



Victory Weekly



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telling the Camp Victory story

Nov. 15, 2005

Coalition safety conference held at Victory

First-time, Corps-sponsored event brings theater managers together to share knowledge, ideas

Pfc. Matthew Clifton

MNC-I PAO

Since January, 53 Coalition lives have been lost to vehicle rollover accidents. The number one cause of those accidents was speeding.

This statistic, and countless other pieces of Soldier-vital information, were discussed by more than 95 safety officers throughout Multi-National Corps-Iraq, including some civilian agencies and others from military organizations outside the Corps, during a theater-wide safety conference Nov. 8 at the Al-Faw Palace.

The conference was hosted by the MNC-I Safety Office, and was the first since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"MNC-I conducted a safety conference that allowed all of the safety managers throughout Iraq to come together in one location and be able to share ideas, lessons learned, things that work for them and things that don't work for them. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience out there," said David Martin, safety manager, MNC-I. "There was a lot of very useful dialogue that was exchanged between safety officers."

Presentations given by MNC-I to the attendees allowed them to see the big picture. The officers and managers from the major subordinate commands usually only see things that are specific to their units. They don't necessarily see trends that are already happening to others and could potentially happen to theirs, Martin said.

Among the topics discussed at the conference were weapons, ground and air safety.

"Preventing negligent discharges is the goal when discussing weapons safety, and the problem with our figures on negligent discharges is the safety office only has vision on negligent discharges that result in injury or damage to property. Honestly, we don't have a good picture on them," Martin said. "There are a significant number of



Out of 133 fatalities since the beginning of January, 64 of those were from vehicle accidents. Forty percent of all vehicle accidents were rollovers, resulting in 53 fatalities.

negligent discharges happening throughout Iraq that are not getting reported."

Ways to prevent negligent discharges are through weapons discipline, training, rehearsals and leaders physically checking Soldiers to make sure they can properly clear the weapons systems they are operating. It is important to know how to perform all functions of a weapons system and to rehearse those functions at least once a week. Practice, practice and more practice, Martin said.

A large part of the air safety portion of the conference was unmanned aerial vehicles.

"As the aviation safety manager for MNC-I, I am responsible for everything from helicopters to UAVs," said Rich Eppler. "At the conference, one of my main focuses was UAVs.

"I talked to the group regarding the UAV safety issues we have been having in Iraq. The problem we have been having with UAVs has been an increase in human error accidents. We analyze the information that comes in on the accident reports and disseminate our findings to the units."

The problem is a training issue. The training for UAVs is still new, and the Army is still developing training systems. Another issue is that control of UAVs has moved from the Military Intelligence Branch to the Aviation Branch of the Army, Eppler said.

The goal is to inject aviation standards into the UAV program, which will have a marked improvement on standardization and training throughout the community.

All the other aircraft are meeting the norm for

Safety Spotlight:

- Leaders must always enforce standards.
- Seatbelts are the standard.
- Adjust vehicle speed to road conditions.
- Maintain strict weapons discipline.
- Be aware of safety hazards around you and your buddy.

accident causation. Of all the accidents caused, 81 percent were caused by human error, 16 percent were material and six percent were undetermined.

As far as increasing safety awareness, the systems and programs are out there to mitigate these issues. It is just a matter of recurring training -- primarily crew coordination training, Eppler said.

The Army has recently mandated aircrews to go through reinforcement training and evaluation annually, Eppler said.

When focusing on ground safety at the conference, vehicle safety issues were stressed.

Improvements are being made to the Humvee, including a single-movement combat lock, an advanced communication system, new seat belts, a fire suppression system and restraints for the gunner, Martin said.

As well as talking about vehicles and weapons,



The safety conference held in the Al-Faw Palace Nov. 8 was designed to help safety officers in Iraq develop ways to reduce in-theater accidental injuries and deaths.

Corps signal command transfers from 35th to 22nd

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

The 35th Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., handed over command responsibilities in Iraq to the 22nd Sig. Bde., V Corps, Hoescht, Germany, in a transfer of authority ceremony Wednesday, at Building 43 at Camp Victory.

More than 100 service members stood at attention as Command Sgt. Maj. James Jordan, sergeant major, and Col. Bryan Ellis, commander, 35th Sig. Bde., cased their colors and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Clark, sergeant major, and Col. Frederick Cross, commander, 22nd Sig. Bde., uncased theirs.

"Many people have played an integral part in our success in the past year," Ellis said. "While deployed, we have successfully introduced and used new technology that has been a key to the fight."

Most 35th Soldiers measure their success by what they have done for the Iraqi people during the past



Command Sgt. Maj. James Jordan (left), sergeant major, and Col. Bryan Ellis, commander, 35th Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., case their unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Wednesday.

year, such as contributing to the success of Iraq's elections and the drafting of their constitution, Ellis said.

Thanks to the 35th, with the help of other units and contractors, the Coalition has been successful in running the most complex communications system throughout Iraq, said Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander, Multi-National Corps -

Iraq. Vines was the guest speaker for the ceremony.

"To all of the warriors in the 35th, I want to say well done," Vines said. "To the 22nd who are returning: it is great to have you back."

The 22nd Sig. Bde. is starting its second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom after having deployed the first

time in March 2003.

"The 22nd is fully prepared to assume our wartime mission," said Cross. "I want to thank the 35th for their warm reception, and our goal is to improve upon the success of the 35th Signal Brigade."

It is a different fight and a different enemy. Soldiers must be ready to engage at all times, Vines said.

"Many people may think that the threat of Islamic Jihadists started with the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center," Vines said. "In fact, the threat started at least 25 years ago ... we are facing a global problem," Vines said. "We must have the courage and commitment to conquer it."

It doesn't matter when the threat started. It only matters that the threat is recognized, and the Coalition is committed to the elimination of that threat, Vines added.

"When we get back to Fort Bragg, our thoughts and prayers will be with all of the Soldiers who continue to fight here," Ellis said. "We will also continue to remember and honor those Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

Troops gather in Al-Faw Palace to observe Veterans Day

Story, photo by Sgt. David Foley
MNC-I PAO

Hundreds of Coalition service members gathered in the Al-Faw Palace ballroom Nov. 11 for a Veterans Day observance ceremony held in honor of past and present service members from around the globe.

The holiday, which was originally observed as Armistice Day, began in 1919 as a way to celebrate the Treaty of Versailles, the final peace treaty between Allied Forces and Germany during WWI, which was signed on Nov. 11, 1918. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States, signed legislation on June 1, 1954, changing the name to Veterans Day, a national holiday that has been observed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month ever since.

"The tradition of the Soldier began at Lexington Green, where Jonas Parker and 74 cornered Minutemen stood up in

the face of 600 hardened British Regulars," said Multi-National Corps -- Iraq Commander Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, as he addressed the service members at the ceremony. "As the British soldiers raised their weapons, Capt. Parker ordered, 'Don't fire unless fired on, but if they want a war, let it begin here.'"

"Those colonial Soldiers died that day at Lexington," Vines said. "But they died for an idea -- the idea that they could form their own nation; a nation unlike any other.

"Since then, generations have worn the uniform and fought on both domestic and foreign soil," he said. "Our veterans crouched in the trenches of Europe, scaled the Italian Alps, waded ashore on the beaches of Normandy, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, the Balkans, Somalia and Afghanistan.

While looking back at those who have given so much in the name of freedom, Vines somberly pointed out Soldiers who have given everything in



Hundreds of service members watch a patriotic video during a Veterans Day observance ceremony Nov. 11 in the Al-Faw Palace

the War on Terror.

"Soldiers represent what is good and right about our nation," Vines added. "Soldiers like Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith, the recipient of the first Medal of Honor in the War on Terrorism, ... and Capt. Kimberly Hampton."

Smith made the ultimate sacrifice a few hundred meters from Al-Faw palace when he "fought against overwhelming

odds and died saving the lives of fellow Soldiers," Vines said somberly. "Hampton, the student body president at her high school, was killed when the Kiowa Warrior helicopter she was flying was shot down in the skies over Afghanistan. Hampton was so loved by the people of her hometown that her funeral was not held in a chapel



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

DEMOCRATIC TIMELINE



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

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

REMEMBRANCE

but a football stadium, to accommodate the overwhelming number of family friends and admirers.

While many might think the U.S. is the only country to honor veterans on this day, many of our allies place the day in high regard for the same reasons.

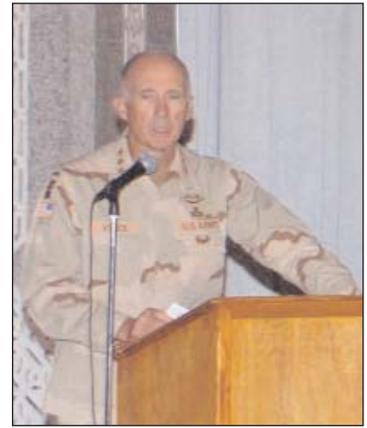
About 100 Australian service members attended the ceremony, which represented Remembrance Day in their country, each wearing a poppy flower tucked gingerly into their lapels. The flowers represent all the lives that have been lost on the battlefield.

The correlation between the poppy and fallen Soldiers dates back to the Napoleonic Wars, when an unnamed writer exclaimed, "Fields that were barren before battle exploded with the blood-red flowers after the fighting ended."

The poppy's symbolism was cemented in Australian culture after WWI because of an anomaly that occurred as a result of extensive bombing campaigns.

During WWI, the chalk soils became rich in lime from the rubble of bombed-out buildings, allowing the poppy flower to thrive. When the war ended, the lime was quickly absorbed, and the poppy began to disappear again.

Since 1921, wearing a poppy has enabled Australians to show they have not forgotten



photos by Sgt. David Foley/MNC-I PAO

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg N.C., and Multi-National Corps - Iraq, speaks to service members during a Veterans Day observance ceremony Friday.

the Australian servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts during the past 100 years.

"More than 420,000 Australians volunteered for service in World War I. Of these, 350,000 served overseas and more than 60,000 were killed, including 45,000 who died on the Western Front in France and Belgium and more than 8,000 who died on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey," said Australian Commodore Geoffrey A. Ledger, commanding officer, Joint Task Force 633.

It is important to remember the sacrifices these service members made, he said.



Schedule

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

Last Week's Results:
Overall: 87 - 57



SSG St.Clair PFC Clifton SSG Banks

This Week's Picks

Giants	Giants	Giants
Rams	Rams	Cardinals
Patriots	Patriots	Patriots
Redskins	Raiders	Redskins
Steelers	Steelers	Steelers
Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars
Buccaneers	Falcons	Falcons
Panthers	Panthers	Bears
Dolphins	Dolphins	Browns
Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks
Chargers	Chargers	Chargers
Broncos	Broncos	Jets
Colts	Bengals	Colts
Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs
Packers	Packers	Vikings

10 - 4 11 - 3 9 - 5
87 - 57 83 - 61 85 - 59

Notes

Week 10's big winner was Pfc. Clifton, who's slowly but surely climbing out his hole. If his Bengals can manage just two more wins, they will have their first winning season in 16 years (or since Clifton was five years old). They managed to beat the last team who started 9 - 0. Should Indy worry? Staff Sgt. St.Clair's lead over the guests was extended by one thanks to a Dallas Monday Night upset win over Philly, and the now 7 - 2 Seahawks have both a stranglehold on the NFC West with a season sweep of division rival St. Louis, and a possible MVP candidate in TB Shaun Alexander, who with 165 yards and 3 TDs this week, is leading the league in rushing. This week's guest picker is Staff Sgt. Marvin Banks, communications team leader, Company A, 280th Signal Battalion. Don't be scurred! You know you want to be a guest picker, so pick up that phone or mouse today! 822-1414 or mark.st.clair@iraq.centcom.mil.



Members of the Hard Corps Chorale, a volunteer choir comprised of service members assigned to Multi-National Corps - Iraq, sing *The Armed Forces Medley* during Friday's Veterans Day observance ceremony.

Voices of Victory: *What is your favorite Morale, Welfare and Recreation event or activity?*



"I love to go to Salsa Night. I go every week."

Kristine Dudure, subcontractor, Army and Air Force Exchange Service



"I haven't been here that long, so I don't know yet."

Sgt. Monica Estrada, Communications NCO, 49th MP Bde, California Army National Guard



"I like playing pool, but I think MWR has plenty of good options for Soldiers to relieve stress."

Sgt. Mark R. Hall, signal team chief, Company B, 440th Signal Battalion, Darmstadt, Germany

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



SAFETY

conference members discussed accident statistics.

Since January, there have been 1,435 ground accidents. March had the highest number of accidents with 161, and vehicle accidents accounted for 47 percent of those, Martin said.

Out of 133 fatalities since the beginning of January, 64 of those were vehicle accidents. Forty percent of those accidents were rollovers.

"A challenge was given during the conference for units to reduce their total accidents by 50 percent by this time next year. Each major subordinate command

and separate brigade will soon receive a letter from us, charging them with reducing their accidents," Martin said. "If we can get every major subordinate command and separate brigade to reduce their accidents by 50 percent, we will obviously reduce our overall casualty rate and save Soldier's lives."

Leader involvement is vital to the success of any safety program. There should be a safety officer assigned to every unit and section. Leader involvement will prevent unnecessary accidents, Martin said.

Victory Weekly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to mark.st.clair@iraq.centcom.mil. We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

Victory MWR Events November 15 - 21

- Today:** Spades Tournament 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.; Volleyball coaches meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 124.
- Wednesday:** Chess tournament at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.; Soccer coaches meeting at 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 51.
- Thursday:** Country Night at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; RISK tournament at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.
- Friday:** Comedy Movie marathon at 5 p.m. in Bldg. 124;
- 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:** Hip Hop night at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 124; 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.; Soccer tournament, Volleyball 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.; Turkey Trot at 6 a.m. at Bldg. 51.
- Monday:** MVP baseball at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; 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 Public Affairs Officer: Col. Billy J. Buckner
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. John E. Brenici
MNC-I Production Chief: Staff Sgt. Mark St.Clair
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