



Victory Times



Vol. II, Issue 4

telling the Camp Victory story

Jan. 24, 2006

MNC-I transfers authority to Task Force Victory

Story by Sgt. Joe M. Battle

MNC-I PAO

Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli accepted authority as the commander of the Multinational Corps – Iraq from Lt. Gen. John R. Vines in a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Victory Thursday.

Vines served as the commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, N.C., before replacing Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz as the MNC-I commander in 2005. From Iraq, Vines will return to his previous position as commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps in Fort Bragg.

Chiarelli comes to the MNC-I from his position as the Task Force Victory commander from Heidelberg, Germany.

During the ceremony, Gen. George W. Casey, commanding general, Multinational Forces-Iraq, commented on the changes of Iraq during Vines's command of the MNC-I.

"It's been a pretty amazing year for the multinational corps," said Casey.

"If you think about where you were and what you were thinking about Iraq on the 19th of January last year, I think you'll admit that the prospects of completing three national polls and building the security forces to well over 200,000 might of looked dim to you."

"But the fact of the matter is, over the course of 2005, the people of Iraq have had three national polls," he added. "And in each case, the participation has gotten greater and violence got lower."

"I attribute that, in large measure, to the spirit of teamwork and partnership between the multinational corps, multinational force, the Iraqi security force and the government of

Iraq," said Casey.

"To the departing Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines of the 18th Airborne Corps – well done."

Casey also welcomed the incoming MNC-I commander and expressed his gratitude to the



photo by Pfc. Sean C. Finch

Gen. George W. Casey(right), commanding general, Multinational Force-Iraq, passes the MNC-I colors to Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, commanding general, Task Force Victory during the MNC-I transfer of authority ceremony on Camp Victory Thursday.

families of the Soldiers who were a part of the MNC-I for the past year.

"My thanks to the families of the multinational corps," said Casey.

"We couldn't do what we do here, without your support and we thank you for your daily sacrifices in our behalf."

"The year 2005 was a historic time in an ancient land," said Vines during his farewell speech. "Although, history is ancient here, a new history began in 2005 as Iraq chose its own government, wrote its own constitution and decided who would lead it into a new era."

Vines also addressed the recently arrived troops who will replace the XVIII Airborne Corps.

"We will return to friends, family and loved ones," said Vines. "But we will never forget you, we will never forget Iraq, we will never forget what has happened here and we will say a prayer for you, those of us that pray; we will say a prayer for your safety, peace, and success because much rides on this."

"This transfer of authority demonstrates the commitment of the United States to our coalition allies and to the people of Iraq as we continue to partner in every aspect and every respect of this historic mission to achieve a free, democratic and secure Iraq," said Chiarelli during his first speech as the MNC-I commander.

"My Soldiers and I are honored to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with you in history in a historic land," he added.

"In the months ahead, you will find that our Soldiers of the Victory Corps are disciplined, well trained and committed to continue the excellent work done by Lt. Gen. Vines and the Soldiers of the 18th Airborne Corps," said Chiarelli.

"Never again will the forces of terror and tyranny be permitted to rule in this great country," he said.

Today in the *Victory Times*

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Soldiers returning to Camp Victory for another tour find many improvements from the way they left it.

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Camp Victory retention office helps Soldiers with questions concerning everything from "reup" bonuses to career progression.

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The latest *Voices of Victory* question: "What is the one thing you wish you had brought from home?"

Returning Soldiers find improvements to Victory

Story by Pfc. Sean C. Finch

MNC-I PAO

Some Soldiers who recently arrived at Camp Victory may not know what the camp looked like the last time soldiers from Germany were here; however, some who have now returned are surprised at the amount of growth Camp Victory has achieved in only a little time.

"Additions to the Victory area have been astounding," said Sgt. Maj. Luis Rosario-Febus of the MNC-Iraq headquarters commandant's office.

"The place has really grown up and is coming together nicely," he said.

"Housing is now in trailers and the dining facilities are like a quality buffet," said Sgt. Nathan Roth, MNC-I C2 watch noncommissioned officer. "I have seen the palace on my last tour in Iraq; but they have really done a nice job of cleaning the place up

around here and making it easier to get from one place to another."

Roth, who has been stationed in Heidelberg, Germany and who was stationed at both Camp Victory and in Balad in 2003, says that communication back home is much easier than in his first deployment here.

"I can call pretty much whenever I want and we all have the internet available to us as well as two Morale, Welfare and Recreation centers in case you want to use a web camera," he said.

"I think the greatest challenge to everyone here will be the upkeep of the area as well as continuing to realize that we are still at war," Master Sgt. Paul E. Brooks, MNC-I Special Troops Battalion C2.

"I think that the improvements to Camp Victory have, at a bare minimum, changed morale for all stationed here, in a way that is beneficial," said Roth. "I know that for me, this place is something that other Soldiers in Iraq

wish they could be stationed at."

"The area feels much more secure and under control just outside the wall," said Rosario-Febus. "I sleep better at night knowing that even a crew of civilians can live here in relative peace."

"Camp Victory is easy to get along with" said Roth who noted that things not included on his first tour here were now taken for granted by Soldiers here for the first time.

"We have running water, some flushing toilets and we aren't having to dig holes for latrines anymore," said Roth. "That is something that Soldiers here on their first deployment may not think about during day to day life."

"It's not something that those of us that were here before will ever forget" he added.

"I hope that in spite of all the new things that have grown up around here, Soldiers will be able to stay focused and make productive use of their time here in

Iraq," said Roth. "This is a great place to be stationed and I am glad that we have the kinds of additions that we do in order to make this one of the best places to be stationed in Iraq," he said.

"I don't know what could improve morale more here on Camp Victory than the dining facility," said Rosario-Febus. "I hope that soldiers from Task Force Victory and all involved on this post continue to maintain the discipline of physical fitness that they had prior to getting here."

"The area allows for more running and though there are no indoor sports facilities, I am sure that a sunny day is better than any artificial lighting to play some sports and stay in great shape," he added

"For those who have not been here before, remember to take nothing for granted and use all the time and new amenities you have here to gain experience and to improve yourself and others around you," said Rosario-Febus."



Multinational Corps-Iraq presents the opening ceremony of ...

AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2006

Al Faw Palace Ballroom, Feb 3, 2006, 6 - 9 P.M.

Guest Speaker:

Col. Joseph B. Coleman
Multinational Corps-
Iraq Inspector General



Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP Colonel/Command
Sergeant major and above
No later than Jan 28, 2006
Sgt. 1st Class Balduf, MNC-I
HR/EO Advisor
822-3545/3532 or
christopher.balduf@iraq.cent
com.mil

"Reaching Out to Youth: A Strategy for Excellence"

Before You Tell it to Your Inspector General



The Multinational Corps-Iraq Office of the Inspector General is here to assist all personnel Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and command teams assigned to MNC-I. Our mission is to conduct assistance, inspections and investigations while teaching and training in order to assist the commander with providing the Army with highly motivated, well disciplined, physically and mentally fit personnel and units who are focused on teamwork, ingrained with the Warrior Ethos and are committed to core values.

A large part of our IG workload is assisting individuals with a wide scope of issues and problems that they are experiencing. If you have an issue that you cannot seem to resolve, the IG office may be able to assist you. But, before you come to the IG for assistance, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- (1) Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve. (Has there been a violation of a policy, regulation, or due process?)
- (2) Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem. The first question that the IG will ask is whether you have talked to your chain of command. (Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway).
- (3) Be honest and don't provide misleading information. (IG's will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information).
 - (4) Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.
 - (5) Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution. (Only commanders can command; the role of the IG is to advise the commander on policy and regulations).
 - (6) Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact. A complaint must be supported with evidence. Bring a copy with you of all documentation concerning your problem.
 - (7) Don't expect instant action on your request...Be patient. IGs will be thorough in their research of your issue.
 - (8) Be prepared to take "No" for the answer, or hear an answer you may not like. After research, IGs will provide you with their impartial conclusion based on policy and regulations. (In any case "Yes" or "No", the IG will ensure you understand why).

After understanding the above guidelines, if you need assistance from the IG office, please contact us. We are located on Victory Base in the Al Faw Palace, Room 312. Our phone number is (318)

822-4270 or 822-2491.

Retention office helps Soldiers with career questions

Story and photo by

Sgt. Joe M. Battle

MNC-I PAO

Soldiers wanting to renew their service obligation or seeking help with career progression in their current field need look no further than the Multinational Corps-Iraq and Multinational Forces-Iraq Retention office on Camp Victory.

"We help Soldiers with their issues and concerns dealing with retention," said Sgt. Maj. Louis Lopez Jr., MNC-I and MNF-I theater command career counselor. "Most of the time, Soldiers will not renew their contract because they have been given bad information about reenlisting or they are not performing the job they have been trained to do."

"We find that Soldiers who are actually performing the duties of their military occupational specialty are reenlisting more often than the Soldier's who are operating outside of their MOS," he said.

"Another part of our job here at the retention office is to counsel Soldiers on career MOS progression," said Staff Sgt. Pablo Jaramillo, MNC-I and MNF-I career counselor. "We can help a Soldier decide the best route to get promoted and advance throughout their career."

"We even help a Soldier with his decision of separating from the Army or to stay in longer," he added.

"When qualifying Soldiers for reenlistment, their qualifications show if they are eligible for the following reenlistment options: stabilization at current home duty station, MOS retraining, requesting an overseas assignment or requesting an assignment in the continental United States," said Lopez.

While deployed, Soldiers who reenlist are offered bonuses or incentives that they would not be offered at their home duty station, said Lopez.

"While in theater, monetary bonuses are tax-free and can be paid in one lump sum," he added. "Also as of Jan. 7, any Soldier with a separation date that falls within fiscal year 2006 or 2007, may receive an additional \$7,500 on top of what initial monetary bonus they are entitled to receive."

"All of the bonuses and incentives are based on the Soldier," said Lopez. "On average, Soldiers here are receiving between \$20,000 to \$22,500 bonuses."

"A simple formula for Soldiers wanting to know what kind of bonus they will receive is to take their base pay and multiply it by the number of years they are reenlisting for," said



Staff Sgt. Pablo Jaramillo, Multinational Force and Multinational Corps-Iraq career counselor, helps Sgt. James E. Finch, crewmember, 612th gun truck, 1st Corps Support Command, Camp Stryker fill out paperwork to complete his reenlistment at Camp Victory Wednesday.

Jaramillo. "But a Soldier needs to come to our office and speak with a counselor to find out exactly what he is entitled for reenlisting."

However, for most Soldiers, the decision to stay in or get out is based on many things, not only what kind of incentives are offered them at the time of their reenlistment, he said.

"I am not doing it for the money," said Sgt. James E. Finch, crewmember, 612th gun truck, 1st Corps Support Command, Camp Stryker.

Finch reenlisted for four more years and will receive a bonus of \$22,500.

"Even if there was not a bonus I would have signed up for at least three more years to stay at Fort Carson, Colorado," he added.

"We are seeing, on average, about 10 to 15 Soldiers a day," said Pfc. Christopher L. Tejada, MNC-I and MNF-I retention operations assistant. "Even though we see this many Soldiers, the bonuses and options are different for each one."

"We are here from 9 a.m. until close of business," said Tejada. "Close of business is when the last Soldier needing information leaves our office, no matter what time it is."

"Retention success equals leadership involvement," said Lopez. "Leaders must be involved in Soldier retention to ensure that the Soldiers understand that they are a vital part of the mission and that they are an important contributing factor in the Global War on Terrorism."

"We are here to service every Soldier, regardless," he added.



STAY ALIVE

Stop and Think!

IEDs are deadly killers.

Conduct 5 and 25 meter checks around your position.

0001 IEDs KILL

Victory Weekly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to joe.battle1@iraq.centcom.mil. We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

Voices of Victory:

What is the one thing you wish you had brought from home?



"I wish I would have brought more pictures of my family."

Lt. Col. Brett J. Kelly
MNC-I Surgeon
Pharmacy Consultant



"I brought so much I am actually having to send things home."

Cristina Moore
4th Inf. Div. G6
Embedded Staff Employee



"That's easy, a couple of pillows and pillowcases, I can't seem to find one anywhere."

Staff Sgt. Dean P. Scott
Retention NCO
1/320 Field Artillery

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

MNF-I/MNC-I

Human Relations/Equal Opportunity Office

Camp Victory, Iraq

For information, guidance, regulation, policies, and training regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other forms of discrimination contact

Camp Victory, Iraq
DSN: 822-3545/3532

Email:
dennis.small@iraq.centcom.mil
evy.lacy@iraq.centcom.mil
michael.shadel@iraq.centcom.mil
christopher.balduf@iraq.centcom.mil

THEATER HUMAN RELATIONS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISORS & SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS

HR/EO Program Manager
MAJ Dennis Small

HR/EO SGM
SGM Evy Lacy

Senior HR/EO Advisor
MSG Michael Shadel

HR/EO Advisor
SFC Chris Balduf

KEEP IT LOCKED ON...

Al-Ramadi	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Al-Basrah	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Al-Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	95.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Basrah	107.3 FM	Tal Afar	102.3 FM
Falujah	105.1 FM	Telespium	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

Freedom Radio

Victory MWR Events for January 24 - 30

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 at 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: Football Tournament (Friday and Saturday); 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.; Martin Luther King, Jr. 5K Run.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Monday: Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124; 9-Ball Tournament at Bldg. 51; 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. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
MNC-I Command Info. Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
MNC-I Production Chief: Sgt. Joe M. Battle
Victory Weekly Staff writer: Pfc. Sean C. Finch

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BEWARE!

AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A

LARCENY

- LOCK IT, DON'T LOSE IT!!
- Don't leave valuables unsecured in your room, tent, or gym.
- Don't leave valuables out in the open.
- Don't give your keys to others.
- If you become a **VICTIM** of a Larceny, report it immediately.

REPORT CRIME 24 / 7

to the

MILITARY POLICE

DSN: 822-4790.