade Liaison Officer, organized Team Danger. He said finding riders was easy and supporting the Multiple Sclerosis Society is just a

continuation of the values the military is based upon.

"Over here we're fighting for our country, fighting the global war on terrorism," said Evans.

"With this bike tour, we're trying to help people not only in the United States, but all over the world in fighting this disease," he said.

"We're assisting people in trying to find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis."



Staff Sgt. Douglas Saunders, 1st Inf. Div., 2/34 Armor Bn., rides to help raise money for MS victims.

Team Danger riders started both days in the early morning before dawn so as not to conflict with their daily duties. The participants are part of or support Task Force Liberty and the 42nd Infantry Division, which conducts military operations in north-central Iraq.

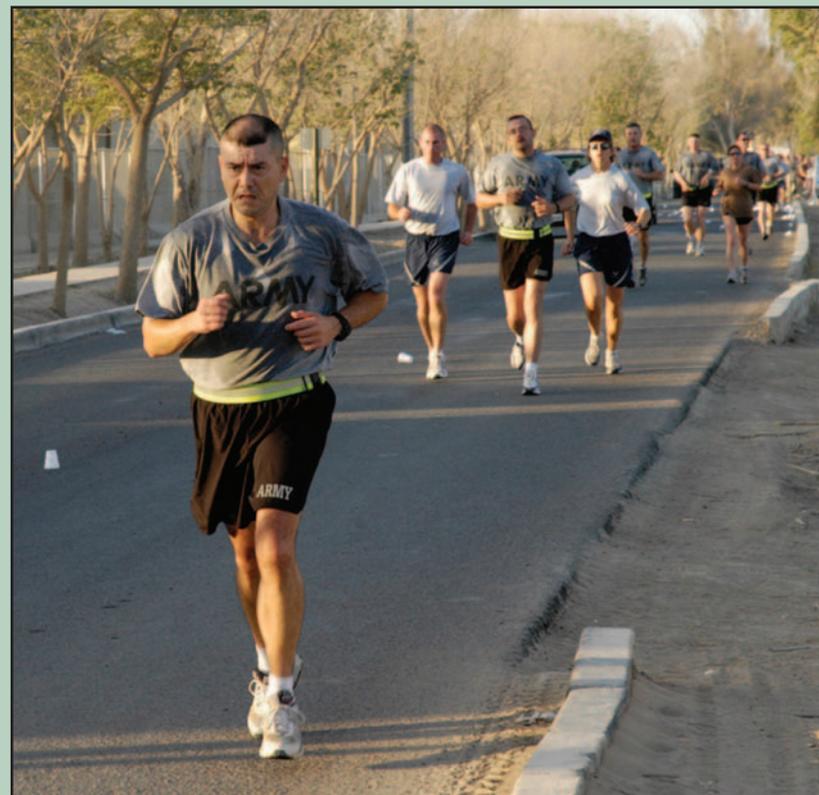
The riders had \$3,000 pledged in charitable contributions on their behalf to the MS Society.

## Army Ten-Miler ... Baghdad style!



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ferdinand Thomas

Above, 135 total runners, including 19 teams of three, ran in the Army Ten-Miler Baghdad Style Oct. 2 in the International Zone. Marine Capt. Joseph Galvin finished first overall in 58 minutes, 52 seconds. Right, Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Gonzalez of the 18th Military Police Brigade gives his all at Camp Victory, Baghdad. Gonzalez finished with a time of 1:24:15, while the 18th MP Bde. took first place in the team event with an overall time of 1:02:11.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lynne Steely

### Worship and Prayer Schedule for the International Zone

All services at the Community Center Chapel unless otherwise noted

#### Sunday

- 9 a.m. — IZ Gospel Service (PCO annex classroom)
- 9:30 a.m. — Choir Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Camp Prosperity)
- 10:30 a.m. — General Christian Worship
- Noon — Episcopal/Lutheran/Anglican
- 2 p.m. — Latter Day Saints
- 4 p.m. — Catholic Confession
- 4:30 p.m. — Catholic Mass

#### Monday-Thursday

- Noon — Catholic Mass (Mon.-Thurs.)
- 6 p.m. — Catholic Adult Educaion (Tue.)
- 8 p.m. — Bible Study (Mon.-Thurs.)

#### Friday

- 9 a.m. — Catholic Choir Rehearsal
- 11 a.m. — Bible Study
- Noon — Catholic Communion Service
- 5:30 p.m. — Catholic Mass (FOB Steel Dragon)

#### Saturday

- 9 a.m. — 7th Day Adventist School (CSH)
- 9 a.m. — 7th Day Adventist Service (CSH)
- 10 a.m. — Catholic Mass (CSH)
- 12:30 p.m. — Buddhist Prayer
- 4 p.m. — Catholic Confession

For more information, call DSN 318-239-8659

- 4:30 p.m. — Catholic Mass
- 6 p.m. — Choir Practice
- 6:30 p.m. — Community Center Service Rehearsal
- 8 p.m. — Alpha Course

#### Daily Islamic Prayer

See schedules posted at prayer locations.