



Combat medics saving lives in Iraq

Pfc. Matthew Clifton

MNC-I PAO

When a platoon or squad goes outside the perimeter of its base in Iraq, danger is ever-present. The reality of an attack is constant, and so is the possibility of a Soldier becoming injured.

That is why there are combat medics.

"My job is to go out with the military police while they are on patrols and provide any medical assistance they might need if they come under fire," said Spc Donald King, combat medic, 617th Military Police Company, Kentucky Army National Guard. "It is my responsibility to treat the injured as quickly and effectively as possible."

Combat medics go through a 16-week Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where they learn the basics skills needed to provide fallen comrades with the first line of treatment necessary to ensure their survival.

"My situation was a little weird because I graduated high school, went to basic training, went to AIT and then came straight to Iraq," King said. "I guess it is kind of a plus because I put my training to use very soon after I had learned it."

King remembers the first time he ever had to put his combat medic skills to use. King deployed with the 617th in November 2004.

Shortly after the company landed in Iraq, they were out conducting patrols on the streets of Baghdad. A vehicle carrying three insurgents drove into King's convoy.

The vehicle was fired on, killing one of the insurgents and



courtesy photo

Whenever Coalition forces conduct combat operations or security patrols, danger is present. Combat medics are their best chance of survival if they are injured by insurgent attacks.

setting the car on fire. The other two insurgents fled from the flaming vehicle. One of King's fellow Soldiers was also injured.

King responded quickly by attending to the hurt Soldier, making sure he was evacuated, then tending to the wounded insurgents.

The Soldier, as well as the two insurgents, were evacuated to a hospital where they all survived the ordeal, he said.

Combat medics are trained to care for anyone who needs their help. Whether the injured person

"Every time I am able to get an injured person on to a chopper, I feel good knowing that I did what I could to save that person's life."

-- Spc Donald King, combat medic, 617th Military Police Company, Kentucky Army National Guard

is a Coalition service member, contractor, Iraqi civilian or an insurgent, a combat medic's job is to provide immediate care to those who need it, King said, adding that he never thinks about a person's innocence or guilt when reacting to situations. All he concentrates on is the type of medical attention that person needs.

"I remember when I was hit with an improvised explosive device," said Spc. Jason Simpson, combat medic, 617th MP Co. "I was on a convoy

when an IED exploded right outside of my door."

The whole left side of my body had contusions, but there were also two other Soldiers in the vehicle who needed attention. I was able to treat them and myself and get us evacuated.

"We all made full recoveries," he added.

The life of a combat medic is equally stressful and rewarding, King said.

"When I was at AIT, they told us injured people are 60 times more likely to survive an incident once they are evacuated to a hospital," King said. "Every time I am able to get an injured person on to a chopper, I feel good knowing that I did what I could to save that person's life."

The 617th has been in Iraq for nearly a year and is getting ready to return to the U.S. During his time in Iraq, King spent nearly every day outside of the wire ensuring the safety of his fellow Soldiers.

"I haven't been home in a long time, and while I have been away, I have done and seen some amazing things," King said. "In a sense I am glad I was here. I helped a lot of people who desperately needed it, and I like to think I did my part in contributing to our success in Iraq."

Dentists help troops focus on mission

Story, photo by Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth

MNC-I PAO

Having a sore tooth is the last thing a service member should be worried about when he is deployed; that's why one dental company from Germany provides full dental services to deployed Coalition troops on Victory Base Complex.

The 464th Dental Co., Lundstul, Germany, offers dental work not only to service members on the VBC, but to troops all over Iraq who cannot receive care on their bases.

"We often have troops making appointments from bases hours away from here because they can't get the care they need on their base. The resources just aren't there," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Roman, noncommissioned officer-in-

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Captain David Ciesla, left, dentist, 464th Dental Company, fixes a Soldier's cavity with the help of Sgt. Yoset Betancourt, dental assistant at the Camp Liberty Dental Clinic, which offers full dental services to deployed troops.



photo by Pfc. Matthew Clifton/MNC-I PAO

Engineering marvel

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Buxbaum (left), sergeant major, and Col. Thomas W. Kula, commander, 130th Engineer Brigade, uncase their brigade's colors during a transition of authority ceremony with Fort Bragg, N.C.'s 20th Eng. Bde. today at the Joint Visitors Bureau at Camp Victory.

DENTAL

charge, 464th Dental Co.

Some of the services the 464th offer are oral surgery, root canals, routine cleanings, dentures and crowns.

There are four dentists and 11 dental assistants on staff to ensure Soldiers' dental needs are taken care of.

"It's important to take care of Soldiers because a sore tooth can take their mind off of what's really important out here," Roman said. "Our goal is to get them out of pain so they can concentrate on the mission."

Although the 464th Dental Co. mainly sees patients who are in the military, they also see civilians who have been referred

by their dental clinic.

The process a patient goes through in Iraq is similar to any other dental clinic on a garrison post or in the civilian sector.

"Most of our patients come in during sick-call hours, and from there we do an exam, take x-rays and decide a course of action," said Sgt. Yoset Betancourt, dental assistant, 464th Dental Co.

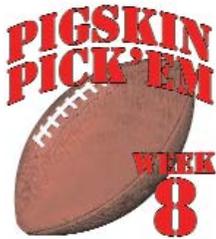
Good dental care is important but often overlooked when preparing for deployment.

"During the rush of getting ready to deploy, people forget about their teeth," Roman said. "That's why we offer a full-service dental clinic -- so people can get the care they need."



photo by Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth/MNC-I PAO

Captain David Ciesla, left, dentist, 464th Dental Company, provides a little Novocain to a Soldier while fixing a cavity with the help of Sgt. Yoset Betancourt, dental assistant at the Camp Liberty Dental Clinic.



Schedule

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



SSG St. Clair



PFC Clifton



CPT Vanschoyck

This Week's Picks

Browns
Packers
Cowboys
Bears
Titans
Giants
Jaguars
Panthers
Chiefs
Dolphins
Buccaneers
Broncos
Patriots
Steelers

Texans
Bengals
Cowboys
Bears
Titans
Redskins
Jaguars
Panthers
Chargers
Saints
Buccaneers
Broncos
Patriots
Steelers

Texans
Packers
Cowboys
Lions
Raiders
Giants
Rams
Panthers
Chargers
Saints
Buccaneers
Broncos
Patriots
Steelers

Week Eight Bye Teams:

Colts, Falcons, Jets, Seahawks

Last Week's Results:
Overall:

9 - 5
58 - 44

9 - 5
55 - 47

10 - 4
58 - 44

Notes

With the season nearing the halfway hump things seem to be evening out, and week seven saw the best overall effort so far. Staff Sgt. St. Clair and Pfc. Clifton posted 9 - 5s and were narrowly edged by the guests, meaning the guests and St. Clair are tied for first going into Halloween weekend. A slight nod is due Clifton, who only trails by three but whose Bengals -- as predicted -- played a decent team Sunday and therefore lost. St. Clair's Seahawks, on the other hand, pulled off a thriller at home vs. Dallas, scoring 10 points in the last 40 seconds to win 13 - 10. No, it wasn't the hoped-for eye-poking, but a win is a win is a win.

This week's guest picker is Capt. Kyle Vanschoyck, significant activities battle captain, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

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.



IRAQ REFERENDUM AND ELECTION INFORMATION SPOTLIGHT

Referendum and Election Media guidance

Do:

1. Follow your Unit Public Affairs Office media advice
2. Be helpful and courteous to the media
3. Refer any media enquiries up the chain of command

Don't:

1. Speak "off the record" to the media
2. Express any opinions on any particular candidate or party
3. Hinder authorized media access to polling sites

DEMOCRATIC TIMELINE



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

Voices of Victory: *What part of your training has helped you the most while deployed?*



"Training with different weapons systems because I had never worked with some of them before."

Sgt. Eric Carpio,
long range planning NCO,
43rd Military Police Brigade,
Task Force 134



"Basic combat training prepared me the most for this deployment because it taught me how to work with a team."

Spc. Dick Delvecchio,
combat photographer,
525th Military Intelligence
Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps



"Learning how to put in high accuracy reference points because that is what we will be doing over here."

Spc. Ashlei South,
topographic surveyor,
320th Engineer Company,
130th Engineer Brigade

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

Don't cut wires.



That's EODs job.



0052 IEDs KILL

The Camp Victory Post Office

is offering extended hours to facilitate redeploying troops.

**To take advantage of the extended hours,
units will need to contact
Sgt. 1st Class Bowie or Lt. Usher
at 822-2934 or 822-2925.**

**The goal is for units to come as a group
to mail belongings home instead of
crowding the post office during
normal operating hours.**

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.

Victory MWR Events October 25 - November 1

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.; Flag football coaches meeting at 6 p.m. in Bldg. 51.

Wednesday: Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Thursday: Country Night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; 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: Dawn of the dead 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.; Flag football league opens.

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.

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.

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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