

Task Force 3 *Times*

March 2007



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Spc. Julius Ndungu, Taskforce 3 RSO&I, Kuwait, is congratulated by Third U.S. Army/ARCENT Commander, Lt. Gen R. Steven Whitcomb at a citizenship ceremony Feb. 16, 2007 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Take a moment

As we head into the "middle innings" of the game, we all need to take a picture of where we have come from as a unit and as individuals. You have trained and worked hard to get to this point and as the days begin to get longer, you will experience a feeling of relief as time gets closer to completing the mission we have started.



Major General
Ronald D. Silverman
Commander
Task Force 3

With that said, it is now time to take a personal challenge. That challenge is to remain focused, re-tool your own arsenal and keep up the work that you have started. Not only with work, but your relaxation habits as well. We are all confined to certain areas and have limitations that must be followed, but take a moment to assess your situation. When you need a break, take it. When you are so wrapped up in a project, take a moment to relax and understand that the more you focus on the completion of the project, the more your focus will be away from your well being. Your work and the products you produce are very important, but recognize the stress that is being placed on you.

For those that have taken their R&R period, you have enjoyed your time away and reintegrated into your work, hopefully, better off than when you left. For those that have not taken your leave, know that it will soon be here for you. Take that time to relax and re-energize your focus by coming back ready to get back into your work.

Thanks for the efforts that you have provided over that past months and I look forward to the challenges that the rest of this deployment will bring.

CHAPLAIN'S VIEW

It is time

Today is the second day of Lent - a time to pray and to seek forgiveness for our sins. Forty days from Ash Wednesday many Christians will celebrate the resurrection of Christ.



Lt. Col. Irvin Bryer
Command Chaplain
Task Force 3

This is a good time to visit with friends and early Friday morning I paid a visit to Chaplain (Maj.) Jennifer Johnson and Chaplain Assistant Sgt. Jedidiah Brake. Accompanying me was my assistant, Patrick Chung, who turned 20 on February 21st. By the way, back home in Beacon, New York my mother turns 85 today. Happy birthday, mom. Spiritual health is important to most people. There is no reason why you cannot enjoy your particular faith from anywhere in the world. Passover and the Resurrection help many to connect their historical past and refresh their present life force.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand" – Joel 2:1

Chaplain (Col.) Randy Nabors, retired from over 30 years of military service to God and Country (he still is pastoring in Chattanooga, TN). SFC Kenneth Sago (Chaplain Assistant) moves from the East Coast to the West Coast to serve God and Country in a new assignment. In time, each of us will move from this assignment or to retirement. With time we develop staying power, for periods of time or move on to find something else.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." – Psalm 51:10

No matter what your age, be it 20 or 85, this can be a rich time. The secret to a good life is a good strategy for living along side of your fellow brothers and sisters. Live in the light of promise in joy. Remove all hate and envy (darkness).

"The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body be full of light" – Matthew 6:22

It is time.

790th Soldiers perform under pressure

Staff Sgt. Kevin Harper and Staff Sgt. Jason Miller from the 790th Medical Detachment recently exemplified the value of having military education in more than one specialty.

Both Soldiers are Environmental Technicians and qualified Combat Life Savers. In their civilian careers Harper is employed as an Operating Room Technician, and Miller is a student majoring in Journalism. Recently these soldiers were rushed into a real wartime mass casualty situation resulting from the Battle of Najaf.

Both Soldiers had already worked a full day when an emergency mass casualty occurred. MASCALs at Camp Echo require the activation of all military and KBR medical personnel. The MASCAL emergency required 48 hours of continuous medical support from both the U.S. and Polish TMCs.

Harper and Miller immediately showed leadership in providing urgent medical care to American Soldiers, Iraqi Nationals and suspected insurgents without concern for their own personal health and welfare. The Soldiers treated wounds from gunshots and shrapnel, administered IVs, assisted with the transportation of patients from MEDIVAC Helicopters and helped monitor patients vital signs for over 24 hours.

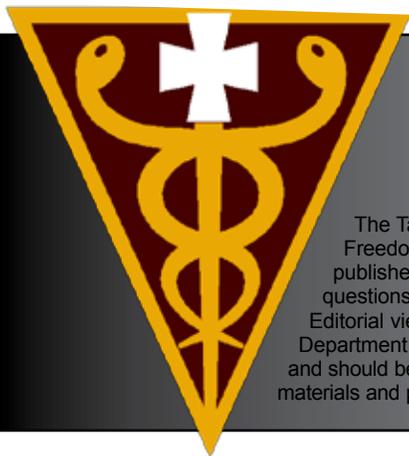
In showing their professionalism as Environmental Science NCOs the soldiers took full responsibility to ensure that all regulated medical waste was properly collected and disposed of according to Environmental Health Standards.

The Soldiers were honored by their commander for their outstanding performance.

“As a commander, I am profoundly grateful and honored to have these Soldiers on my team,” said Lt. Col. Arthur Davis, Commander 790th Medical Detachment.



Staff Sgt. Jason Miller and Staff Sgt. Kevin Harper



Commander: Maj. Gen. Ronald D. Silverman
Public Affairs Officer: Maj. Bobby Hart
Editor: Sgt. 1st Class Sam McLarty
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The Task Force Times is published monthly, in the interest of all medical personnel supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is written, edited and published by the staff of the Public Affairs Office, Task Force 3, Camp Victory, Iraq, APO AE 09342. Send all questions, comments and submissions to samuel.mclarty@iraq.centcom.mil
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COSC runs the Black History Month 5k



Camp Victory Combat Operational Stress Center team runs the Black History Celebration 5K February 11, 2007. From left to right is 2nd Lt. Marie Denda, 1171st ASMC treatment platoon leader, Spc. Thuan Nguyen and Spc. Michael Bautista, 113th Combat Stress Control.

Taskforce Soldiers honored for charitable work



Two soldiers from Taskforce 3 were honored recently for their hard work supporting good causes. Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Balwinski, a Personnel NCO in the S-1 section of the 1171st, and Sgt. Ernest Matson, an Administration NCO in the S-1 section of the 329th were honored with Certificates of Achievement for their work on the Combined Federal Campaign-overseas. The NCOs had been selected to coordinate collections in their respective units. CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, and typically collects more than \$250 million a year in its collection season - September 1st to December 15th. Soldiers and federal employees who contribute can select any of 22,000 charities supported by the CFC program to contribute to. Their certificates were presented by Taskforce 3 Chief of Staff, Col. Gilbert McIntosh at a ceremony held in the Taskforce 3 headquarters, Feb. 26th, 2007.

Bazell in Baghdad

NBC's chief science and health correspondent spends two weeks getting to know the Soldier's stories

By Maj. Bobby Hart
Taskforce 3 PAO

Taskforce 3 Soldiers will get even more international attention when a series of reports from NBC's Bob Bazell airs later this month.

Bazell, the chief science and health correspondent for NBC, spent two weeks touring medical facilities in Iraq with his crew—producer Kevin Monahan, cameraman Craig White and engineer Susan Becerra—for a series of reports that he will turn into a feature to air on the network.

The four-person crew visited the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, the 399th in Tikrit, the 332nd Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad and then flew on one of the Air Force's C-17s that have been converted into a flying intensive care unit back to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. They continued their coverage there and eventually followed patients back to the States.

Throughout it all, Bazell said he was impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the Soldiers and Airmen providing the care and the bravery shown by the troops who had been injured.

"People can talk about bravery and dedication, but when a young woman who just lost her leg tells me she is still glad to just see the sun rise and be in the Army, I'm so moved I start to cry," Bazell said during one of his reports.

Bazell focused part of his report on a young Iraqi girl Soldiers picked up at the site of a car bombing and brought to the 28th "probably because some Soldier, possibly a medic, just thought of his own kids and could not leave her on the street," Bazell said. He continued to do follow up reports on the girl after he left Baghdad and sent a crew back as the girl was being sent to the States for further treatment—a result of the NBC crew's initial report.

Bazell—who has more than 30 years experience in reporting including covering the most advanced medical technologies



in the world—came away with a favorable impression of the care our troops receive, but also the attitude with which the care is given.

At Tikrit, when blood supplies ran low, an all-call went out and within minutes, dozens of members of the 399th and nearby units were lined up to donate.

Bazell asked one what if the blood he was giving went to save the life of an insurgent. The Soldier replied, "A life is a life. We have an obligation to save him no matter what he did to us."

Bazell left Iraq—his first visit to the country—with a new appreciation of what medical personnel here are doing. In his first

report back to NBC Nightly News, he told anchor Brian Williams, "Brian, I've been to hospitals throughout the United States and I have never seen anything like the bravery of the wounded troops and the intensity and dedication of these men and women who are treating all these wounded Soldiers."



TOP: Bazell, the chief science and health correspondent for NBC, spent three weeks touring military medical facilities in Iraq. He was accompanied by his producer Kevin Monahan, engineer Susan Becerra and cameraman Craig White.

ABOVE: Bazell discusses his observations with his crew and Cpt. Rebecca Scheible. LEFT: Bazell interviews a 399th Soldier in Tikrit.



Soldiers & citizens

Several Taskforce 3 Soldiers were among the dozens of deployed men and women to take the oath of U.S. citizenship last month

By Sgt. 1st Class Steve Opet
USARC PAO

The words of the Oath of Citizenship to the United States read “I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law.”

For a handful of Taskforce 3 Soldiers recently allowed to take that oath, the words hold special meaning.

Spc. Neil E. Kingston, Atlanta, Ga., Pfc. Jocelyn A. Harrison, Kennesaw, Ga., and Spc. Julius Ndungu (front page) were called to bear arms in August 2006 when their unit, 3rd Medical Command, deployed to Iraq. Two have already become U.S. citizens and by spring, all three will have taken their oath. Kingston became a citizen at Camp Anaconda, Balad, February 11, 2007, and Ndungu took his oath of citizenship Feb. 8, 2007 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

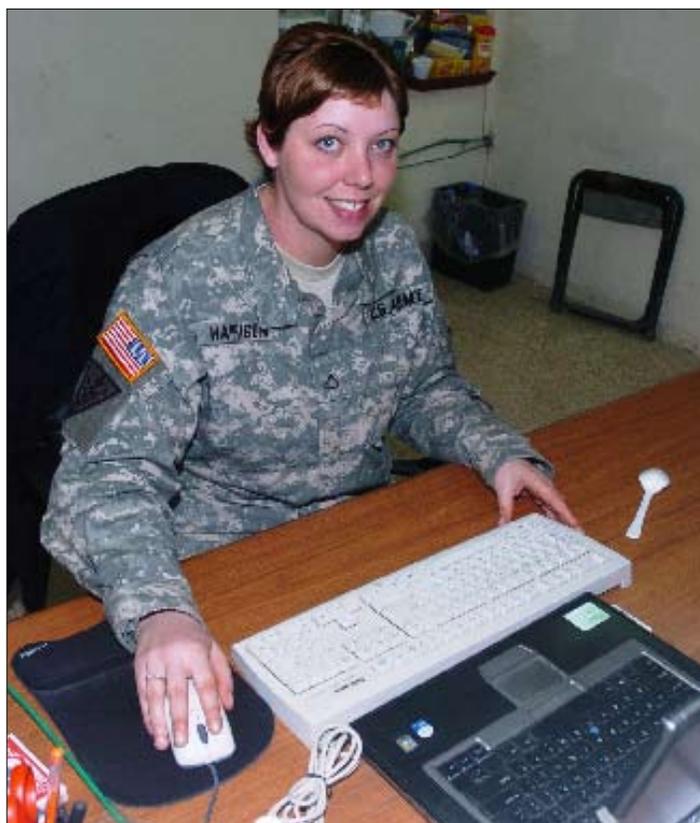
“I’m really excited about doing it, and doing it here in theatre makes it even more special” said Kingston. “This seems like the perfect place to do it. The reasons we’re here and I’m here seem to melt into one. I can’t be more excited or feel better about it since it has such a big meaning to me, and one I’ll never forget.”

Joining the Army Reserve was something Kingston always wanted to do. “I talked about it so much, my fiancée finally got tired of all my talking and asked me ‘why don’t you?’ so I did. It was one of the best things I ever did. There’re no regrets. No looking back. I’ve enjoyed every minute,” he said. Kingston is a supply specialist for Taskforce 3 and works at Camp Victory, on the grounds of what once contained one of Saddam Hussein’s palaces and a hunting preserve.

The Army has also helped Kingston with his citizenship application. “The paperwork is a little tricky. I did it once before and it got kicked back for some administrative reasons. But at Fort McCoy they did everything to help me process it and get it done. And because I’m in theatre I’m getting my citizenship sooner,” he said.

Both Soldiers moved to the U.S. as teenagers, but from different directions. Kingston arrived in 1983 at age 17 with his 15-year-old brother Curtis from Guyana to join their mother Gloria in New York City. His education was completed in New York, where he graduated from Sheepshead Bay High school and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Hunter College.

While Kingston came to the United States from the warm weather of the Caribbean, Harrison came to the U.S. from a much colder climate. In Canada, after Harrison graduated from Collingwood Collegiate Institute in Ontario, she moved from Collingwood, at age 15, with her parents, Hans and Teresa Gronroos. “Dad was offered



Pfc. Jocelyn A. Harrison works as an administrative clerk for the 3rd Medical Command HHC as well as being the unit's mail clerk. Harrison has completed her training in patient administration, and will work in that specialty once she gets her security clearance. American citizenship is one requirement for clearances. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Opet, 354th MPAD)

a job by an old co-worker as an information technician with the Resperonics Corporation in Spartansburg, S.C.

“We were only supposed to stay three months. Then it turned into six months. Then 18 months – that’s when we decided to stay,” said Harrison. The Harrisons were sponsored by her father’s employer and Jocelyn began the long process of becoming a U.S. citizen. “You fill out about 65 pages of background information on where you’ve lived, what jobs you’ve held, just your basic personal information. It’s like a job application,” said Harrison.

Continued on next page

Soldiers & citizens

Continued from last page

Harrison joined the Army Reserve in 2004 so she could travel, help people as a patient administrator, and become an American citizen.

“The Army has assisted me in filling out the paperwork, sending it off, and due to being based in Baghdad they were able to expedite it through the Rome, Italy consulate. So instead of it taking three years, it’s only going to take about six to seven months,” she said.

Changes to naturalization procedures for military personnel included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 have aided many Soldiers like Kingston and Harrison become citizen.

“Now a service member only has to serve one year of active duty service instead of three years for naturalization eligibility,” said Lt. Col. Jere Diersing, Command Judge Advocate General, for Taskforce 3. “Soldiers are no longer charged a fee for the application process. Also, all aspects of the naturalization process are now made available overseas through U.S. embassies, consulates, and U.S. military installations.”

These aspects include: citizenship applications, interviews, oaths and ceremonies. Assistance with immigration and naturalization for all U.S. service members is available at various legal assistance offices throughout Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Kingston and Harrison traveled from north and south to meet up in Atlanta, Ga., as Army Reserve Soldiers with the 3d MEDCOM and ultimately to serve together in Iraq as part of Iraqi Freedom.

Both Soldiers are proud to serve their adopted country, but do miss their family and friends in Georgia.

Kingston, who as a civilian works for Ford Motor Company as a parts distributor, has four children; daughters Sherynna, age 17, Niyaiya, age 1, and sons Nickalous, age 6, and 2-year-old Davon. “I miss my wife and children, especially our ‘Men’s Night’ on Friday evenings with

Sgt. Ramon A. Melocarela, a mental health specialist with the 113th CSC, was one of several Taskforce 3 Soldiers to receive his citizenship recently.



Spc. Neil E. Kingston, a supply sergeant with the 3rd MEDCOM, removes a small box of medical supplies from one of the unit’s CONEXs. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Opet, 354th MPAD)

my sons,” said Kingston. “It’s also hard on my wife taking care of the children and all of the family stuff while I’m away, but they’re coping and I talk to them by phone all the time.”

Harrison, who works as an accounts payable specialist for Aaron Rents Corporation, misses her mom and brother Joshua. “I miss them both a lot, but I call my mom once a week to stay in touch, and we email each other all the time. I miss my pets a lot too, they’re my kids,” she said.

Although Harrison’s dog Chester and her two cats Jasper and Molson, can’t talk to her via phone or stay in touch with email, those two communication venues are an important link to the families they left behind while they serve in Iraq.

Becoming a U.S. citizen is important to both Kingston and Harrison who feel they are earning it while serving in Iraq. “I love my unit, we’re close, and we’re a family. I enjoy what I do, and I’m happy to be here and happy to serve my country,” said Harrison.

“This deployment has a much bigger meaning to me that I won’t forget. A time, a place, an experience that will be a big part of my life,” added Kingston.

For Harrison, Ndungu and Kingston, the road to full citizenship started in Guyana and Canada, winds through Georgia, Kuwait and ends in Iraq with them all attaining their goal of becoming U.S. citizens.

Some of us are American citizens because we were born in the right place. But the young men and women here are ones who made a decision and worked to become Americans, and that’s significant.

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commander, Third U.S. Army/ARCENT



FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT

Multigenerational war on terrorism

By Cpt. Jean Cox-Turner
21st CSH, Camp Buehring, Kuwait

Unbeknownst to many, there is a growing phenomenon unheard of during Vietnam and Desert Storm. The war on terrorism has crossed generational lines. More and more baby-boomers and their children (mostly Generation Y'ers) are serving in theater simultaneously.

Thanks to the support of unit, hospital, and taskforce commanders, parents and children who are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) have been able to visit one another "down range."

My son, Lamar D. Cox and I got the opportunity to "hang out" together after his arrival to Camp Buehring last September with the 57th Signal Battalion out of Schweinfurt, Germany. For two days we were the celebrities of the camp. People from Lamar's company and commanders from other units on the FOB came by the "Dagger Dawg's" TOC to meet, greet, and take pictures for their home base newsletters. They thought that it was awesome that both mother and son were in OIF simultaneously. Since then, he has been promoted to specialist and is now serving at Camp Liberty.

We are fighting a multigenerational war that I believe will continue for some time. Hopefully, leaders throughout the armed forces will do all that they can to support this phenomenon by allowing soldiers to take home these precious moments from their deployment as my leaders have done for me.



Spc. Cox and his mother Cpt. Cox-Turner

TROOP TALK

What did you do on your R&R?

"I enjoyed R&R at home in Colorado Springs, with my wife, Felicia, and our two boys, Jared (8) and Zack (7). Two of my brothers and I climbed Pikes Peak."

Cpt. LeRoy A. Popowski, Chief of Optometry; TF 21 MED, Camp Bucca.



"I stayed home with my wife, Kanchana and my new daughter, Emma" (who was born while he was home).

Sgt. Ernest L. Matson, Personnel administrative clerk, 329th Medical Co., (Ground Ambulance), Camp Liberty

"I stayed home and spent time with my baby."

**Spc. Ashonda Nicholson
257th MED CO, Camp Liberty**



"I planned my family vacation. After this deployment I'm taking the family to Disney World."

**Sgt Ramon Sampson
Task Force 3, Driver, Camp Victory**

"I spent Christmas and New Years with my wonderful husband, George, in R.I. and with my family and friends. It was great to be home!"

**Col. Susan Luz
399th CSH, Al Asad
Community Health Nurse**



Second group graduates from Camp Victory CLS

By Maj. Bobby Hart

Taskforce 3 PAO

The Combat Life Saver course at Camp Victory produced its second group of graduates this week. Personnel wanting to take the Combat Life Saver course got a break last week when elements of Taskforce 3 combined to restart a training program at Camp Victory that allows troops and civilians to get certified in life saving techniques.

Sgt. Major Anna Quinones, 3rd MEDCOM Clinical Operations sergeant major, started fielding questions concerning Combat Lifesaver Training in November, 2006. She continued to try to coordinate training with various units on VBC and finally received volunteers from two Taskforce 3 units, the 329th Med. Co. (Ground Ambulance) and the 285th Area Support Med. Co., to provide instruction for the class.

“The demand here on VBC has been extremely high so we thought it worth our efforts to try to establish standardized CLS training here and offer valuable training to the VBC community,” Quinones said. “We were able to coordinate the classroom location with the Corps Surgeon sergeant major and the instructors were anxious to get started.

“I have been inundated with phone calls and emails requesting slots since we published the class dates,” she said. “We will continue to front load the classes until the demand filters down a bit. The intent is to continue to offer not just the CLS course, but CLS Refresher, and BLS (basic life saving) certification as

well. I am extremely proud of the efforts that the 329th and the 285th have taken to make this training a success.”

Staff Sgt. Michael

Corkrum, of the 329th, served as the catalyst to restart the program after it had been discontinued. The initial class saw 17 troops and two civilians graduate.

The Sgt. Johnny Joe Peralez, Jr. Medical Classroom was established by the 4th Infantry Division, but classes were stopped



Staff Sgt. Michael Corkrum, of the 329th Ground Ambulance company, prepares "casualty" Cpl. Michael Ellis for the MASCAL exercise that finishes the Combat Life Saver course at Camp Victory. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sam McLarty, Taskforce 3 Public Affairs)

after the division left Victory. Peralez was the first 4th Infantry Division Soldier to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 25.

Corkrum and others from the 329th cleaned the room and restarted the classes.

“We were lucky because someone had ordered tables and chairs two rotations ago and they were still sitting in the boxes,” Corkrum said. “We just went in and cleaned up the room and started classes.”

Corkrum also said that many supplies needed for the course came from excess from area units. “We didn’t have a budget,” he said. “We really had to be creative to find the things we needed to teach the classes.”

Medical director Lt. Col. Eric Shuping said the course allows people on Victory to get the training in a much shorter

time than if they had to go to Taskforce 3’s other school, the Jameson Combat Medic Training Center, in Balad.

“With transportation being what it is, it isn’t unusual for someone to have to spend a week or ten days in Balad or in transit to finish this class,” Shuping said. “With the classroom here, they start and finish



Sgt. Major Anna Quinones, Taskforce 3 Clinical Operations sergeant major, and medical director Lt. Col. Eric Shuping, discuss the CLS class before the second graduation. (Photo by Maj. Bobby Hart, Taskforce 3 PAO)



Sgt. Greg Rucker, Taskforce 3 G-4, evaluates the damage to a wounded Soldier, Chap. Maj. Jim Lucus. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sam McLarty, Taskforce 3 Public Affairs)



Maj. Bobby Hart, Taskforce 3 PAO, and Sgt. Jeffrey Cassidy, evacuate "casualty" Cpl. Michael Ellis during the CLS MASCAL.

Helping the helpers: Initial steps

TF3 medical personnel assist the Iraqi Armed Service Support Institute train and equip Iraqi Army public health officers

As U.S. forces surge into Baghdad and provide security for the local population, it is critical that our Iraqi counterparts are capable of sustaining the fight. If they are unable to carry the load, coalition forces will have to continue to fill the void. And when we hear stories of 350 Iraqi Police suffering from a food borne illness in October 2006, or hundreds of Iraqi Army Soldiers suffering from a food outbreak this past month in Baghdad unable to perform their mission, we have to find ways to keep them in the fight. Training and equipping the Iraqi Security Force (ISF) Preventive Medicine specialist is one way to accomplish this mission.

TF 32 Multifunctional Medical Battalion (MMB) is working with MNC-I and MNF-I Surgeons Offices as well as the Iraqi Armed Forces Surgeon General's Office to establish a comprehensive Preventive Medicine training and equipping program for the ISF. A three-tiered approach was developed to train Public Health Officers, Medical NCOs, and Field Sanitation Teams in reducing the current Disease Non-Battle Injury (DNBI) risk experienced by the ISF.

Phase one of this approach consisted of TF 32 MMB Subject Matter Experts flying to Camp Taji and assisting Iraqi Public Health Officers in teaching the Public Health Officer Course at the Iraqi Armed Service Support Institute (IASSI). Due to a current shortage of Iraqi Physicians being recruited into their military to serve as Public Health Officers, Iraqi Veterinarians reported to IASSI in January for training to serve in that capacity. They bring a wealth of experience in maintaining the health of large animal populations and understand the transmission cycle of many zoonotic diseases endemic in Iraq.

During the course, they learned the history and importance of public health and preventive medicine in our own military. It is easy for them to relate when the UN reports that only 50 percent of the Iraqi population living in rural areas use improved drinking water



Chief Warrant 3 Donald Smith and First Sgt. Loni Greco of the 248th Medical Detachment (VS) pose with students.



2nd Lt. Ahmed receives the Iraqi Public Health Officers Course graduation certificate from Spc. Charles Bateman.

sources and only 48 percent use adequate sanitation facilities. One primary reason is the infrastructure does not exist or is badly damaged. With ISF living and operating in these areas, public health training and supplies are essential to purify water; reduce and eliminate vector and rodent habitats; treat uniforms with permethrin to prevent vector born illnesses such as malaria and Leishmaniasis for being transmitted; and assist in sanitary food preparation, storage, and service. By implementing the training they received at IASSI, the Iraqi Public Health Officers will be able to conduct comprehensive assessments and

implement controls to reduce food, water, vector, and sanitation threats currently facing the ISF who are operating in austere environments.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Smith, Senior Food Safety Officer of the 248th Medical Detachment, spent a week training the students in food microbiology, outbreak response, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) assessments, proper solid waste disposal, and rodent management among other classes.

"I was very pleased with the genuine enthusiasm displayed by the Iraqi Public Health Officers," said Smith. "Over the course of the

week, I felt a mutual respect and appreciation developing between us. They frequently expressed their gratitude for the training being offered to them. This is by far one of the more positive experiences I've had in Iraq."

First Sgt. Lori Greco, 248th Medical Detachment First Sergeant, assisted Smith with training. She helped facilitate several classes and taught heat injury prevention, promotion of a healthy lifestyle and assisted with rodent control information and food storage sanitation. Greco helped students identify and develop HACCP based Critical Control Points (CCPs) for dining facility operations.

"I was proud to be considered for teaching and to be a small part of the solution to bringing Iraq towards its independence," Greco said.

Sgt. Edgar Campuzano and Spc. Charles Bateman, Preventive Medicine Specialists from the 61st Medical Detachment, provided essential hands on training in food service sanitation, arthropod identification, disease transmission, surveillance and control and water purification, storage and testing. Campuzano said he was proud to contribute to the Iraqi training program.

"The students were eager to learn and ready to take on the challenge," said Campuzano.

Bateman went on to say, "It was a good experience to help them help themselves."

One of the students, Cpt. Adil an Iraqi Public

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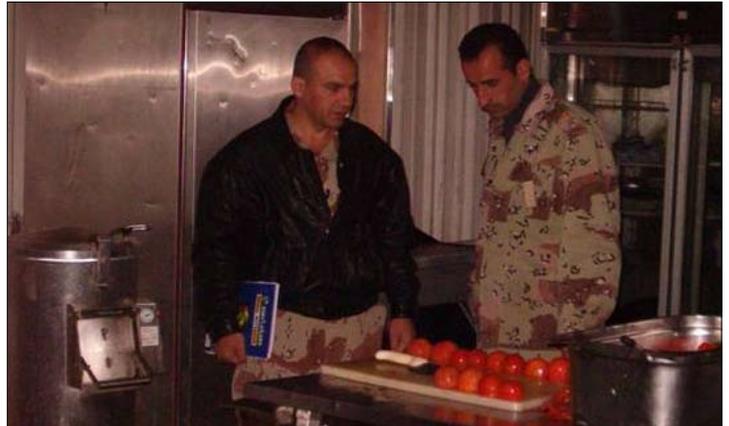
Helping the helpers

Continued from last page

Health Officer, complimented the two U.S. Soldiers and said “thank you for sharing the knowledge and coming from far away to help us better perform our job.”

Both sides benefited in more ways than one from this initial phase of public health training.

With existing recruitment and retention challenges faced by Iraqi Security Forces, DNBI's greatly reduce Iraq's ability to counter the existing threat and meet future challenges. Training provided by TF 32 MMB soldiers during the first phase of the preventive medicine training and equipping program will help the Iraqis reduce the number of DNBI's they experience, reduce the dependency on coalition resources, and keep the Iraqi soldier in the fight. Maintaining the health of every Iraqi soldier is paramount, especially during this time of transition.



Conducting an Iraqi dining facility inspection and assessing common practices to prevent cross contamination of raw food products



Students preparing to take a written exam.



Iraqi Public Health Officers conduct water testing on a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit.

Troop Support Turns Lyrical



Support for TF3 MEDCOM troops recently took on a musical note as a couple of Soldiers received gifts from musical entities. **Lt. Col. Paula Nobles** received a guitar from Chely Wright during the country singer's performance at Camp Victory. Wright gave Nobles—who has been in Iraq since 2005—the gift for being the audience member who has been deployed the longest. **Col. Bill Tozier** received more than 50 hours of music from WSYM at San Antonio College that he presented to the Oasis Dining Facility on Camp Victory to be played for troops during meals.



Taskforce 3 commander receives CAB

By Maj. Bobby Hart

Taskforce 3 PAO

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq—Maj. Gen. Ron Silverman received a rare honor recently when as a two-star general, he was presented the Combat Action Badge by Maj. Gen. James Simmons, deputy commanding general for Multi National Corps-Iraq in a ceremony at the Taskforce 3 headquarters.

Simmons explained the Combat Action Badge was developed as a way to recognize non-infantry Soldiers—who throughout history have been awarded the Combat Infantrymen Badge, a prestigious award for those who are involved in combat action—because of the changes in the battlefield environment.

“It was recognized that this fight (Operation Iraqi Freedom) is different than any fight we have ever been in. It is 360-degree fight and every Soldier who is here is exposed to danger,” Simmons said. “Every soldier that goes out of the wire is in danger. Every soldier here can be engaged by and or engage the enemy, so the Combat Action Badge was created to recognize that fact.”

Silverman, who ironically is a former infantryman, said the events surrounding his award emphasize that Iraq is a dangerous place.

“Sometimes you’re standing there and you think, ‘It’s perfect,’” Silverman explained. “We were in Korean Village in a very, very

beautiful setting on a very beautiful day. Out of nowhere came rockets. I didn’t do anything special. I was just standing there and the rockets came overhead and hit.”

Silverman began triaging patients and along with another physician on the scene treating the most seriously injured.

“The sad part about it was although you do everything you can to be careful and everything you can to be safe, things happen,” he said. “Sadly—and it diminished this award for me personally—there was a Marine helicopter pilot who was killed. The rocket hit and we tried to control the bleeding. But we couldn’t save him.”

Simmons said Silverman’s presence at the scene epitomizes the type of leader that he is. “He does not sit back in an office, but is always out visiting troops,” Simmons said. “That’s not only from the perspective of checking on the condition of his soldiers, but making sure those Soldiers and Airmen he’s responsible for are providing the care and services to the rest of troops that’s not only necessary but is required.”

Silverman said although he was honored by the award, he hopes it serves as a reminder to all troops that they need to be vigilant. “It just brings to mind what we face everyday,” he said. “We walk around here and think we’re safe, we think this is just a job, just a routine. But it’s not. We’re here with a lot of danger and a lot of things that can happen to us and those around us.”



Maj. Gen. Ron Silverman, Commander of Taskforce 3, receives the Combat Action Badge presented by Maj. Gen. James Simmons, deputy commanding general for Multi National Corps-Iraq. Silverman received the CAB for actions during and immediately after a rocket attack in the Korean Village. The attack wounded several and killed one Marine officer.

Brace spends R&R with letter-writing kids

Dear Andy,

I hope you have a safe trip to Bagedag. You are going to need a good meal on the way there. I have a cousin down in the Army. The whole Countie is counting on you. Thanksgiving is coming up so you need to at least eat with your troops friend. Andy I hope you don't get hurt or get shot so have a safe trip.

Sincerely,
Ebony Moore

By Sgt. Andrew Brace
285th ASMC UPAR

Thanks a lot Ebony!

I did have a safe trip, and the airline provided us with a few decent meals on the way to Kuwait. You will also be glad to know that I was able to share a couple of wonderful meals at the "chow hall" with my fellow Soldiers on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

Many fortunate Soldiers here at the 285th have had their spirits lifted by letters received from school children back home. I have been blessed to receive letters from three different schools. Students from the Mary Irene Day Elementary School grades K through 5 where my mother is a Kindergarten teacher, a class of First through Fourth Grade students at Shipley Day Treatment Center (an alternative school providing services for students with severe emotional disturbances) where my friend Miss Sterling is a teacher and students from an after school program in North Carolina where my Cousin Kyle helps teach reading and writing. With the rigorous schedules we keep here in Iraq, many Soldiers (including myself) have found it difficult to find the time to write back. While I was home on R&R, I had the opportunity to try and make it up to them.

On Wednesday Jan. 17th I was honored to have the opportunity to visit about 130 students at two of the schools whose students had taken the time to write me. I displayed a brief Power Point presentation and answered numerous questions. During my presentation I tried to answer many of the questions asked of me in the letters students had sent. Many children wanted to know how old I was, if I was married and had any children. Students also wanted to know what my job was like here in Baghdad. I also told them a little about why I decided to join the National Guard, and about my job as a Financial Consultant in the civilian world. I focused the bulk of my presentation on the mission of a medical company in Iraq and spent plenty of time talking about the Iraqi people, wildlife and architecture, including plenty of supporting photography. The students were fascinated by the similarities between themselves and the children in Iraq, sharing similar interests and even liking the same styles of clothing. They enjoyed the pictures of Saddam's palaces and ooh'd and ah'd at the photos of Muslim Mosques. They also liked the pictures of camels and desert scorpions. The boys in the classroom especially liked the pictures I showed them of military equipment including HMMWV's, tanks, jets and helicopters. But the highlight of the whole presentation for everyone seemed to be at the end when I handed out old Iraqi Dinars (Iraqi currency) to each student.

The smiles, handshakes, and gratitude I received from the students was all the thanks I needed. I even got a special reward from two of the students at Shipley school who "rapped" a poem for me.

Thanks again to all of the teachers and administrators who invited me into their classrooms, and a special heartfelt thanks from all of the Soldiers here in Baghdad to all of the students who continue to send us letters here at the 285th ASMC.



Proud to serve

Vietnam veteran helps others deal with the harsh realities of war on his second tour of Iraq

By Lt. Col. William Nutter
USARC PAO

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq ----After three deployments, including Vietnam, and two in Iraq, Maj. Ernie Proud has a deep understanding and empathy for what Soldiers go through in combat. His calm voice and demeanor invites Soldiers to express their worries agitated by the mundane life of an overseas deployment, the fatigue of battle, the worries back home and for some of the Soldiers, the reality of losing a comrade in battle.

Proud, a member of the Army Reserve's 113th Medical Company Combat Stress Control (CSC) Company from Stanton, Calif., has a passion and a sense of duty to help Soldiers deal with their circumstances when they are deployed in Iraq.

Proud who volunteered for his mission in Iraq takes his personal experience from Vietnam as a motivator to help Soldiers deal with stress and grief.

"To know you are able to help Soldiers get back to life and to function well and provide those services that were not allotted to Vietnam veterans is a satisfaction for me," said Proud. Proud credits the problems associated with Vietnam veterans as reasons why the Army became more committed in taking actions to help Soldiers deal with combat stress, post traumatic stress disorder and grief.

After leaving Vietnam he left the Army to complete 10 years of schooling and finally after 22 years break in service he decided to join the military again to use his education to benefit Soldiers on the battlefield.

As the Officer in Charge for Victory Base Camp Prevention Team he works seven days a week in two offices. One of his offices is a typical construction trailer or portable housing often seen on Victory, but the other office he works most effectively is the mobile HMMWV (Humvee) office where he makes scheduled and unscheduled visits to units.

"The focus is to keep our Soldiers in theater, to work any potential mental health problems in theater" said Proud. He



Maj. Ernie Proud, assigned with the 113th Medical Company Combat Stress Control from Stanton, Calif., discusses mental health issues with a client on Camp Victory, Iraq. Proud is a member of a prevention team that provides mental health counseling and guidance for Soldiers in Iraq.

believes his unit visits are proactive measures to tackle the problem before it gets bigger and it also contributes to winning the fight. "When we visit units we present ourselves as force multipliers and enablers to accomplish the mission," he said.

"Prevention is an educational program. We provide educational services and address issues that units may have and try to help maintain unit cohesiveness," said Proud. Educational services may include coping strategies for stress, anger management, how to deal with a loss of a soldier, command climate surveys and Soldier education to overcome tension and human relation conflicts.

Proud acknowledges his civilian job as a clinical psychologist with the Anaheim School District in California as an enabler to provide assistance for Soldiers dealing with stress situations back home. "The most common problem that occurs over here is home front issues; they talk about the difficulties about being gone," said Proud. He thinks his experience in dealing with absentee parents in his

civilian job has similar repercussions and this helps him provide the right tactics to help Soldiers deal with their issues.

Proud believes the Army Reserve Soldier offers a more "mature soldier" such as himself; by offering such things similar to his own background as education, multiple deployments, and different civilian occupations. "I think the Reserve Soldier has a vast wealth of experience to bring to the unit, because it's with a variety of people, and skill sets that the Reserve Soldier brings to the front," said Proud.

Almost half way through his tour in Iraq, Proud is especially happy about his accomplishment of keeping Soldiers in theater. "No Soldier has returned home and that is what we are trying to achieve here," he said.

According to Maj. Nancy Torres, Executive Officer for the 113th Medical Company CSC, Proud is one of the top performers in the preventive mission for mental health. Proud's HMMWV office keeps rolling along to reach out to Soldiers in need.

Parting Shot



1st Lt. Sharon Owen, a nurse with the 21st CSH, talks an Iraqi woman through first aid techniques during the Preparatory Iraqi Nursing Course. The course is taught by volunteer military instructors and Iraqi interpreters at the Civil Military Operations Center on Camp Victory. (Photo by Spc. Laura M. Bigenho, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)