

Bottles are lined up at Water-bottling facility no. 6. The plant is able to produce 450,000 one-liter bottles a day. That means 37,500 cases, or 625 pallets of water. Producing water locally will save the government money and keep more convoys off the roads. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux**

Water plant opens for business at VBC

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

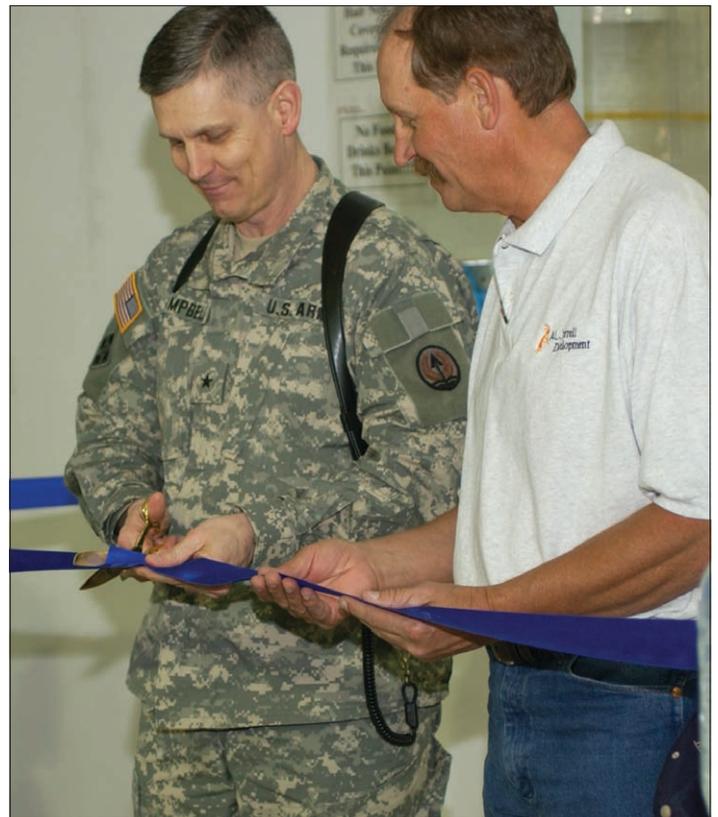
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – A new, 52,000 square-foot bottled water facility officially opened on Victory Base Complex next to “Z” Lake on May 2, when Brig. Gen. Donald Campbell Jr., Multi-National Corps-Iraq Chief of Staff cut the ribbon.

The facility was built by Al-Morrell Development and is operated by Oasis International Waters, Inc.

This is the second and the largest of six water-bottling plants that are to be opened in theater, under a 3rd Corps Support Command contract, said Maj. Joe Bondy, the Operations OIC of the 18th Corps Support Command falling under the 4th Sustainment Brigade.

The construction started in November. The plant was commissioned in early April. Although the plant didn't initially run at 100 percent capacity, they started shipping the water out on April 12, said Tom Edwards, site manager of Oasis International Waters.

At full capacity, the plant produces 450,000 one-liter bottles a day. It means 37,500 cases, 625 pallets of water. A 45-foot trailer, which is



Brig. Gen. Donald Campbell Jr., MNC-I Chief of Staff (left) cuts the ribbon with Tom Edwards, site manager, symbolizing the official opening of the water plant. **Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman**

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A Chaplain's Prayer

Here today, gone tomorrow

Remembering mistakes are temporary key to getting through worrying times

"There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the Earth: A right time to hold on and another to let go."

(Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 6 The Message)

Have you ever been really stressed over a mistake made at work, a social miscue, or blurted out something you regretted saying? All of us have made mistakes in our work environment that we worry about and may even lose sleep over. When we encounter such situations, it's good to get a little perspective so we can move on and not be overly anxious.

The best method to moving forward is to recognize the long-term perspective. Most of the things we worry about today we won't remember six months or a year from now. The fact is our life goes on and we need to realize that the momentary stuff we find ourselves wading through will pass with time. It may mark us but it doesn't have to define us.

Let's learn how to gain perspective. Look at the following

paragraph. Most of us can read it even though most of it is misspelled. This is because as long as a word has the right beginning and ending letter it is usually readable provided the words are in a person's common vocabulary.

"Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaeer waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteres are at the rghit plcae. The rset can be a tatal msees and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it self but the wrod as a wlohe."

When you find yourself continuously anxious and worried over doing something as human as making a mistake, remember to gain the long-term perspective. If we make good effort to live an honest life in service to God and man, in time, it will be our successes that

define us, not our miscues. So you made a blunder or dropped the ball – welcome to the human race.



Capt. Loren Hutsell
BRIGADE OPERATIONS CHAPLAIN

The WRANGLER

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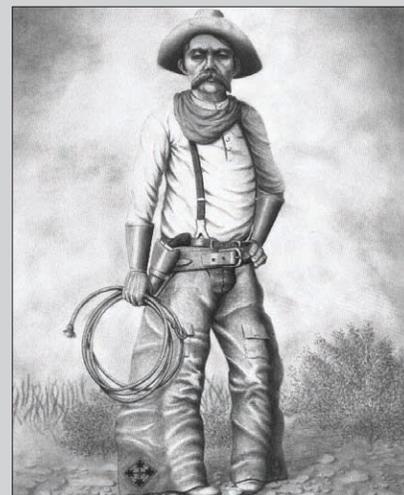
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Small-arms shop keeps weapons firing

Expert troop techs fix anything from pistols to automatic grenade launchers

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207TH MPAD

The shop is a partitioned-off section in the corner of a large maintenance bay on the southern side of the camp. The toolboxes and shelves contain calipers, screw drivers, pliers and hammers. Metallic organizers hide odd parts, screws and springs in dozens of small drawers. Rubber matting covers the surface of the worktables. The light smell of oil spices the air.

This is the word of the small-arms repairers of the 542nd Maintenance Company (Direct Support) from Fort Lewis, Wash.

"Basically we repair everything that fires a bullet," said Sgt. Tanya Melson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the section. "We don't work on artillery, because we don't support the big brigades. We repair everything from a 9 mm pistol to a .50-caliber machine gun or MK-19 (grenade launcher)." Since they arrived at Camp Taji in last November, the two-person shop has completed more than 250 work orders.

The .50-caliber machine gun has the most failures, said Spc. Matthew Williamson, the other small arms repairer of the shop. "The M-16 rifle is the easiest to fix. The hardest is the MK-19," he added.

Lately the shop has been getting some M-14 rifles, which they don't usually work on at their home station. This weapon was replaced in most military units in the 1960s, but some Reserve and National Guard elements still have them. These rifles are mostly used for ceremonies and funerals back home, but in theater they are issued out as individual weapons, said Williamson. It takes the longest time to get parts in for these weapons.

Both Williamson and Melson are very enthusiastic about their jobs and very knowledgeable when it comes to weapons.



Spc. Matthew Williamson and Sgt. Tanya Melson, both small-arms/artillery repairers with the 542nd Maintenance Company (Direct Support) work on replacing the extractor on a M-249 squad automatic weapon in their workshop on Camp Taji on April 15. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux**

When asked how he feels about his job, Williamson said the following: "I enjoy it, I love it. I like supporting people. If somebody comes in here with a broken weapon, whoever it may be, I will fix it. I like doing it, I like customers. I care about the job."

Melson is equally upbeat about working with weapons and helping people. She chose this military occupational specialty because she likes working with her hands.

"Customers appreciate the armaments section's quick turnaround and on-site service," said Capt. Matthew Price, the company commander.

The shop goes to the customers when it comes time for the annual gauging of the weapons, said Melson. If it is regular maintenance business, the unit armorers usually bring in the weapons, accompanied by the electronic preventive maintenance form 5988-E. The shop does have a lot of parts on

hand in their bench stock, and they can repair a lot of the failures on the spot.

If the part is not available, they order it and notify the customer to bring in the weapon again, as soon as the part arrives. Because they have a great working relationship with the other two small-arms shops on Camp Taji, they often help each other out with spare parts, Melson said.

Occasionally, parts need to be replaced because Soldiers lose them as they disassemble their weapons, mostly losing springs. They also make the mistake of trying to fix things that they shouldn't touch at their level, Melson explained.

What some weapons that come through the shop lack is a little TLC (Tender Love and Care) in the form of some CLP (Cleaner, Lubricant and Preservative). "They need to clean their weapons. I have always been

Personal Finance Planning

Knowing who gets what with BAH

Married? Single? No kids? Specific entitlements must meet certain requirements
Part 2 of 2

There are many misconceptions about BAH, here are the straight facts.

Members without dependents

Members without dependents in the pay grades E6 and above may elect at any time not to occupy government quarters at the permanent station and become entitled to BAH unless the Secretary concerned or designee has determined that the member's exercise of this option would adversely affect a training mission, military discipline, or readiness.

Members in the pay grade of E5 and below have to go through their units and the post housing office to get approval to move off post.

For service member married to service member with no dependents, neither member is considered a dependent for BAH purposes.

There are a lot of variables that need to be considered when receiving BAH with dependents.

Here are just a few of the rules:

Members with dependents

A member with dependents who is entitled to basic pay is entitled to BAH at the rates prescribed for members with dependents when:

1. Adequate government quarters are not furnished for the member and dependents without payment of rental charge. Adequate government quarters are not furnished for the member's dependents, or all of the member's dependents are prevented by competent authority from occupying such quarters, even

though quarters are assigned for the member's occupancy. Dependents are not en route or do not accompany the member to the permanent duty station. Under such circumstances, the mere availability of quarters which could have been assigned does not negate the right of a member to the BAH for dependents.

2. Effective February 2, 2005, a single or divorced member who maintains legal and physical custody of child(ren) before receipt of PCS orders to an unaccompanied tour may continue to be paid BAH at the with dependents rate, for last PDS, or designated place for certain periods if the requirements of this subparagraph are met. The divorce decree must be specific on the period(s) of time the member has legal and physical custody. Basic Allowance for Housing at the with dependents rate will be payable only for the period of time the member would have the custody of the child(ren) if not serving on the unaccompanied tour. The member must, for military necessity, place the child(ren) in the physical custody of a relative

or designated care giver by the member, to be entitled to BAH at the with dependents rate.

Lawful Spouse and Legitimate, Unmarried, Minor Children

A member's lawful spouse and legitimate, unmarried, minor children are at all times considered dependents for BAH purposes,

except under the situations shown below.

When both members are entitled to BAH or BAH-DIFF on behalf of a child(ren) from a previous relationship, when they marry and

are stationed in the same area, all of the children are considered as one class of dependents.

Therefore, only one BAH at the with-dependents rate (including BAH-DIFF) is payable. A determination of relationship is required, but usually a determination of dependency is not. In all instances of a member having a spouse on active duty, full details must be given showing full name, social security

number, duty station, and branch of service of that spouse.

A. When two members, with no other dependents, are married to each other, they may elect which member will receive BAH on behalf of their adopted children or children born of their marriage. Both members must agree to the election. If the members cannot agree, the senior member is entitled to BAH for their children. The members may subsequently elect to transfer BAH entitlement on behalf of adopted children and children born of the marriage from one member to the other. Such elections may not be applied retroactively.

B. When one of two members married to each other is already receiving BAH at the with dependents rate on behalf of an adopted child(ren), child(ren) from a previous marriage, or an illegitimate child(ren), then any child(ren) born of their marriage, or adopted by them, is within the same class of dependents for which the member is receiving BAH and the other member may not claim the children



Master Sgt. Robin Krieger
BRIGADE FINANCE NCOIC

WATER FROM Page 1

usually used to transport the water, holds 22 pallets. Producing the water locally versus shipping it in from Kuwait has several benefits.

"It is going to save lots of money and keep Soldiers off the road," Bondy said.

Keeping the number of trucks delivering water to different bases to a minimum "translates into lives," said Alan Morrell, the company executive officer of Al-Morrell

In fact, chemically there is no difference between this water and Aquafina.

Kenneth Alferez
GENERAL ELECTRIC WATER ENGINEER

Development. "That translates into sons and daughters, husbands and wives, mothers and daughters."

Since the 4th SB and its subordinate units are responsible for combat service support in the Multi-National Division-Baghdad area, they will coordinate the amount of water to be produced and distributed, based on previous weeks' statistics. Because of the high capacity of the plant, excess water can be pushed out to surrounding forward operating bases and even to Camp Taji, Bondy explained. Taji is approximately 15 miles away from the Baghdad International Airport, which can take up to 45 minutes to cover, depending on traffic and road conditions.

Producing one-liter bottles with no labels is a cost-saver. Each bottle has its 'born on date' inscribed with laser, and they all bear a small imprint of a palm tree, the trademark of Oasis International Waters.

"They made a good decision going to the one-liter bottle, Soldiers will drink more water



Maj. Paul Wynn, the commander of the 1011th Quartermaster Company tastes a bottle of water produced at the Camp Liberty plant at the opening ceremony on May 2. Soldiers in the Baghdad area began receiving the plant-produced bottled water in April. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux**

that way," Bondy said. "It is more convenient. It is easier to drink a liter of water, [and] it is easier to carry the bottle around."

The point of origin for the water is "Z" lake located on Victory Base Complex. By the time the water goes through a multi-step purification process, the final product is equivalent with any bottled water produced by well-known water companies.

"In fact, chemically there is no difference between this water and Aquafina," said Kenneth Alferez, a General Electric water engineer who helped and supervised the setting up of the plant. The water is carefully tested along every step, as it makes its way from the lake to the bottle.

First the water is pumped into a storage bag from the lake and it is treated with chlorine to kill the bugs and other living organisms. The PH level is lowered to allow the chlorine work more effectively. Once that is done, the water goes through an ultra-filtration unit which

can filter out particles as small as 1 micron. Most viruses are the size of 2 microns, Alferez explained.

Afterwards the water goes into a third storage bag. From there it goes through a reverse osmosis (RO) process twice. RO is a form of hyper filtration. This type of filter is able to filter out most contaminants, except salts.

During the second RO, the water goes through a carbon filter, then through an ultraviolet (UV) filter. Lastly the water goes to a contact tank where it gets ozonated. "It is three barriers of protection against any contaminant that might be in the water after it goes through the RO. The ozone is there to kill anything or everything," Alferez explained.

The end result is the handy one-liter bottles, which participants of the ceremony got to taste and take some home with them. Soldiers in the MND-B area are already consuming the product of the plant.

SMALL ARMS FROM Page 3

a stickler for that. If you take care of your weapon, it is going to take care of you. Take five/ten minutes before you go to bed and wipe it down," Williamson suggested.

As for the .50 calibers, Soldiers should only use a thin coat of lubricant because it collects dust, but should lubricate the weapon well when they are getting ready to use it, Melson said. She is so familiar with

this weapon, that she even cautions Soldiers and unit armorers about a bad bolt which needs to be identified and replaced, by the manufacturer's number of 28210.

As the company commander noted, the Soldiers with the 45-series occupational specialties are essential to the success in Iraq. "All of our customer units depend on two systems when they hit the road; vehicle systems and weapons systems. You don't hear about the unsung, behind the scenes heroes like Sgt. Melson and Spc. Williamson," Price said.

BAH FROM Page 4

for BAH purposes. However, if the member elects to stop receiving BAH at the with dependents rate, then the other member may claim the child(ren)

C. Effective April, 15, 2003, when married members are assigned to different locations, pursuant to competent military orders, their entitlement to BAH at the with-dependents rate or to government-furnished quarters should be determined separately, without regard to the general rule that all children and parents of the members are dependents of the same class for the purpose of determining BAH entitlements. Each member is required to have physical custody of a dependent if both members are claiming an entitlement to BAH at the with dependents rate.

D. When one of two members married to each other is receiving BAH at the with dependents rate, the class of dependents includes the parents of either member and only one member is entitled to BAH at the with dependents rate or BAH-DIFF on behalf of the common class of dependents when the members are assigned to the same or adjacent bases.

Proof of Support

A. The statutory purpose of BAH on behalf of a dependent is to at least partially reimburse members for the expense of providing private quarters for their dependents when government quarters are not

furnished, and not to pay BAH on behalf of a dependent as a bonus merely for the technical status of being married or a parent. Proof of support of a lawful spouse or unmarried, minor, legitimate child of a member is generally not required. However, when evidence (e.g., special investigation reports; record reviews; fraud, waste and abuse complaints; sworn testimony of individuals; statement by member) or complaints from dependents of nonsupport or inadequate support of dependents are received, proof of adequate support as stated is required.

B. Nonsupport. A member who fails to support a dependent on whose behalf BAH is received is not entitled to BAH on behalf of that dependent. Recoup for periods of nonsupport or inadequate support. Unless a period of nonsupport or inadequate support was caused as a result of mission requirements of the Service concerned (e.g., remote assignment, deployed, limited access to administrative support and/or financial networks, etc.), over which the member has no control, as determined by Service regulations, the subsequent payment of arrears of support does not entitle a member to BAH on behalf of the dependent for the period of nonsupport or inadequate support. If a member is not entitled to BAH for dependents, consider entitlement to without dependents or partial rate BAH. NOTE: A member does not avoid the legal responsibility to comply with a court order for support by forfeiting BAH.

If you aren't sure if you are receiving the correct BAH, refer to DODFMR Vol. 7A, Chapter 26 or See you Finance NCO.

A Few Legal Pointers

Citizenship:

Although troops honorably serving in war environments are entitled to it, there are still steps to follow

Service members deployed to Iraq are eligible to become U.S. citizens while deployed through an accelerated program provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides two ways for Soldiers to gain their citizenship while serving in the Armed Forces. The first way allows Soldiers serving honorably for at least one year to apply if they have lawful permanent resident status, and file their application for naturalization while still in service or within six months of being discharged.

The second way a service member can become a US Citizen is by serving honorably in the Armed Forces during an authorized period of conflict. Recently the President signed an Executive Order identifying the time period after September 11, 2001 as an

authorized period of conflict. To qualify under this provision, the service member must have lawfully been admitted as a permanent resident of the United States, or the service member must have been physically present in the United States or a qualifying territory at the time of enlistment, reenlistment or induction. Most service members seeking citizenship will qualify under this section even if they have not served for at least one year in the Armed Forces due to the Executive Order.

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above, service members must demonstrate good moral character, knowledge of the English language, knowledge of U.S.

government and history, and take an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution.

The naturalization process consists of three forms, two sets of fingerprints, photos, an interview, and participation in a naturalization ceremony. The three required forms are: N-400 (Application for Naturalization), G-325B (Biographical Information), and N-426 (Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service).

These forms provide information as to where the Soldier has lived, worked and traveled in the last five years.

Service members must disclose information about any arrests, citations, and



Capt. Eric Lee
JUDGE ADVOCATE



Capt. Melissa Van Buhler, the Judge Advocate of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, gives a class at the Phoenix Academy on Camp Taji on the Rules of Engagement. The academy prepares U.S. service members who will be advisors on Military Transition Teams and Special Police Transition Teams, aiding the Iraqi military and police forces. Most of them are individually mobilized and receive no training stateside.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

Judge advocate teaches tactics to MiTT

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207TH MPAD

Soldiers who are individually mobilized to be part of Military Transition Teams (MiTT) or Special Police Transition Teams (SPTT) often don't get the same training mobilizing units do, so as they arrive in theater, they go through a ten-day program at the Phoenix Academy at Camp Taji, which prepares them for their unique missions.

One of the most important classes at the academy is the class on Rules of Engagement, the "when to shoot class" taught by Capt. Melissa Van Buhler, the Judge Advocate of the 4th Sustainment Brigade.

Besides when and under what conditions may a Soldier fire his weapon, the class also contains information on detention issues, interrogations, the steps of escalation of force, detainee care and the custody of evidence, just to mention a few.

"I would like to think that I help these guys out by giving them tools that they might need when they are on the ground," Van Buhler said. "I just give them some guidance on what to do and let them know what the concerns are

in theater."

Van Buhler inherited the class from her predecessor in the 46th Corps Support Group. Since there are minor changes to the rules in theater almost daily, Van Buhler makes sure she keeps her class updated.

She sometimes teaches as many as 12 classes a week. Since she took over in October of last year, she has taught more than 2,000 MiTT and SPTT members.

Most students listen attentively and ask a lot of questions during her classes, Van Buhler said. "They are most interested in when they can shoot to protect themselves. They want to make sure that the rules are not so stringent that they can hurt them. They are also worried about what happens if they make a mistake."

Maj. Lavell Johnson, a mobilized reservist from the 80th Training Division who will be assigned to a SPTT took special interest in the ROE class.

"Since I am a police officer on the civilian side, I was pretty interested in the rules of engagement and how the laws vary on the Iraqi side of the house," he said.

"Surprisingly, it doesn't seem like the rules change that much. The laws are pretty similar.

We will still have to execute the same level of care and caution as you would in any state," Johnson said. The only thing he did not find an equivalent of, was the Miranda rights police have to read to anybody they detain in the United States.

Another student, Staff Sgt. Larry Dehart, who is also an infantryman from the Army Reserve's 80th Training Division, found the information about warning shots the most useful.

"Last time I was here, there were no warning shots," he said. "I was always told you don't fire warning shots."

This is Dehart's second deployment to Iraq. In 2003, he was among the first troops to enter the country and his unit stopped at Baghdad.

As an occupying force, they didn't interact much with the Iraqi army or civilians.

This time around he is looking forward to working with the Iraqis and learning more about their culture. He knows how important it is to remember the bits and pieces of information presented to him and his classmates in the ROE class.

All in all, it was a good class, Dehart said.

Gun truck battery welcomes new addition

Maine National Guard infantrymen augment FA convoy mission with new platoon

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207TH MPAD

LOGISTICAL BASE SEITZ, Iraq – Battery B, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment under the 18th Corps Support Battalion was recently augmented with a platoon of nearly 50 infantrymen of the Maine National Guard's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain).

Battery B itself has not deployed in the traditional field-artillery role; they are a gun-truck company providing security for combat logistical patrols, and now they have some infantrymen in the same boat—or same gun trucks, rather.

The new platoon, fourth platoon, is currently in the middle of learning the roads and the ever-changing tactics, techniques and procedures, said Capt. Bryan Babich, battery commander. "We had to plan how we are going to receive, train, equip and ultimately certify them so they can conduct combat logistics patrol security operations in the Baghdad area of operations," said Babich.

The battery in fact was really proactive in training the new arrivals. "The battery commander sent me and two of my other NCOs to Kuwait to give them a briefing on how things work," said Sgt. 1st Class William McGovern, who is originally an infantryman himself, but was attached to Battery B on June 1, 2005, and the same day he was told he is deploying with the unit.

"The training in Kuwait doesn't quite fit what we do here," McGovern continued. Each day after the platoon completed the mandatory training classes in Kuwait, the small team from Battery B explained to them how they were doing things in Iraq compared to what they learned that day.

The platoon appreciated all the help given to them. "They actually received us very well," said 1st Lt. Todd Abbott, the platoon leader of fourth platoon. He said his platoon was already well-prepared for the deployment, because of all the training they conducted at their home station and also at Fort Dix, N.J., before arriving in theater.

Once they arrived at Logistical Base Seitz, they conducted the 'right-seat-ride,' and received training very similar to what they would receive if they were in a transfer of authority (TOA) process and they were taking command for Battery B. They also received gun trucks.

"Because we have the luxury of not replacing the battery we joined, we are simply adding to them. We go on rides where our Soldiers will execute the mission, but have one guy, an accomplished lead vehicle commander from one of the other platoons, come with us to make sure we don't get lost on the route," Abbott said. "It is just a luxury that we have and there is no need to cut that corner and risk getting stuck in the middle of Baghdad somewhere."

The battery commander kept the new platoon together as one, to



Pfc. Nike Whitmore, an infantryman of the new fourth platoon of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment conducts maintenance checks on a humvee in preparation for a mission. **Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux**

maintain unit integrity within their ranks, but housed them in the same area as the rest of the battery stays and put their vehicles on the same vehicle line. "We are one big happy family, all in the same area," Babich said.

The Soldiers in the battery welcomed the new platoon with open arms. The number of personnel in the battery now is nearing 200. "They received them well," said McGovern. "More people meant that they would have to spend less time on the road themselves."

Babich has a very high opinion about his fourth platoon. "They have exceeded our expectations in every single way. They have been nothing but absolutely motivated..."

Not only is fourth platoon a great addition to Battery B, but they will also be a real bonus for the unit who replaces the battery.

"The benefit for the follow on unit is that this will provide the continuity of their operations. Since they are off-cycle from us by about five months," Babich said. "They will remain on the ground; they will be the same continuity that we have given them for the next company that comes on board."

Some Medical Advice

Summer heat as lethal as any enemy

The best way to treat a heat injury is to prevent it. During the spring and summer in Iraq, conditions will exceed temperatures of 125 degrees Fahrenheit, placing our Soldiers at risk for a heat injury.

Following simple guidelines greatly reduces the heat risk that is inherent with our combat mission.

General principles for heat management include evaluation or risk, establishment of controls, monitoring hydration, monitoring and enforced eating of meals, and random leader and buddy checks. Water is not the only answer to prevention.

The body possesses a heat management system and most of the risk factors serve to disrupt the body's ability to manage heat. Factors that increase an individual's risk include use of supplements, alcohol, prior heat injury, skin problems, age greater than 40, poor fitness and minor illness.

Every Soldier should be familiar with the symptoms of a heat injury. Initial symptoms include dizziness, headache, nausea, unsteady walk, weakness and muscle cramps. Late findings more common with heat stroke are confusion, combativeness or loss of consciousness.

If any leader identifies a Soldier as having a potential heat injury, rapid cooling is the first priority, which can reduce death rate from 50 percent to 5 percent. The sooner a victim with a heat injury is cooled, the less damage to the brain and internal organs.

Each leader and individual Soldiers can help prevent heat injuries.

Let's work together to prevent this lethal, needless injury.

Rapid cooling is best accomplished by:

- + drenching with water
- + moving to shade or air conditioning
- + removing outer layer of clothing and headgear
- + using iced sheets if available (essentially sheets soaked in cold water and placed on exposed skin)
- + massaging large muscles
- + stopping if shivering occurs
- + evacuating to the nearest medical facility



Maj. Mark Higdon
BRIGADE SURGEON

Recommendations for heat injury prevention:

- + risk mitigation
- + establish controls
- + monitor and enforce hydration standards
- + monitor and enforce eating of meals
- + execute random checks

More information, go to <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/heat/>

CITIZENSHIP FROM Page 6

convictions he/she has received in the past. Service members with families must provide information about their spouse and children.

In addition to the aforementioned forms, the service member is required to submit two passport photos and two sets of fingerprints. Passport photos can be taken anywhere these photos are typically taken, including photo-development centers located on Forward Operating Bases throughout Iraq. Fingerprints can be done by local law enforcement at the MP Station or Provost Marshal's Office.

Once the packet is complete, the service member sends the forms, fingerprints, and photos to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office in Lincoln, Neb., for processing. Upon approval of the packet, USCIS will send the

service member written notice of completion. Deployed service members should take that written notice to their servicing Legal Assistance Office (JAG) so an attorney can e-mail a Request for Overseas Processing form to Rome, Italy.

This form moves the service member's packet from Lincoln to Rome for overseas processing. The Rome office is responsible for processing all applications for naturalization for service members stationed in Iraq and overseas.

After the Rome office processes the application packet, they will schedule an interview. The interview consists of questions relating to U.S. history and American government. Examples of questions include questions such as "What do the thirteen stripes on the US flag represent?" to "Who is the current President of the United States?" After

the interview has been completed satisfactorily, the service member is ready to be sworn in as a U.S. Citizen at a naturalization ceremony. This ceremony is the final step in the naturalization process.

Service members who are not deployed are still eligible to become U.S. citizens if they have served honorably in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001. They must submit the same forms, photographs, and fingerprints; and conduct the interview through the Lincoln office. Service members who are stateside obviously do not have to submit an Overseas Processing Form because their packet will be processed and their interview will take place in a location close to their current duty station or residence.

For further information on becoming a U.S. citizen, visit your servicing legal assistance office.