



Victory Weekly



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telling the Camp Victory story

Dec. 27, 2005

Soldiers make most of holiday season

**Story and photo by
Pfc. Mark B. Matthews
MNC-I PAO**

As service members and civilians endure the separation from friends and family members back home during this holiday season they can rest assured that dinner will be served.

A special Christmas lunch and dinner was served at both the Coalition Café and the Sports Oasis here.

Lunch was served and service members had many traditional foods to choose from like candied yams, turkey, dressing, ham and shrimp. For those who missed lunch or just couldn't get enough the first time around a special dinner was served as well.

Food seemed to be a welcomed shortcut to morale even though it would never be able to replace home cooking it was still a nice change.

Although most service members did not have the luxury of being in the presence of family during the holiday season, they agree that having their friends around makes the holidays away much more bearable.

"Being able to be with my buddies during Christmas helps a lot," said Pfc. Ander Bishop, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Airborne Corps. "They're a bunch of good guys."

Some service members who were separated from family took matters into their own hands.

If they couldn't be with their real families they would surround themselves with the next best thing.

"If you have people that you really care about around you, they become your seregate family," said Maj. Taina Delaney, Multi



The Sports Oasis was filled with service members and civilians who were hungry for a good Christmas dinner.

National Corps - Iraq. "You learn to adapt and make the most of the situation."

Service members seemed to appreciate the thought that went into making the Christmas lunch and dinner happen.

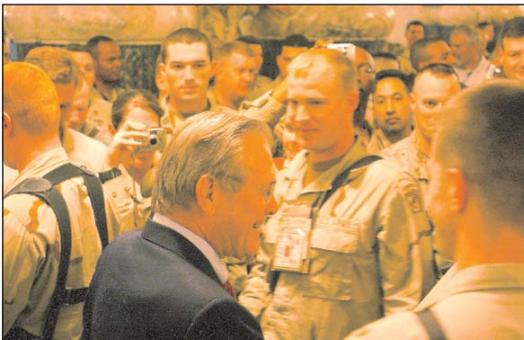
Even though this Christmas may not be the most comfortable, service members still continue to bring stability to a country that next Christmas may be able to celebrate it's own holiday season in peace.

Secretary visits troops, checks progress

**Story and photos by Cpl. Laura E. Ruscio
MNC-I PAO**

The Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld, met with U.S. senior officials at the Multi-National Force - Iraq headquarters in the Al-Faw Palace Dec. 22.

After conducting a private meeting with



The Secretary of Defense took a moment to greet troops before departing the palace.

MNF - I Commander Gen. George W. Casey and the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, all three addressed assembled press and troops.

"Merry Christmas. I am very proud to see so many of the troops who are doing such a wonderful job for our country, for the world and especially for the Iraqi people," Rumsfeld said.

"The opportunity for me to come back and get an update on the progress of Iraq and the U.S. military enables me to look back and appreciate the impressive accomplishments that have been achieved."

After thanking the troops for their sacrifices and dedication to the mission in Iraq, the



The Secretary of Defense, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and the MNF-I commanding general were surprised by the amount of troops waiting to greet them Dec. 22.

officials took a moment to personally greet service members and pose for a few one-on-one pictures before leaving the palace for the evening.

Soldiers give Hawaiian goodbye

Story and photos by
Pfc. Mark B. Matthews
MNC-I PAO

Of all the nationalities and cultures that make up the U.S. military, few are as colorful and vibrant as the Hawaiians, and a few Soldiers found a way to bring a little of that culture to everyone.

Soldiers with the 29th Brigade Combat Team put on a hula halau show at the Al-Faw Palace Ballroom on Camp Victory Dec. 26.

The show was put on as a fare well to the 29th BCT, and being that these Soldiers will soon be re-deploying, the morale among the unit was already high. However, being able to perform seemed to lift both the performers and the audience's spirits a little higher.

The group has been performing and practicing together since April and have put on many performances since then. Both the band and the dancers volunteered their free time to practice, and it seemed to pay off in the end.

"It's great to see these Soldiers

perform and bring our culture to other people in the military," said Spc. Vincent Gonzales, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 29th Brigade Combat Team.

"In Hawaii we have what we call the spirit of aloha. Aloha meaning love, and these Soldiers performing gave them a chance to share that spirit with others."

The Hawaiian Soldiers performed for a full house and the ballroom was standing room only. Although the members in the group may have been a bit nervous, it seemed as if having the chance to perform one last time for service members in Iraq was worth it.

"It's awesome to be part of a group like this," said Sgt. Lorinda Ballesteros, medic with the 29th BCT.

"It's our culture, and it's great to be able to have the opportunity to share that with other people one last time while we are here."



Prior to to beginning the show, Soldiers from the 29th Brigade Combat Team took the stage and led everyone in the National Anthem.

At the end of the show the dancers and band were met with an uproar of applause and praise, but as much as everyone liked the show the Soldiers from the 29th BCT who showed up to watch and support their co-workers felt like they were at home already.

"It brings up the morale, especially for Soldiers from Hawaii," said Ballesteros. "When we sing

these songs it brings them back home and keeps them happy."

The 29th BCT is scheduled to re-deploy in January. As they return home they can leave with thought that their culture has spread beyond the island of Hawaii and into the hearts and minds of everyone who has had a chance to see them perform during the past year.



After the ladies performed, it was time for the guys to come out and dance. This hula dance tells a story of when they were younger and the things they did.



The ladies performed hula dances as the band played and sang songs from their island of Hawaii.

West LSA fire station officially opens for business

Story and photo by
Cpl. Laura E. Ruscio
MNC-I PAO

The West Logistics Support Area firefighters and guests gathered Dec. 20 for a ceremony to recognize the opening of their new fire station and home.

Amongst the guests was the Camp Liberty governor, Lt. Col. Dewey Granger.

Before joining the assistant fire chief for the official ribbon cutting, Granger said, "Firefighters

add a measure of force protection and are invaluable to our Soldiers."

"My Soldiers and I are proud to serve with [firefighters]. They are supporting our troops and making this a safer living and working environment."

After Granger thanked the firefighters for their selfless sacrifices, the assistant fire chief, David Harris, reminisced about the events leading up to the opening of their new station, which will also be their home, and gave

advice for the days to follow.

"Don't give up, don't ever give up! Your dreams and goals depend on that spirit," he said. "This fire station was built with those words in mind and will provide a base and home for our firefighters who are *protecting those who protect freedom.*"

After the closing remarks, Granger and Harris cut a ribbon that signified the official opening of the station and raised the firefighters' flag.



The Camp Liberty governor joined the assistant fire chief for the ribbon cutting Dec. 20.



Schedule

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

Last Week's Results:
Overall: 149 - 91



SSG St. Clair



PFC Clifton



SPC Crisp

This Week's Picks

Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Chargers
Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants
Dolphins	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots
Bills	Bills	Bills	Jets
Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers
Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers
Browns	Ravens	Ravens	Browns
Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Falcons
Colts	Colts	Colts	Colts
Bengals	Bengals	Bengals	Bengals
Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks
Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Titans
Texans	49ers	49ers	Texans
Redskins	Redskins	Redskins	Redskins
Bears	Bears	Bears	Vikings
Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys

9 - 7
149 - 91

6 - 10
141 - 99

9 - 7
150 - 90

Notes

Here it is. Week 17. It's still anyone's guess who the winner will be, but based on last week's score, it sure as heck won't be Pfc. Clifton and his get-stomped-by-the-lowly-Bills Bengals. The Pick'em staff thinks he stopped caring since he was going home the day after Christmas.

It's unfortunate that we won't be able to continue through the playoffs, but it's either that or not redeploy. We've decided on door number one. Besides, it's almost a foregone conclusion that Super Bowl XL's champions are going to be the Seattle Seahawks. They're tied for the best record in the league @ 13 - 2, and we heard the Devil had a white Christmas.

Our last guest picker is Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp, photojournalist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XVIII Airborne Corps.

Tune in one last time next week to see the final score, and hopefully you won't see us back here next year!

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

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

Voices of Victory: What is your New Year's resolution for 2006?



"My New Year's resolution is to spend more time building people up and less time worrying about stuff that goes wrong."

Shari Westen
contractor
SAIC



"My New Year's resolution is to quit smoking cigarettes."

Staff Sgt. Allen Lardell
intel analyst
200th Engineer Battalion



"My only New Year's resolution is to quit cursing because it just isn't right."

Sgt. Junias Jackson
cable section chief
72nd Integrated Theater Signal Bn.

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

What you don't see could kill you.

Look for secondary explosive devices.

0002 IEDs KILL

KEEP IT LOCKED ON...
Freedom Radio

Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Ali Base	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Ar Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	93.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Balad	107.3 FM	Tal Afar	107.3 FM
Fallujah	105.1 FM	Taqgadum	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

Victory MWR Events for December 27 - January 2

Today: Ping Pong Tournament at Bldg. 51; Spades Tournament at Bldg 124 at 8 p.m.; At the Gym: Tae Kwon Do from 6 - 7 p.m. and Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Bit Whist Tournament at Bldg. 51; Dominoes Tournament at Bldg 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5-6:30 a.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m

Thursday: Country Night 8 p.m. Bldg. 124; 8-Ball at Bldg 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m .

Friday: Latin Dance Night at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 51; First run movies at Bldg 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m.

and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7 - 9 p.m.

Saturday: New Years Party at Bldg 124; College Football 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 Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Self Defense from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m..

Monday: Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and 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

27th PAD NCOIC: Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer K. Yancey
MNC-I Production Chief: Cpl. Laura E. Ruscio
Victory Weekly Staff writer: Pfc. Mark B. Matthews

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