



## Chaplains back elections with prayer

**Sgt. David Foley**  
MNC-I PAO

While Iraq was preparing to take another step toward ensuring its freedom with the Oct. 15 Iraqi Constitutional Referendum election, the Multi-National Corps - Iraq Command Chaplain's Office held an inter-faith prayer service at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in The Al-Faw Palace ballroom to support the election process.

"The intent was for a successful voting process," said Chap. (Maj.) Timothy Ullmann, MNC-I Command Chaplain's Office, plans and operations officer, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, "and not to try to sway the vote one way or another."

Ullmann said the event was a complete success.

"The prayer service was a wonderful event for all who attended. We received many compliments on the form and content of the service. One Iraqi gentleman was moved and thanked us for praying for his country and the Iraqi people."

During the service, chaplains read related passages from Muslim, Jewish and Christian scriptures in hopes the Lord would provide a large turnout of voters and cause violence to cease while the polls were open, something Chap. (Lt. Col.) Thomas MacGregor, MNC-I Command Chaplain's Office deputy command chaplain, believes can make a major difference.

"The outcome of the referendum vote is very important to (God). He has designs for Iraq that we do not know. As we faithfully perform our duties, God works his wonders in the heavens and among the children

See **PRAYER**, Page 3

## Customs vital to redeploying units

Story and photos by  
**Pfc. Joshua R. Ford**  
MNC-I PAO

Last year \$170 billion worth of U.S. crops were destroyed by foreign insects, bacteria and diseases found in the soil.

How did these foreign species get to the U.S.? The answer could be that someone decided to stow away a souvenir and bring it home.

That's one of the many reasons why there is a customs office.

Customs is a serious process ensuring a safe redeployment, the safety of U.S. citizens and protecting the U.S. from foreign species, said 1st Lt. Ross M. Kurtz, law and order officer-in-charge, Multi-National Corps - Iraq Provost Marshal's Office.

"Customs monitors what an individual can or can't take back to their original location from Iraq," Kurtz said.

Units must schedule customs inspections and be inspected before redeploying.

The inspection is tasked to a Military Police brigade in the requesting unit's area of opera-



**Sgt. 1st Class Carl N. Church, customs inspector noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 313th Military Police Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, checks for illegal items and cleanliness.**



**Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy Johnson and Amber, a K-9 unit in the 18th Military Police Brigade, sniff out packages for illegal items Oct. 14 on Camp Victory.**

tion, said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Lease, customs program manager, 313th Military Police Brigade.

Before MPs start the process, the requesting unit's command should perform a pre-inspection. This makes the process shorter and easier for both the unit being searched and the MPs, Kurtz added.

When the MPs arrive, they brief the outgoing unit on what they can and can't take back.

The unit then has the opportunity to ask questions and is given a 15-minute amnesty period before the search, Lease said.

"During the amnesty period, people are allowed to go through their belongings and take any questionable or illegal items to the amnesty point," Lease added.

Some of the illegal items on the list are switchblades, explosives, controlled substances, artifacts, soil and counterfeit currency.

After the briefing and the amnesty period, a K-9 unit and MPs inspect the outgoing baggage and equipment to make sure nobody has hidden any illegal items and that all equipment and personal belongings are free of dirt, mud and sand, Kurtz said.

After the inspection, the equipment is blocked and

sealed, Lease said.

Blocking a mobile storage unit ensures the items don't shift during the ride home, Lease said.

Sealing is the final step. During this step, an MP places a signed form on the inside and outside of the storage unit and a lock on each door.

If the serial numbers on the forms and locks don't match when they get back to the U.S., the mobile storage unit will be shipped back to where it came from and inspected again.

"Once we look at it and it's in the blocked and sealed mobile storage unit, that's it. It's sealed, and we're shipping it," said Sgt. 1st Class Carl N. Church, 313th customs inspection noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"The length of this process depends on how many people there are, how much equipment they are redeploying with and if the unit was pre-inspected," Lease said.

"The biggest inspection so far required us to search 21 mobile storage units with 15 people, and it took five hours," Church said.

Military policemen are not the only ones who can become certified

See **CUSTOMS**, Page 4

# Vikings reunite on Camp Victory

## Three Tenn. high school pals find each other 30 years later in combat zone

**Spc. Jeremy Crisp**  
MNC-I PAO

There are three Vikings serving in the deployed forces of the U.S. Army. These Vikings aren't the ones of Nordic fame, but they do share a common bond.

The three Soldiers are actually Northwest High School Vikings from Clarksville, Tenn. Thirty years after graduation, the long-lost friends have found each other in the most unlikely of places -- Iraq.

As a graduate of the NHS Class of 1973, Col. James H. Huggins II, Multi-National Corps - Iraq inspector general, was sitting in a briefing inspecting a personnel chart when he happened to notice a familiar name. It was that of Maj. Parris McCullah, the stay-behind equipment liaison for the MNC-I Reserve Component Division and member of the NHS Class of 1974.

The two had classes together in their high school days, and once Huggins saw that his former classmate was deployed to Camp Victory as well, he got in touch with McCullah over dinner.

"We got together at the chow hall to shoot the breeze and catch up on old times," Huggins said. But there was one more Viking out there.

While the two were catching up over dinner, Huggins relayed an interesting piece of

information to McCullah.

"Hey, did you know Mike Fant is here?" Huggins asked his former classmate.

"You've got to be joking me!" replied McCullah.

"No, I'm not. Matter of fact," Huggins grinned, pointed a finger and said, "there he goes right there!"

Col. Mike Fant, graduate from the NHS Class of 1975 and now the commander of the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., had just walked into the dining facility, Huggins explained.

Three former Vikings got together as Soldiers and finished their meals while chatting of life back then.

They had to go their separate ways, but not before a snapshot was taken of the three outside one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces.

Growing up, McCullah had lived down the road from Huggins. The former was a suburbanite, while the latter lived out in the country.

The two had class together off and on throughout their high school days, but because of the distance between their homes, they didn't spend much time together after school.

"I would get a little jealous sometimes because McCullah lived in town and could hang out with everybody after school," Huggins said. "We had horses and cattle and lots of other things to do after school. I don't consider them chores now and would love to go back to that life, but when I was

See **VIKINGS**, Page 4



Courtesy photo

From left to right: Col. Mike Fant, commander, 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., Col. James H. Huggins II, Multi-National Corps - Iraq inspector general, and Maj. Parris McCullah, MNC-I Reserve Component Division stay-behind equipment liaison officer, stand in front of the Al-Faw Palace. The three Soldiers are graduates of Northwest High School in Clarksville, Tenn.

# Camp Victory Boxing Club

## Presents Fight Night November

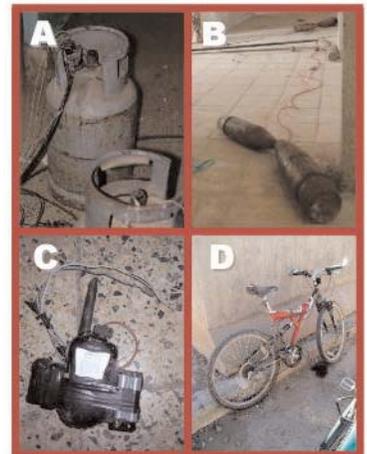
### Nov. 5, 2005 Camp Victory, Iraq

Boxers and Coaches Meeting  
4 p.m. Oct. 21 in Bldg. 124

Weigh in  
6 - 9 a.m. Nov. 4  
All fighters must weigh in

Contact Sgt. Rosado  
or Staff Sgt. Evans to sign up  
jamie.rosado@iraq.centcom.mil  
benjamin.evans@iraq.centcom.mil

### Find the potential Improved Explosive Device.



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



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.



**IRAQ REFERENDUM AND ELECTION INFORMATION SPOTLIGHT**

- IRAQ WILL BE HOLDING A NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION ON OCT. 15
- THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A NATIONAL ELECTION ON DEC. 15 TO ELECT A NEW IRAQI GOVERNMENT
- BOTH THE REFERENDUM AND THE ELECTION WILL BE RUN BY THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF IRAQ
- MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS - IRAQ WILL BE PROVIDING SUPPORT AT THE REQUEST OF THE IEIC IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A FREE AND FAIR IRAQ

**DEMOCRATIC TIMELINE**



If you have any questions regarding the Referendum Election then speak to your unit Public Affairs Officer.



**Schedule**

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



SSG St. Clair



PFC Clifton



LTC Konop

**This Week's Picks**

Colts	Colts	Colts
Steelers	Bengals	Steelers
Browns	Lions	Browns
Redskins	Redskins	Redskins
Packers	Packers	Packers
Chiefs	Chiefs	Dolphins
Saints	Saints	Rams
Eagles	Eagles	Eagles
Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks
Titans	Titans	Cardinals
Giants	Giants	Giants
Bears	Ravens	Bears
Bills	Raiders	Bills
Falcons	Falcons	Falcons

**Week Seven Bye Teams:**

Buccaneers, Jaguars, Panthers, Patriots

Last Week's Results:  
Overall:

11 - 3	10 - 4	9 - 5
49 - 39	46 - 42	48 - 40

**Notes**

After consecutive weeks with double digits in the win column, Staff Sgt. St. Clair has taken the lead, although conventional wisdom says holding the top spot is a harbinger of doom. St. Clair remains undaunted, however, since it's Seahawks-Cowboys this week in a matchup of 4 - 2s. Prediction: Seattle's gonna poke 'em in the eye with their eye-pokin' stick, 24 - 10. Pfc. Clifton bounced back from week five 3 - 11 Pick'em purgatory in fine fashion, although his Bengals are pretty much hosed now that their schedule has them playing teams who actually have a snowball's chance of making the playoffs (so far they've faced only one team above .500). This week's guest picker (and our first officer) is Lt. Col. David Konop, Multi-National Corps - Iraq operations section plans officer. If you think you have the skills to pay the bills, be a guest picker by calling 822-1414 or e-mailing mark.st.clair@iraq.centcom.mil.

**PRAYER**

of men. Continue to pray for Iraq. This nation that experienced the greatest turning to God in the history of humankind needs to submissively seek his will at this critical hour in its history."

Ullmann also believes that prayer has the power to change many things, including the current situation in Iraq and the future of its people.

"My understanding is that we are all children of God, and in my faith tradition God is a lover of mankind and desires what is ultimately best for the ones he loves," Ullmann said.

MacGregor said proof of God's love for mankind and his ability to affect nations can be found throughout the Bible.

"Perhaps Solomon understood it best in 2 Chronicles 7:14," MacGregor said. "When God appeared to him and declared, 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'

"Indeed," MacGregor added, "critical to the healing of Iraq is the establishment of a constitution that the majority of the people desire. This is their first taste of freedom and democracy in a lifetime. If it succeeds, the rule of law will determine the righteous judgment in the land, as opposed to the variety of opinions where everyone does what is right in their own eyes."

The service harkened back to the core principles of the U.S.

Constitution, such as freedom of religion. The faiths represented in the spectrum of the military were able to work together to benefit the Iraqi people, Ullmann said.

By bringing people of all faiths together in prayer for a common good, MacGregor believes a lot more can be accomplished than if everyone simply prays alone.

"Too often we offer shallow, simplistic, self-absorbed prayers where we are primarily interested in only that which will soothe and comfort us, and rarely do we give depth of thought and effort to what others may really need," MacGregor said.

By bringing people together in prayer, more people were praying for the same goal and not focusing on their own agendas, he said.

"By nature, we seek that which will salve our wounds and soothe our woes; rarely, do we stop to think and then to pray for others -- especially those who do not share our language, our culture, our history or even our religion," MacGregor said. "Corporate, intercessory prayer is so little practiced and yet so vital to the strength of nations and the general welfare of peoples.

"May God yet work wonders in this historic land where Adam and Eve tended Eden's Garden and where Father Abraham was born. Pray that this people may seek God's favor and be turned from death and destruction to pursue peace and harmony among its multitudes. Pray for God's best for Iraq, today." MacGregor added.



photo by Maj. Russ Goemaere/3rd Infantry Division PAO

An Iraqi man beams with victory moments after voting in Saturday's Constitutional Referendum election in the Tissa Nissan district of Baghdad.

## Voices of Victory: *What do you miss the most about being home?*



**"I miss cold milk because it's in a jug."**

Staff Sgt. Scotty Goodyear,  
squad leader,  
392nd Chemical Reconnaissance  
Company,  
Arkansas Army Reserve



**"I miss my wife because we have been married for 23 years."**

William Banks Jr.,  
senior service representative,  
MNC-I NBC



**"I miss having a healthier variety of food."**

Spc. Rebecca Ramirez,  
intelligence analyst,  
525th Military Intelligence  
Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

### 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 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.  
Eastern Orthodox services:

##### Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.  
Confession 5:30 p.m.  
Bible Study 7 p.m.

##### Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.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:

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

## CUSTOMS

customs inspectors. Troops of a certain rank and in certain units can become certified customs inspectors, said Kurtz.

Customs inspectors cannot inspect their own companies because it creates a conflict of interest, Kurtz said.

Col. Arnaldo Claudio, Multi-National Corps - Iraq provost marshal, has made customs a high priority, both to keep service members and civilians safe and to get inspections done in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

"We are not doing this to get people in trouble. We are doing this to follow General Order 1A and ensure the safety of others," Kurtz said.

An XVIII Airborne Corps asset may schedule an inspection by contacting the Corps Law and Order Office at (318) 822- 1635.

## VIKINGS

16 or 17, I'd grumble because Parris got to hang out with all our buddies."

While Huggins was two grades ahead of Fant, he didn't have much interaction with the youngest Viking. He remembers him now the same way he saw him in school.

"You meet him now, he's the same as he was," Huggins said. "He's quiet, and back then he just went to class and probably made straight-As."

After high school, Fant and McCullah both enlisted in the Army and later accepted commissions into the Army Officer Corps. Huggins attended the Reserve Officer Training Course at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1977.

Fant and McCullah had classes together while attending NHS, but neither had seen each other since high school, explained McCullah. He added that he was glad they've all had

the chance to get together now.

"It's good to see people you haven't seen in years," McCullah said. "It's kind of funny to see who looks older and who looks younger."

When asked who has aged the best, McCullah responded with a laugh.

"I'll get in trouble answering that one," he said.

Though the three have separate missions, they still try to see each other when they can.

"We catch each other off and on," Huggins said. "My weekly schedule is not the same as McCullah's or Fant's, and Fant is the hardest to track down since his brigade is spread all over the country, but I still see the guys around. It's good just knowing they are here. It gives a feeling of home."

All three still have family in the Clarksville area, and McCullah, a full-time Army National Guardsman, has a residence in his hometown.

## Victory MWR Events October 18 - 24

**Today:** Spades at 8 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.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 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.; Ultimate Frisbee coaches meeting at 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 51.

**Thursday:** Country Night at 7 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. Ping Pong tournament at 7 p.m.

**Friday:** *Freddy Vs Jason* Movie Marathon at 5 p.m. at Bldg. 124;

Salsa Lessons at 8 p.m., Latin Night at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Saturday:** College football at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.; Ultimate Frisbee tournament

**Sunday:** NFL football at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 124; NFL football at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Ultimate Frisbee tournament

**Monday:** Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes 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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