



Victory Weekly



Vol. 2, Issue 1

telling the Camp Victory story

Jan. 3, 2006

Camp Victory brings in new year

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

As one year came to an end, another one began, and although there was no ball dropping and Dick Clark was nowhere to be seen, troops on Camp Victory found a way to celebrate the New Year with the help of a few special guests.

American Idol finalist Diana DeGarmo, comedian Reggie McFadden, Medal of Honor recipient Col. (Ret.) Jack Jacobs and the top new country artist of 1997 Michael Peterson paid troops at Camp Victory a visit and helped bring in the new year at the United Service Organization's New Year's Eve Show Saturday.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, took time before and after the show to meet with the troops and kicked the show off by offering a few words of praise to the men and women serving overseas.

"The progress in Iraq has been startling over the past year," Pace said. "No matter what we have asked you to do, you have done it with enormous integrity, professionalism, and we thank you for that."

This USO show has traveled throughout the-



American Idol finalist Diana DeGarmo performed for the troops of Camp Victory and gave them a chance to perform by holding a dance competition on stage.

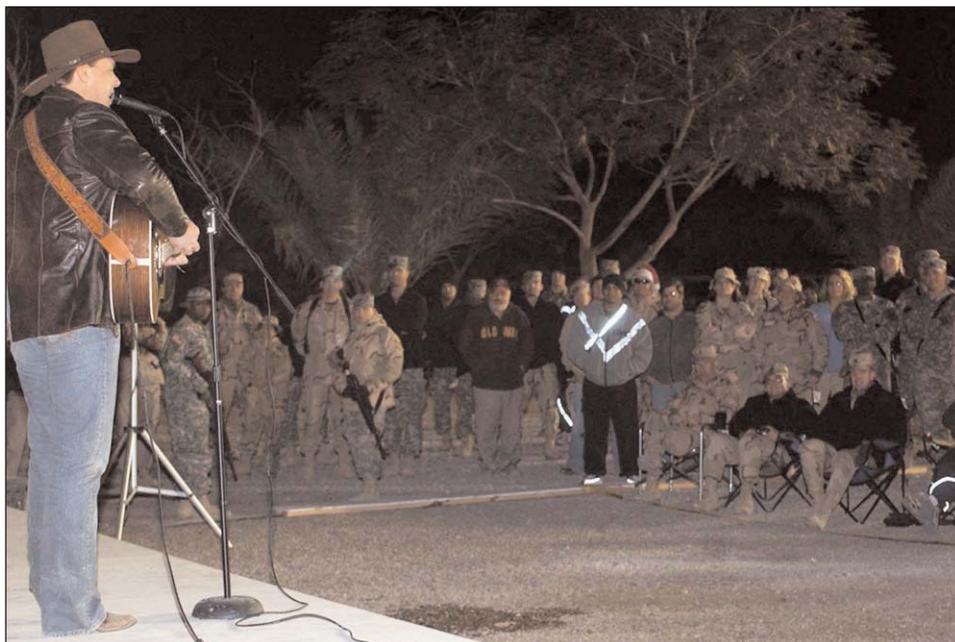
ater, but to the performers the Camp Victory show may stand out from the others.

"The troops here are definitely a very excited group of people," DeGarmo said. "I think the Camp Victory troops have won the title for the loudest group of people we have performed for out here."

The show offered something for everyone to

enjoy. Singing, humor and history were just a few of the guests' talents. After the show the guests took time to take pictures and sign autographs with the troops.

The concert was a way for service members to relax, bring in the New Year the best way possible, and to give morale a head start for 2006.



Country music artist of the year Michael Peterson entertained troops of Camp Victory Saturday with humorous spinoffs to some popular country songs.



Comedian Reggie McFadden gave the troops at Camp Victory a little something to laugh at during the USO Show at Victory Stage Saturday.

Engineer battalion says goodbye to Victory

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

As operations in Iraq continue into a new year, many changes are expected. As the newly appointed Iraqi government forms and the streets continue to improve, some Soldiers' missions here are complete while others are just beginning.

At a Transfer of Authority ceremony the reigns were handed over from the 200th Engineer Battalion to the 115th Engineer Battalion behind the Joint Visitors' Bureau Tuesday.

Both battalions have very rich histories and have served in many other operations. The 200th Eng. Bn., a National Guard unit from Linden, Ala., has served in Southwest Asia, Saudi Arabia and in the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Cease Fire.

The 115th Eng. Bn. was consti-

tuted in 1920 and served in many campaigns world wide including World War II, Bismarck-Archipelago, the Southern Philippines and Luzon.

Since they arrived in Iraq in February 2005, the 200th Eng. Bn. has had a very successful tour. Although they are all very excited to be going home, they will miss the friendships they have established during the past year.

"We are all looking forward to going home, but at the same time we are a bit saddened because as we leave, we leave a lot of friends here," said Lt. Col. James E. Porter Jr., outgoing commander. "We have all shared anxieties and accomplishments together as well as having grown together as professionals."

The 200th Eng. Bn. accomplished many missions during its time here. However, one achievement seems to stand out among all the others.



The 200th Engineer Battalion cases its colors in a Transfer of Authority ceremony Tuesday.

"The 200th Eng. Bn. has trained over 200,000 Soldiers both here in Iraq and in Kuwait on explosive hazards awareness training," said Col. William H. Haight III, Multi-National Corps - Iraq C7 director. "These Soldiers were constantly on the road logging thousands of combat patrol hours in some of the most dangerous areas of Iraq and did so without a single death

or serious incident."

As Soldiers from the 115th Eng. Bn. move into position and prepare to take over the mission, they all seem to understand that they all have some big shoes to fill.

"The 200th Eng. Bn. has just done a terrific job," said Lt. Col. John P. Moore, incoming commander. "They have truly set the standard."

Corps troops hope for best, prepare for worst

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

As service members we are taught to always be prepared for the unexpected. Soldiers, with assistance from civilian rescue workers, from 18th Airborne Corps tested their ability to respond to a large-scale attack during a mass casualty exercise Friday.



Camp Victory firefighters work to save a Soldier during the simulated attack at the Coalition Cafe.

"It is important to always be prepared. These exercises remind us of our surroundings and the dangers we face," said Spc. Derrick Moore, Task Force Dragon motorpool.

After receiving emergency calls stating that a simulated attack had occurred at Camp Victory's Coalition Café dining facility, the emergency workers quickly responded in an attempt to secure the site and save the lives of the "injured" Soldiers.

The troops treated the simulated attack as if it were very real. Everything from communicating with the medical evacuation personnel across theater to controlling the onlookers was successfully executed.

Even though the troops encountered injuries ranging from fractured legs to open abdominal wounds and fatalities, they showcased their ability to rise above the chaos and respond in a timely and accurate manner.

"The troops have done an excellent job at executing not only this mission, but previous missions as well," said Col. Richard Hooker, Task Force Dragon brigade commander.

This mass casualty exercise was among a series that have taken place throughout 2005, and many will continue to occur to ensure



Soldiers load a simulated casualty into an ambulance during the exercise Friday.

service members are aware of the potential dangers they face while serving in a combat environment.

MNC-I CG reflects on past year, glances into 2006

By Senior Airman Chris Powell
MNC-I PAO

As the last hours of 2005 ticked away, Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, the Multi-National Corps Iraq commanding general, spoke of the events of the year 2005 to service members at the Al-Faw Palace.

The general touched on topics ranging from the Iraqi national election in January to the constitutional referendum in October and the recent trial of Saddam Hussein. He stressed it was service men and women who have made the war a success thus far, and it's their duty to give an honest assessment of the current situation to citizens back home.

"The men and women at the point of the spear have done everything we could possibly ask of them," he said.

As the threat to Coalition Forces evolved during the tenure of the Corps, the Corps changed its tactics to meet current and emerging threats. "Our services have made an astonishing change to the force structure in terms of equipment and technology to address the [improvised explosive device] threat. In 2003, there were only about 240 [up-armored] vehicles worldwide. Now we have more than 18,000 in theater."

The general also recognized the Coalition's ability to sustain 13,000 logistical convoys,

transporting millions of gallons of fuel all while traveling great distances over terrible terrain and also the abilities of the medical specialties operating within theater.

"Coalition Forces as well as our Iraqi counterparts have had the best medical care possible. The result is that we have the lowest died-of-wounds ratio in history," Vines explained.

But by fighting to do all these things, Coalition Forces paid a heavy price, he noted.

"Over 2,000 caskets have been loaded onto aircraft headed home. Many of the casualties have been borne by our coalition members," Vines said. "There are many other sacrifices by family members, spouses, children and other loved ones. Ultimately, it's not about anything other than young men and women who have the courage and commitment to execute their nation's will."

Although attacks aren't as high as previous years, the general said we still face an everyday danger.

"The number of incidents is going down. However, we cannot become complacent. When we see 50 attacks per day instead of 70, it still means that 50 times there were attacks against the Coalition, ISF or Iraqi civilians.

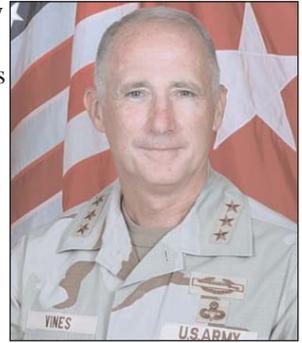
While Coalition Forces bore the brunt of the casualties, he acknowledged the ever-growing

sacrifices made by the Iraqi Security Forces. "There has been an enormous sacrifice among the ISF," Vines said. "They continue to take a greater role in the security of Iraq, and these forces are also taking an increasing percentage of the casualties."

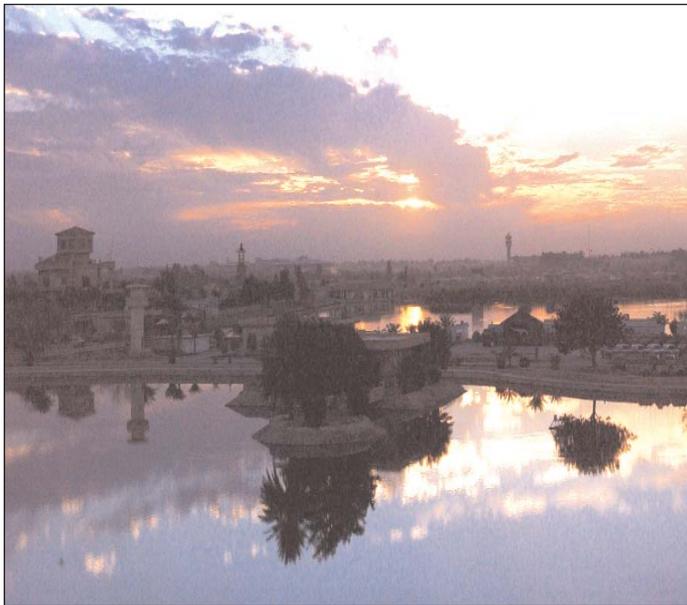
Currently, 80 percent of operations include the Iraqi Security Forces, and they have shown they are capable, Vines said.

"It's good to have all these things happening : 112 battalions in the field, borders re-established, [Al-Qaeda in Iraq] in disarray and three national elections and referendums," Vines said. "There is no absolute guarantee it will succeed, because that depends on the type of government that will arise. It cannot be about sects or clans, but about Iraqis. Only a government for all Iraqis can succeed."

He concluded by saying, "I tell you this because I believe you owe your fellow citizens an honest appraisal – your own opinion. That's mine. I am proud of you and what you have done for your nation."



Lt. Gen. John R. Vines



by Cpl. Laura E. Ruscio

Another day in paradise

The sun sets on Camp Victory signifying another successful day for U.S. and Coalition troops as they continue to strive for freedom and democracy in Iraq.



**Drinking ALCOHOL is a
VIOLATION of
GENERAL ORDER ONE!!**

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 would you like to see happen for the Iraqi people during 2006?*



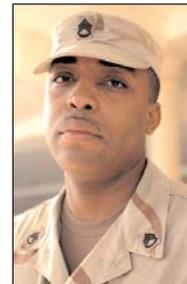
"I would really like to see more of them get jobs. I work with a bunch of Iraqi plumbers and carpenters and they do great work."

Sybral Farris
civilian contactor
Corps of Engineers



"I think the Iraqi people should take charge and establish a stable government for their people."

Sgt. Dinat Lovelace
IS commo
200th Engineer Battalion.



"It would be great to see the Iraqi children be able to experience a better life and for all the Iraqi people to experience freedom."

Staff Sgt. Anthony Mills
Information Management Officer
200th Engineer Battalion

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

Collect evidence;

not souvenirs.

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**MNC-I Equal Opportunity/
Human Relations Presents
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Luncheon
Celebrating A Day On, Not
A Day Off
16 January 2006 12 - 1 p.m.
Al Faw Palace Ballroom
RSVP for all CSM/06 and above NLT
13 January @ 822-3545
orvie.baker@iraq.centcom.mil**

Victory MWR Events for January 3 - 9

Today: Ping Pong Tournament at Bldg. 51; Dominoes 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: Spades Tournament at Bldg. 51; Ping Pong 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; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Sambo/Ju-Jitsu from 9 - 10 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: Soccer Tournament (Friday - Sunday); First-run Movies at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Sunday: Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124 and Bldg. 51 at 8 p.m.; At the Gym: Sambo/Ju-Jitsu from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9:30 p.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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